

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 793
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023

LOW WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

793. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the wage rate being provided under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is far below than the market rate in several States thereby defeating the purpose of acting as the safety net, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this direction;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that according to a report the women are facing troubles in applying to work under MGNREGS due to complexity in application process; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, the Central Government may by notification specify the wage rate for unskilled work for its beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate for 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). If the calculated wage rate of any State is coming lower than the wage rate of previous financial year, it is being protected by maintaining the previous financial year wage rate. The revised wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. However, State Governments can provide wage over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

(b) No such issue is reported to the Ministry.

(c) The rate of participation of women (women person-days out of total in percentage) under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial years and current financial year 2022-23 (as on 03.02.2022) is given below:

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Women participation rate (%)	54.78	53.19	54.78	56.64

(As per NREGASoft)
