

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 207
ANSWERED ON 06/08/2024**

IMPLEMENTATION OF MGNREGS

***207 SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);**
- (b) if so, the details of the proposed increase in the said fund alongwith the justification behind the same;**
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the amount of daily wages under the MGNREGS and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the estimated number of additional work days to be generated through the said increased corpus of funding;**
- (e) whether the Government has also proposed to increase the payments made to the farmers and if so, the details thereof;**
- (f) the manner in which the proposed increase in payments is likely to be funded alongwith the expected impact of the said measure on agriculture sector; and**
- (g) whether any monitoring and evaluation system has been put in place for ensuring effective utilisation of the increased funds as well as payment?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)**

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

Statement in reply to Parts (a) to (g) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 207 for 06.08.2024

(a)&(b): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand-driven wage employment Scheme. Funds release to States/UTs is a continuous process and the Central Government is committed to making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme as per the demand for work on the ground.

For the Financial Year 2024-25, budget allocation of Rs. 86,000 crores has been made under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, which is the highest-ever allocation under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS at the Budget Estimate stage for any Financial Year.

Against an allocation of Rs. 86, 000 crore in Financial Year 2024-25, total expenditure as on 31.07.2024 is Rs. 43,931.62 crore. Hence, sufficient fund is available to meet the requirement for fund. However, the Ministry will seek additional funds from the Ministry of Finance as and when required to meet the demand for work on the ground.

(c): As per Section 6 (1) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, the Central Government specifies wage rates for beneficiaries. These rates are determined using the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi beneficiaries against inflation, Ministry of Rural Development revises wage rates annually based on changes in the CPI-AL, with each State/UT having the option to provide wages higher than the rates notified by the Central Government. State/UT-wise wage rates for unskilled workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the Financial Year 2023-24 and the current Financial Year 2024-25 are at Annexure.

(d): As per the provision of the Act, States/UTs are requested by the Central Government to send a detailed proposal for the Labour Budget for the upcoming financial year after following due process.

The proposal received from States/UTs is considered by the Empowered Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of India in the month of February/March. The Committee also includes the Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary, Rural Development of the concerned State/UT as member. After detailed discussion "agreed to" Labour Budget of a particular State/UT is arrived at. This "agreed to" Labour Budget is an indicative number for better planning, so that work can be provided against demand on time. However, the State may always come up with proposal for the revision of the "agreed to" Labour Budget, at any point of time during financial year, if the performance of the State exceeds the "agreed to" Labour Budget.

(e)&(f): There is no separate allocation of fund for the farmers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. However, eligible farmers and their family members in rural areas can also demand for work under the Scheme after following due process. Further, as per para 4(2) of Schedule 1 of the Act, the District Programme Coordinator (DPC) shall ensure that at least 60% of the works to be taken up in a District in terms of cost shall be for creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water and trees.

Out of total of 266 permissible works, 150 relate to different types of durable agri and allied activities covering a very large spectrum which are helping the agriculture sector and farmers and providing livelihood opportunities to the beneficiaries against their demand. Some of the permissible activities are all types of plantation, Construction of Dug well, Farm pond, Micro Irrigation works (canals) and Cattle Shed.

(g): This Ministry has established a robust monitoring and evaluation framework for the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. This includes regular performance assessments at the National and State levels, on-ground inspections by central teams, and independent Social Audits. To enhance transparency and accountability, the scheme has integrated technological solutions like geo-tagging of assets, Direct Benefit Transfer, and the National

Mobile Monitoring System. Additionally, institutional mechanisms such as State Technical Cells and Ombudspersons have been put in place to oversee the program's implementation. By combining these multifaceted approaches, the Ministry aims to ensure effective utilization of funds, timely wage payments, and the creation of durable assets in rural areas.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA mandates wage payments within 15 days of work completion. To ensure timely payments, the government has implemented the National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS) in all states and 3 Union Territories, formulated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and made Aadhaar Based Payment System mandatory. Regular monitoring, intensive consultations with states, and capturing real-time attendance through the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) are ongoing efforts to improve wage disbursement under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Annexure**Annexure referred in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 207 dated 06.08.2024****State/UT-wise wage rates for unskilled workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the Financial Year 2023-24 and the current financial year 2024-25.**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andhra Pradesh	272	300
2	Arunachal Pradesh	224	234
3	Assam	238	249
4	Bihar	228	245
5	Chhattisgarh	221	243
6	Goa	322	356
7	Gujarat	256	280
8	Haryana	357	374
9	Himachal Pradesh Non-Scheduled Areas	224	236
9(a)	Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Areas	280	295
10	Jammu - Kashmir	244	259
11	Ladakh	244	259
12	Jharkhand	228	245
13	Karnataka	316	349
14	Kerala	333	346
15	Madhya Pradesh	221	243
16	Maharashtra	273	297
17	Manipur	260	272
18	Meghalaya	238	254
19	Mizoram	249	266
20	Nagaland	224	234
21	Odisha	237	254
22	Punjab	303	322
23	Rajasthan	255	266
24	Sikkim	236	249
24 (a)	Sikkim (3 Gram Panchayats named Gnathang, Lachung and Lachen)	354	374
25	Tamil Nadu	294	319
26	Telangana	272	300
27	Tripura	226	242
28	Uttar Pradesh	230	237
29	Uttarakhand	230	237
30	West Bengal	237	250
31	Andaman	311	329
31(a)	Nicobar	328	347
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	297	324
33	Lakshadweep	304	315
34	Puducherry	294	319
