

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3745
ANSWERED ON 21/12/2021

IMPLEMENTATION AND EXTENSION OF MGNREGS

3745. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the current position regarding the implementation and extension of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) whether the budget for MGNREGS is lower than the revised estimates for the previous year, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government agrees that in the light of the employment crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis employment opportunities in small towns and rural areas must be improved;
- (d) whether the Government is willing to commit to an expansion of the budget and annual temporal scope of the MGNREGS in order to combat the looming employment crisis, the brunt of which will be borne by small towns and rural areas; 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) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, is an Act to 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.

(b) The funds allocation has increased more than 18% in the current financial year 2021-22 from previous financial year 2020-21 at Budget Estimate stage from Rs. 61,500 crore to Rs. 73,000 crore.

(c) to (e) The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven programme. Funds release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed in making funds available keeping in view the demand for work on the ground for the implementation of the Scheme.

During previous financial year 2020-21, Central Government had made additional allocation of Rs.50,000 crore over and above of Budget Estimate of Rs. 61,500 crore. During current financial year 2021-22, Central Government has allocated an additional fund of Rs.10,000 crore over and above of Budget Estimate of Rs. 73,000 crore as an interim measure under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Further, allocation may be made upon assessment of demand during the Revised Estimate (RE) stage.
