

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 467
ANSWERED ON 05/04/2022

PAYMENT OF LESS WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

*467. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the labour were paid less than the minimum wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranteed Scheme (MGNREGS) Projects due to which the Government saved more than Rs.42,000 crores during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the reasons to pay less than the minimum wages to the labour working for the MGNREGS projects during the pandemic; and
- (c) whether the Government is aware that such data are available on the MGNREGS website for employment generated, V V Giri National Labour Institute and State Notifications for Minimum Wages and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 467 for 05.04.2022

(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.

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, States submit fund release proposals to Government of India. Fund release to the States is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available to States for the implementation of the Scheme. The Ministry releases funds periodically in two tranches with each tranche consisting of one or more installments, keeping in view the “agreed to” Labour Budget, demand for work, opening balance, pace of utilization of funds, pending liabilities, overall performance and subject to submission of relevant documents by the State.

As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, the Central Government may by notification specify the wage rate for unskilled work for its beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate for every financial year for States/UTs. To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every year based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). If the calculated wage rate of any State is coming lower than the wage rate of previous financial year, it is being protected by maintaining the previous financial year wage rate. The revised wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. However, State Governments can provide wage over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

State/UT-wise notified wage rates for unskilled worker under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21 is given at **Annexure**.

The data related to employment generation and notified wage rate under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is available on the website of the Scheme (www.nrega.nic.in.)

As per the Para 17 of Schedule-I of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, “The State Government shall link the wages, without any gender bias, with the quantity of work done and it shall be paid according to the rural schedule of rates fixed after time and motion studies for different types of work and different seasons and revised periodically”.

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a)to(c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 467 dated 05.04.2022.

State/UT-wise notified wage rates for unskilled worker under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for the financial years 2019-20, 2020-21.			
SI. No.	State	2019-20	2020-21
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	211	237
2	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	192	205
3	ASSAM	193	213
4	BIHAR	171	194
5	CHHATTISGARH	176	190
6	GUJARAT	199	224
7	HARYANA	284	309
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH - Non Scheduled Area	185	198
8a	HIMACHAL PRADESH - Scheduled Area	231	248
9	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	189	204
10	LADAKH		204
11	JHARKHAND	171	194
12	KARNATAKA	249	275
13	KERALA	271	291
14	MADHYA PRADESH	176	190
15	MAHARASHTRA	206	238
16	MANIPUR	219	238
17	MEGHALAYA	187	203
18	MIZORAM	211	225
19	NAGALAND	192	205
20	ODISHA	188	207
21	PUNJAB	241	263
22	RAJASTHAN	199	220
23	SIKKIM	192	205
23a	SIKKIM (3 Gram Panchayats named Gnathang, Lachung and Lachen		308
24	TAMIL NADU	229	256
25	TRIPURA	192	205
26	UTTAR PRADESH	182	201
27	UTTARAKHAND	182	201
28	WEST BENGAL	191	204
29	GOA	254	280
30	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR		
30a	ANDAMAN	250	267
30b	NICOBAR	264	282
31	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	224	258
32	Daman & Diu	202	227
33	LAKSHADWEEP	248	266
34	PUDUCHERRY	229	256
35	TELANGANA	211	237