

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 856
ANSWERED ON 07/02/2023

REVIEW OF MGNREGS

856. SHRI S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiative to make Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) more effective;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to change the composition of work and review;
- (d) whether the MGNREGS should focus more on community-based assets or individual works; and
- (e) 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)&(b) Guidelines are issued to the State/UT Governments from time to time. These Guidelines are available at the portal nrega.nic.in. The main Guidelines among them are Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) Operational Guidelines and Annual Master Circulars, issued from year 2017-18 till 2021-22. It is the responsibility of the State/UT Governments to ensure compliance with these Guidelines and to the Provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act and the relevant Rules.

The Ministry has a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS). The important elements of the above framework are listed below:

- i. The Ministry regularly reviews the performance of the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in States/UTs through various fora viz., Mid-Term Review, Labour Budget determination and revision meetings, Programme Review meetings. Central Employment Guarantee Council and State Employment Guarantee Councils also periodically monitor implementation of the programme.
- ii. National Level Monitors, Common Review Missions and Officers of the Ministry visit States/UTs at regular interval to review implementation of the programme. After the field visits, the findings/shortcomings and recommendations are shared with the States/UTs for appropriate action at their end.
- iii. Auditing Standards for Social Audit have been issued and States/UTs have been advised to establish independent Social Audit Units, conduct Social Audit as per Audit of Scheme Rules, 2011 and training of village resource persons for conducting Social Audit etc. As per the Audit of the Scheme Rules, the audit of the works in a Gram Panchayat has been made mandatory. Internal Audit Teams of the Department also conduct regular audit.
- iv. Steps have been taken to strengthen transparency and accountability which include geo-tagging of assets, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), National electronic Fund Management

System (NeFMS), Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS), Software for Estimate Calculation using rural rates for Employment (SECURE) and appointment of Ombudsperson in every district of States/UTs.

- v. Steps have been taken for establishment of State Technical Cell at various level for qualitative monitoring and supervision of works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- vi. In order to ensure higher level of monitoring and oversight, National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App and Area Officer App have been introduced. In the former, attendance of workers on all work sites (except Individual Beneficiary works) is taken daily along with a geo-tagged & time stamped photograph of theirs. The latter has been designed to ensure that field officials conduct inspections in the requisite numbers and look into all the relevant aspects of the scheme.
- vii. Transparency and accountability measure like Ombudsperson for each district, independent Director for Social Audit Unit, timely compliance of Internal Audit Paras are some of the conditions for funds release.

(c) Adding new works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a regular exercise and new works are added on the basis of merit in alignment with focus and objectives of the Scheme.

(d) & (e) As per Schedule 1 of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, 265 works are permissible, out of these, 68 works are related to individual beneficiary works and 197 works are related to community work.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment scheme **with bottom up planning**. The works are identified, approved and prioritized out of shelf of work by the Gram Panchayat, recommended by Gram Sabha in each State/UT as per the provision of the Act. Accordingly, the works are approved and taken up by Panchayat as per the demand. The planning of works is done as per the estimated person days to be generated for the work in a financial year at the time of assessment of Labour Budget.
