GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2518
ANSWERED ON 10/12/2024

AADHAAR-BASED PAYMENT SYSTEM UNDER MGNREGS

2518. SHRI G KUMAR NAIK:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENTbe pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government is aware of the issues faced by Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers due to the mandatory implementation of the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) and the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS), if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the number and percentage of MGNREGS workers who have become ineligible for wages due to ABPS, including the number of worker names deleted since the implementation of ABPS;

(c)   whether the Government has taken any steps to address wrongful exclusions of eligible workers under ABPS, if so, the details thereof; and

(d)   whether the Government has conducted any assessment on the impact of these digital mandates on MGNREGS's effectiveness in guaranteeing rural employment and timely wages, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a): To ensure timely payment of wages to the beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) and to address the issues arising due to frequent change of Bank account numbers by the beneficiaries and subsequent non-updation by the Programme Officers, it was decided to implement Aadhar Payment Bridge System (APBS). This has been made mandatory with effect from 1st January 2024. APBS helps in

improving the transparency and accountability of wage distribution under the scheme. Aadhar Authentication reduces leakage and corruption and ensures that only legitimate beneficiaries with verified identities receive wages. In case of failure in payment through APBS, an alternative route to make payment is available through account based payment that is National Automated Clearing House (NACH). In case States/UTs face any kind of issues or problems in respect of APBS the same are resolved on a priority basis.

National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App was made mandatory from 23-01-2023 to ensure more transparency in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) in the States/UTs. In case of any connectivity issue the attendance along with the photograph can be captured in offline mode and can be uploaded once the device comes into network areas within a day. In case of exceptional circumstances due to which attendance could not be uploaded, the District Programme Coordinator (DPC) has been authorized to upload the manual attendance.

The Ministry regularly organizes review meetings and workshops to provide ongoing support to the States/UTs. Technical challenges faced by the States and UTs in using the application is consistently addressed by the Ministry. Additionally, the Ministry schedules training sessions as needed to ensure that States and UTs remain updated on the NMMS app's usage.

(b)&(c): Aadhar Payment Bridge System (APBS) is only a mode of payment and demand for work cannot be denied due to APBS. Updation/deletion of Job Cards is a regular exercise conducted by the States/UTs under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. The Job cards are not deleted due to reason of non-linking of Aadhaar with bank accounts.

In the current financial year 2024-25 (as on 06.12.2024), a total number of 35.08 lakh job card have been deleted for the following reasons: (i) fake job card (incorrect job card), (ii) duplicate job card, (iii) Households not willing to work, (iv) family shifted from Gram Panchayat permanently and (v) single person in job card and that person is expired. Further, total number of 36.21 lakh new job card

have been issued in current financial year 2024-25 (as on 06.12.2024).

If a beneficiary whose name has been deleted from the database of NREGASoft with reason of unwillingness to work or permanently shifted to another place out of the Gram Panchayat, but later-on shows willingness to work, State Government has been provided with an option to resume such worker's job card. After successful resumption, the beneficiary can demand and work again under the scheme.

(d): The focus on digitalization of payment and verification processes aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and timely disbursement of wages, and ensuring safeguard of workers' rights. To address any challenges faced during this transition, the Ministry provides support through local grievance redressal mechanisms, training programs and on-ground assistance to ensure that all eligible workers can seamlessly access the scheme and its benefits.

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