

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 784
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24/07/2026

PROTEST AGAINST VB-G RAM-G REPLACING MGNREGA

784 Shri P. P. Suneer:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the VB-G RAM-G Scheme introduced in place of MGNREGA has come into force w.e.f. 1st, July 2026;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the protests by various organisations against the replacement of MGNREGA by a new scheme;
- (d) if so, the details of the concerns expressed by these organisations against the new scheme and demanding the restoration of the old scheme; and
- (e) Government's response thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a) & (b): The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin)(VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 has come into force with effect from 1st July, 2026 in rural areas of the entire country.

(c) to (e): Certain expressions of views/concerns by some organisations in relation to the implementation of the VB-G RAM G Act have been reported in sections of the media. The concerns, inter alia, relate to the replacement of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, the continued demand-driven nature of the programme and the apprehension that a phase-wise implementation strategy may adversely affect employment opportunities for rural workers.

In this regard, it is stated that the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 preserves the statutory, demand-driven nature of the rural employment guarantee by providing 125 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act further strengthens the programme by placing greater emphasis on sustainable livelihood creation, durable and productive rural assets, water security, climate resilience, transparency and technology-enabled governance, while retaining the statutory right to demand employment and receive unemployment allowance in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Further, the VB-G RAM G Act has been implemented simultaneously across entire rural areas of all States and Union Territories with effect from 1st July, 2026. Accordingly, there is no phase-wise rollout of the programme. All States and Union Territories have notified the Scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Act, and the programme has been rolled out successfully across the country with effect from 1st July, 2026.
