

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2552
ANSWERED ON 02/08/2022

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY WOMEN WORKERS UNDER MGNREGS

2552. SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:
SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether women workers are facing various difficulties as there are no creche, water and other basic facilities at the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) sites which force them to walk kilometres to a water source to fill their water bottles with their limbs ached and thus feel dizzy;
- (b) whether despite meeting the difficult conditions, every worker on the sites complains about getting only about 40 days of work in a year under MGNREGS;
- (c) if so, the details and the facts thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) the corrective steps being taken in this regard;
- (e) whether in the process the women workers are treated as part-time construction workers and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the work days of women workers under MGNREGS and if so, the steps taken in this regard; and
- (g) whether such women are ineligible for any legal benefits accruing to them from the Construction Workers' Welfare Board and if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps proposed in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment Scheme which provides 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. It provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, requires that priority be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries be women. Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme is a gender neutral programme which promotes participation of women by providing wage parity with men, provision of separate schedule of rates of wages for women, facilities for crèche, work-side sheds for children, and child care services. In convergence with National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), women mates have also been introduced, which again facilitate the participation of women. The Scheme also endeavours to provide works near the residence of the beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, worksite facilities such as drinking water, shed, medicines etc. is to be mandatorily provided. Failure to provide this attracts penalty on the officials concerned. Further, the availability of these facilities are checked during inspections and social audits. Other fora for redressal of grievances can also be set in motion on its denial.

The rate of participation of women (women person-days out of total in percentage) in Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial years and current financial year 2022-23 (as on 29.07.2022) is given below:

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Women participation rate (%)	54.78%	53.19%	54.54.67%	56.02%

The average days of employment provided per households under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial year is given below:

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Average days of employment provided per household	48.4	51.52	50.07
