

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2354**  
ANSWERED ON 03/08/2021

**SCHEDULED CASTE BENEFICIARIES UNDER MGNREGA IN WEST BENGAL**

2354. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme in North Bengal is less compared to other States;
- (b) if so, the number of Scheduled Caste households provided employment under the Scheme in Jalpaiguri and other districts of the North Bengal;
- (c) whether large number of Scheduled Caste people are still not covered under the scheme in Jalpaiguri; and
- (d) if so, the details of steps taken/being taken by the Government to expand the coverage of Schedule Caste persons under the scheme in Jalpaiguri constituency?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme which provide 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. In the current financial year 2021-22 (as on 31.07.2021), 28% Scheduled Caste households of workers have worked in West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS against their demand for work.

As per Para 5 of Schedule I of the Act the Works creating individual assets shall be prioritized on land or homestead owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The details of Scheduled Caste households provided employment in districts of Alipurduar, Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Dinajpur Dakshin, Dinajpur Uttar, Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong and Malda of West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the previous financial year and current financial year 2021-22 (as on 31.07.2021) is given at **Annexure**.

(d): Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven scheme with bottom up planning. The works are identified, approved & prioritized, out of shelf of works by the Gram Panchayat, recommended by Gram Sabha in each States/UTs (including State of West Bengal) as per the

provision of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act. Accordingly, the works are approved and taken up by Gram Panchayat as per the demand.

The households can register themselves under the Act and seek employment at multiple fora including the Gram Panchayat. The field authorities have been instructed to organize Rojgar Diwas at least once every month for covering willing households.

The responsibility of implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is vested with the Government of States/Uts. The Ministry has a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Some of 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 for a viz., Mid-Term Review, Labour Budget meetings, Labour Budget Revision meetings, Programme Review meetings. Central Employment Guarantee Council and State Employment Guarantee Councils 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. Internal Audit Teams of the Department also conduct regular audit.
- (iv) All grievances/ complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned States/Uts for taking appropriate action including investigation, as per law.
- (v) 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), Aadhar Based Payment System (ABPS), Software for Estimate Calculation using rural rates for Employment (SECURE) and appointment of Ombudsperson in every district of States/Uts.

These implementation, monitoring and accountability measures ensure that aspirations of individuals are met within schematic framework.

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**Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2354 dated 03.08.2021.**

The details of Scheduled Caste households provided employment in districts of Alipurduar, Coochbehar, Darjeeling, Dinajpur Dachshund, Dinajpur Uttar, Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong and Malda of West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the previous financial year and current financial year 2021-22.							
Sl. No	Districts	2020-21			2021-22 (as on 31.07.2021)		
		Households provided employment			Households provided employment		
		Total	SC	%age	Total	SC	%age
1	ALIPURDUAR	272794	74973	27%	214496	53728	25%
2	COOCHBEHAR	505451	263151	52%	263182	122778	47%
3	DARJEELING	109723	8435	8%	51302	3783	7%
4	DINAJPUR DAKSHIN	131643	34407	26%	75984	18234	24%
5	DINAJPUR UTTAR	215009	51873	24%	126569	28925	23%
<b>6</b>	<b>JALPAIGURI</b>	<b>324648</b>	<b>126556</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>203751</b>	<b>76553</b>	<b>38%</b>
7	KALIMPONG	52834	3632	7%	25997	1861	7%
8	MALDA	435015	80957	19%	156895	23914	15%

**Source: Management Information System**