

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3307
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2021

TIMELY PAYMENT UNDER MGNREGS

3307. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the current record of timely payment of wages to those employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) the details of the measures the Ministry is taking to ensure that every person working under the MGNREGS receives their wages in a timely manner;
- (c) the steps taken to ensure that decrease in budgetary allocation for MGNREGS does not impact timely payment under the scheme; and
- (d) whether the Ministry intends to use new or existing legislation to ensure universal timely payment of wages to all MGNREGS workers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment guarantee programme. During the current Financial Year 2021-21 (as on 10.03.2021), around 97.87 % Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) have been generated within 15 days from the date of closure of the Muster Roll.

(b): 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 25 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.

(c): The Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment guarantee programme. Central Government is committed to making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. The Ministry seeks additional fund for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground. There is an enhance financial allocation from Rs.61,500 crore at Budget Estimate to Rs. 1,11,500 crore at Revised Estimate in the current financial year 2020-21 under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

The Government of India has allocated Rs. 73,000 crore at Budget Estimate for next financial year 2021-22 for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS with an increase of Rs. 11,500 crore (18.69%) as compared to Budget Estimate for financial year 2020-21.

(d): In order to streamline the system of fund flow and to ensure timely payment of wages, Ne-FMS was implemented in 2016, so far 25 States and 3 Union Territory have implemented it, wherein payment of wages is being credited directly to the bank/post office accounts of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS beneficiaries by the Central Government through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Further, rest of the 3 States Manipur, Nagaland and Goa and 3 Union Territories Andaman & Nicobar, Daman & Diu & Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Lakshadweep implementing the programme are under Electronic Fund Management System (eFMS).
