

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 162
ANSWERED ON 11/03/2025**

RURAL JOB SEEKERS UNDER MGNREGS

***162. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures to expand Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to provide employment for the increasing number of rural job seekers especially in light of economic distress and migration from cities; and**
- (b) if so, the details thereof?**

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

(a) & (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) & (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 162 FOR 11.03.2025

(a)& (b): 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.

The Ministry mandates the provision of an additional 50 days of wage employment (beyond the stipulated 100 days) to every Scheduled Tribe Household in a forest area, provided that these households have no other private property except for the land rights provided under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

In addition to this, there is a provision for providing up to an additional 50 days of wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity-affected notified rural areas. Further, as per Section 3(4) of the Act, the State Governments may make provision for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.

To provide adequate employment opportunities to rural households under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, the Central Government has initiated several measures to generate awareness about the scheme. These include, (i) to initiate appropriate Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns including wall paintings for the wide dissemination of the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, (ii) to expand scope and coverage of demand registration system to ensure that demand for work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA does not go unregistered, (iii) prepare plans in a participatory mode and approve them in the Gram Sabha, (iv) Organization of 'RozgarDiwas'.

The scheme is implemented in rural areas of all States/Union Territories (UTs) in the country (except UT of Chandigarh and NCT of Delhi) as per the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The Government continuously monitors its implementation in order to ensure that employment is provided to eligible beneficiary within stipulated time frame.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS played a crucial role as a social safety net for rural communities. A total of 389.09 crore person days were generated during FY 2020-21 and an amount of Rs. 1,11,170.86 crore was released, which is the highest so far since the inception of the scheme.
