

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1131
ANSWERED ON 13/12/2022

EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF MGNREGS

1131. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to extend the scope of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to take up agricultural activities in rural areas and essential/emergency development activities in urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of frequent complaints of abnormal delay in payment of wages under MGNREGS; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken to ensure timely payment of wages?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a)&(b): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment Scheme which provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

As per para 4(3) of Schedule-I of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, "works which are non-tangible, not measurable, repetitive such as, removing grass, pebbles, agricultural operations, shall not be taken up". Accordingly agricultural activities are not permissible.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005 is applicable for Rural Areas and its implementation in Urban Areaa is beyond the purview of the Act.

(c)&(d): As per the provision of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the beneficiaries are entitled to get wage payment within 15 days of closure of Muster Roll of the work. Government of India has issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to the States to ensure timely wage payment. The Ministry along with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts for improving the timely payment of wages. States/UTs have been advised to generate pay orders in time. This has resulted in considerable improvement in the status of timely generation of pay order and leading to improvement in the actual time taken to credit wages in the workers accounts. In the current financial year (as on 08.12.2022), the percentage of payment generated within 15 days is 95.43%.

The Ministry has taken various steps to ensure timely payment of wages to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. These include:

- i. Up scaling of National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS) in 27 States and 3 Union Territories.
- ii. Intensive consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders to strategize timely payment of wages, verification of pending compensation claims etc.
- iii. Formulation of Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring of timely payment and payment of compensation.
- iv. Video conferences with States/ UTs reviewing the status of timely payment and payment of delay compensation.
- v. States/UT's have been requested to ensure timely regeneration of rejected transaction and every fund release is tagged with priority release of rejected transaction.
- vi. States have been requested to ensure correction of invalidate accounts as per information provided by PFMS.
