

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2124
ANSWERED ON 20/12/2022

REDUCTION IN LABOUR BUDGET UNDER MGNREGS

2124. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reduced in labour budget in format of man-days than the previous year under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) if so, the reasons for significant reduction in labour budget allocation for MGNREGS;
- (c) the quantum of pending payments towards material costs under MGNREGS works specifically in the State of Maharashtra;
- (d) the details of arrears of wage payments to beneficiaries of MGNREGS in the State as on date; and
- (e) whether wages being paid to beneficiaries of MGNREGS are at par with minimum wages for corresponding works?

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. **It provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available.**

In the current financial year 2022-23 (as on 15.12.2022), the "agreed to" Labour Budget (in person-days) under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is 235.16 crore. This Labour Budget is an indicative number for better planning so that work can be provided against demand on time. However, the State may always come up with a proposal for the revision of the Labour Budget, at any point of time of the financial year, if the performance of the State exceeds the "agreed to" Labour Budget.

(c): As per NREGASoft of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, as on 15.12.2022 a central share liability towards material for the State of Maharashtra is Rs. 200 crore.

(d): The funds are released under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS based on the provision of the Act and guidelines. As per guidelines, the first installment of the first tranche is released in the first half of April after adjusting unspent balance available with the States and considering the pending liabilities, if any.

(e): As per Section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), the Central Government may by notification specify the wage

rate for its beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate every financial year for States/UTs. To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every financial year based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. However each State/UT can provide wage over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government.
