

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3345
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2021

ALLOCATION AND EXPENDITURE UNDER MGNREGS

3345. KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had ignored the current rural employment distress even though there was a need to maximise the spending in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS) for enhancing rural demand;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has allocated Rs. 73,000 crore to MGNREGS for the fiscal 2021-22, substantially lower than the actual expenditure in the current fiscal;
- (c) if so, whether this reduction will limit the scope of employment and will result in indefinite delays in wage payments in the year 2021-22;
- (d) whether the allocation for MGNREGS will lead to reduction in the number of person days in 2021-22 from what the job generation programme has achieved in the current year;
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of MGNREGS, intends to review MIS system and correct the present gaps in implementation and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus-induced lockdown on the rural economy?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a)to(d): Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme is a demand driven wage employment programme which provides at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. During FY 2020-21, more than 363 crore person-days have been generated as on 12.03.2021 which is approximately 40% more than the employment generated during the same period in FY 2019-20. During FY 2020-21, more than 1.75 crore new job cards have been issued so far which is 153% more than the total number of new job card issued during FY 2019-20. Government has enhanced the financial allocation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for financial year 2020-21 from Rs.61,500 crore at BE to Rs.1,11,500 crore at RE and so far about Rs.97,057 crore has been released in the current financial year.

An amount of Rs.73,000 crore has been allocated for FY 2021-22 as BE which is 18.69% more than B.E. of FY 2020-21. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is a demand driven wage employment programme. Fund release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed in making funds available keeping in view the demand for work. The Ministry seeks

additional funds from Ministry of Finance as and when required for meeting the demand for work on the ground.

(e): Monitoring and evaluation is a continuous process in Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. The Ministry regularly reviews the performance of the States through various media viz., Mid-Term Review, Common Review Mission, Labour Budget meetings, National Level monitoring, virtual conference meetings, field visits, etc. Depending on the need and requirements for effective implementation of the programme, review and course correction is taken up.

(f): Ministry of Finance, Government of India, on 26th March 2020, announced relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus. The relief package announced includes, inter-alia

i. One-time ex-gratia payment of Rs 500 per month for 3 months (April, May and June 2020) to women Jan Dhan Account holders. In pursuance of this, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) implemented the scheme of relief package of one-time ex-gratia payment of Rs 500 per month for 3 months (April, May and June 2020) to women Jan Dhan Account holders through various Banks. More than Rs.30,900 crores has been released towards direct benefit transfers to 20.64 crore Women beneficiaries of Jan Dhan account holders under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) @ Rs. 500/- each for three months.

ii. Ex-gratia of Rs.1000 in two instalments (Rs.500/- each) to the existing old age, widow and disabled/Divyangjan beneficiaries of the schemes of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). A total of Rs. 2814.50 crore as ex-gratia was released in two tranches in April and May, 2020 to States/UTs under PMGKY for the existing 282 lakh beneficiaries of NSAP schemes.

iii. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) wage rate revised w.e.f. 1.4.2020 with average wage rate increase of Rs.20 over the wage rate of 2019-20.

iv. The collateral free credit limit for the Self Help Group (SHG) members under National Rural Livelihood Scheme (NRLM) enhanced from Rs.10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

Apart from this, Government of India launched the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA) on 20th June, 2020 to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected citizens in rural area, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. The objectives of the Abhiyaan were to provide immediate employment & livelihood opportunities to the distressed, to saturate the villages with public infrastructure and creation of livelihood assets to boost the income generation activities and enhance long term livelihood opportunities by giving focus on 25 works in 116 selected districts across 6 States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The Abhiyaan has started with resource envelope of Rs.50,000 Crore. The Abhiyaan is a convergent effort of ongoing schemes of 12 Ministries/Department of Central Government. A total of 50.78 crore Persondays employment has been generated during the Abhiyaan with an expenditure of Rs. 39292.81 crore.

Four schemes of the MoRD namely, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Pradhan Mantri AwaasYojana- Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission (SPMRM) have been identified under the GKRA. The achievement in this regard is as under:

- i. Under PMAY-G a total of 770522 houses have been sanctioned and 481210 houses completed with a total expenditure of Rs.5618.19 crore.
- ii. Under PMGSY, as against the target of Rs. 2902 crore, an expenditure of Rs. 1529 crore has been incurred as on 30.11.2020.
- iii. Under SPMRM, the development works in 47 Rurban clusters under GKRA have been implemented with fast pace for providing employment and livelihood opportunities to the rural citizens. During the abhiyaan period, 13494 works have been completed against the target of 13886 which is 97% of overall physical target and Rs. 693.55 crore expenditure (including convergence expenditure) has been made which is 87% of financial targets taken by SPMRM under GKRA.

Other major steps taken by the MoRD under various schemes during the outbreak of Covid-19 are as under:

PMAY-G aims to provide assistance to eligible rural households for construction of 2.95 Crore Pucca houses with basic amenities to achieve the objective of “Housing for All” by 2022. Efforts taken under PMAY-G during COVID are as under:

- a. Focus on completion of those PMAY-G houses where the beneficiaries have received 2nd and 3rd installment
- b. Utilise the lockdown period to upload on a campaign mode details of physically completed houses on AwaasSoft
- c. Maximum sanctions to beneficiaries be issued against the 2020-21 targets.
- d. States/UTs advised to take up Rural Mason Training in a long way and that training can be conducted under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) mode. In the current FY 64.71 lakh houses have been allocated to the States/UTs and 28.92 lakh houses completed in PMAY-G and 1.04 lakhs houses in Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) at an expenditure of Rs. 43042.96 crore.

PMGSY was launched in the year 2000 as a measure towards alleviation of poverty in rural areas by providing access to basic services to the rural population by providing them good quality roads. During the period of COVID states were directed to accelerate the pace of works so as to create more employment opportunities and boost rural economy. Roughly, 41447 Km works have been sanctioned in the FY 2020-21 in PMGSY III.

SPMRM is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth. 300 Rurban Clusters with thematic economic growth points, are being developed across the country under this Mission. The Ministry had issued an advisory to the States/UTs regarding modification in existing projects/works proposed in DPR of cluster due to Covid-19 pandemic and to include more economic activities in order to reboot the rural economy. Cluster wise consultations have been convened with PRI members, SHG representatives as well as State and district functionaries to identify issues and suggestions with respect to further improving the on-ground implementation of the Mission.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) aims to reduce poverty by organizing the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and continuously nurturing and supporting them to take economic activities till they attain appreciable increase in income over a period of time. During the FY 2020-21 (till February, 2021), the Ministry of Rural Development under DAY-NRLM facilitated women Self Help Groups to leverage credit of Rs.63,527.92 crore from formal banking system for investing for

continuation of their exiting economic ventures and also acquire new productive assets to start new enterprises.

There are two other skill development programmes for rural poor youth under DAY-NRLM, namely, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs). Both these schemes are aimed at increasing employability of rural poor youth either for wage or self-employment. After unlock orders and opening of training centres, under DDU-GKY a total of 20946 candidates have been trained and 44338 candidates have been placed in jobs during the current financial year 2020-21 (up to February, 2021). Under RSETI a total of 203643 candidates have been trained and 127108 candidates have been settled during the current Financial Year 2020-21(up to February, 2021).
