

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2088
ANSWERED ON 20/12/2022

ARREARS OF MGNREGS WAGES

2088. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the payment of wages to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in various States are in arrears for months due to the delay in disbursement funds to the States; and
- (b) if so, the details along with the steps being taken to ensure timely payment of wages to the workers under MGNREGS?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment Scheme.

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, States furnish funds release proposals to Government of India. The Ministry releases funds periodically in two tranches with each tranche consisting of one or more installments, keeping in view the “agreed to” Labour Budget, demand for works, opening balance, pace of utilization of funds, pending liabilities, overall performance and subject to submission of relevant documents by the States.

Fund release to the States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme as per the demand for work on the ground.

- (b) 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 14.12.2022), 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) Upscaling 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 invalid accounts as per information provided by PFMS.
