

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2933  
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2025**

**MINIMUM WAGES UNDER MGNREGS**

**2933. SHRI RAM SHIROMANI VERMA:**

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the minimum wages to Rs. 400 per day under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which serves as a sources of livelihood for poor, landless labourers and women in rural areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to increase the employment guarantee from 100 days to 365 days under MGNREGS, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure timely availability of funds to the Gram Panchayats to expedite the development works under the said scheme?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a): As per section 6(1) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for unskilled work for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies the wage rate for unskilled workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA every financial year. To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rates every financial year based on the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourer (CPI-AL). The revised wage rate is made applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April of each financial year. The average increase in the notified wage rate from FY 2023-24 to FY 2024-25**

**is 7%. Further, State can also give additional wages to workers over and above the notified wage rate of Government of India from their own resources.**

**(b): So far as enhancement of guaranteed days of employment is concerned, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) mandates at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to each household in rural areas whose adult members volunteers to do unskilled manual work. In addition to this, there is a provision for an additional 50 days of unskilled wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity-notified rural areas.**

**There is also provision for providing 50 days of additional 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 FRA Act, 2006.As per Section 3(4) of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005, the State Governments may make provision for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.**

**(c): Release of Funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a continuous process and Government of India is committed to make funds available to the States/UTs as per demands for work on the ground, subject to timely submission of prescribed documents and fulfillment of terms and conditions prescribed for such release. While wage payment is directly released by Ministry to the accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer protocols, the Material and Admin component is released to the State Government/ UT Administration, which in turn, release these funds to their districts as per established protocols. During the current financial year 2024-25 (as on 07.03.2025), an amount of Rs. 83,260.48 crore has been released towards wages, materials, and administrative contingencies to States and Union Territories for the implementation of the scheme.**

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