

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2970
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2025**

UNIFORM AND FAIR WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

2970. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether social inclusion, particularly the participation of SC and ST workers, has been adequately achieved under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), if not, the measures taken to address this issue;**
- (b) the details of SC and ST workers participation in MGNREGS during the last five years, State-wise;**
- (c) the reasons for wage disparities among different States under MGNREGS; and**
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure uniform and fair wages for MGNREGS workers in States?**

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b): 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. Here it is stated that percentage of persondays generated by workers belonging to SC and ST community are 36.79% for the FY 2023-24 and 36.78% for the FY 2024-25(as on 12.03.2025)

States/UTs-wise details of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) workers who have availed the employment under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last five years are given at Annexure.

(c)&(d): As per Section 6 (1) of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, the Central Government may by notification, specify the wage rate for its beneficiaries. Further, section 6 (2) of the Act, provides that until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Government under section 3 of the Minimum wages Act, 1948 for Agricultural Laborers shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. Accordingly, as per provision of Section 6(2) of the Act, from the inception of the scheme till the financial year 2010-11, the wage rate in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA was determined on the basis of the minimum wage set by the respective State Governments. However, from the financial year 2011-12, the Government of India started determining the wage rates using the Consumer Price Index for agricultural labour (CPI-AL).

To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every financial year, based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The index is different for different States/UTs as notified by Labour Bureau Shimla. If the calculated wage rate of any State/UT is coming lower than the wage rate of previous year, it is being protected by maintaining the previous year's wage rate. The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. The overall % increase in notified wage rate for FY 2024-25 from the FY 2023-24 is about 7 %.

However, each State/UT can provide wages over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a)&(b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2970 dated 18.03.2025.

| States/UTs-wise details of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) workers who have availed the employment under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last five years. | | | | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sl. No. | State/UTs | Workers availed employment (in numbers) | | | |
| | | FY 2019-20 | | FY 2020-21 | |
| | | SC | ST | SC | ST |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 1520251 | 683453 | 1936193 | 758396 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 31 | 167697 | 18 | 228736 |
| 3 | Assam | 138970 | 499422 | 171360 | 561645 |
| 4 | Bihar | 590692 | 55291 | 736000 | 72571 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 459390 | 1603969 | 644804 | 1969234 |
| 6 | Goa | 58 | 610 | 144 | 1988 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 73390 | 547831 | 111493 | 770899 |
| 8 | Haryana | 178975 | 0 | 299528 | 0 |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | 195420 | 56112 | 233654 | 65096 |
| 10 | Jammu And Kashmir | 44786 | 156521 | 51851 | 142573 |
| 11 | Jharkhand | 204661 | 468640 | 316195 | 834155 |
| 12 | Karnataka | 696809 | 427443 | 1020475 | 586791 |
| 13 | Kerala | 243192 | 93615 | 324452 | 101193 |
| 14 | Ladakh | 2 | 36961 | 2 | 38047 |
| 15 | Madhya Pradesh | 890430 | 2220607 | 1405144 | 3735422 |
| 16 | Maharashtra | 316602 | 612509 | 274571 | 787877 |
| 17 | Manipur | 16060 | 240977 | 16634 | 252681 |
| 18 | Meghalaya | 4362 | 653024 | 4206 | 694764 |
| 19 | Mizoram | 40 | 206883 | 45 | 221021 |
| 20 | Nagaland | 50 | 407541 | 48 | 400280 |
| 21 | Odisha | 589951 | 1277448 | 912636 | 2038050 |
| 22 | Punjab | 647336 | 442 | 798713 | 666 |
| 23 | Rajasthan | 1747179 | 1922432 | 2298583 | 2528303 |
| 24 | Sikkim | 3299 | 28059 | 4023 | 32323 |
| 25 | Tamil Nadu | 1992368 | 89013 | 2373016 | 123353 |
| 26 | Telangana | 874825 | 774854 | 1182553 | 1094894 |
| 27 | Tripura | 132841 | 346584 | 138999 | 366389 |
| 28 | Uttar Pradesh | 2039718 | 71299 | 3696502 | 126079 |
| 29 | Uttarakhand | 114514 | 24757 | 151652 | 32389 |
| 30 | West Bengal | 2537174 | 795276 | 3453916 | 996411 |
| 31 | Andaman and Nicobar | 0 | 28 | 0 | 528 |
| 32 | Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33 | Lakshadweep | 0 | 119 | 0 | 74 |
| 34 | Puducherry | 13287 | 61 | 16830 | 90 |
| | Total | 16266663 | 14469478 | 22574240 | 19562918 |

| Sl. No | States/UTs | States/UTs-wise details of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) workers who have availed the employment under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last five years. | | | | | |
|--------|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | FY 2021-22 | | FY 2022-23 | | FY 2023-24 | |
| | | SC | ST | SC | ST | SC | ST |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 1884083 | 737056 | 1840624 | 737309 | 1831743 | 774068 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 15 | 262430 | 43 | 270957 | 59 | 266069 |
| 3 | Assam | 180273 | 668252 | 157086 | 517900 | 189892 | 558255 |
| 4 | Bihar | 680904 | 75084 | 953072 | 97198 | 1082359 | 108882 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 568592 | 1860154 | 458563 | 1645075 | 444059 | 1483216 |
| 6 | Goa | 125 | 1286 | 35 | 1650 | 10 | 1014 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 103601 | 780572 | 84190 | 718255 | 82218 | 700700 |
| 8 | Haryana | 276038 | 0 | 244423 | 0 | 281464 | 0 |
| 9 | Himachal Pradesh | 261316 | 64661 | 232285 | 60777 | 252811 | 60271 |
| 10 | Jammu and Kashmir | 49762 | 140076 | 41224 | 120100 | 39777 | 113509 |
| 11 | Jharkhand | 313764 | 764268 | 262483 | 618527 | 243904 | 636454 |
| 12 | Karnataka | 1104080 | 661950 | 950808 | 611788 | 968654 | 630986 |
| 13 | Kerala | 331165 | 107293 | 317990 | 106011 | 297913 | 104441 |
| 14 | Ladakh | 0 | 37451 | 0 | 39176 | 0 | 36516 |
| 15 | Madhya Pradesh | 1247934 | 3361603 | 1040885 | 2559725 | 829273 | 2238821 |
| 16 | Maharashtra | 317364 | 755301 | 312768 | 693878 | 320955 | 706217 |
| 17 | Manipur | 16071 | 251277 | 9470 | 204317 | 13652 | 217623 |
| 18 | Meghalaya | 4278 | 676791 | 3411 | 604573 | 4129 | 571842 |
| 19 | Mizoram | 37 | 211985 | 51 | 217437 | 56 | 221965 |
| 20 | Nagaland | 26 | 454451 | 1 | 485832 | 0 | 462306 |
| 21 | Odisha | 791931 | 1824075 | 755436 | 1694101 | 746608 | 1582642 |
| 22 | Punjab | 741311 | 655 | 741369 | 309 | 742747 | 311 |
| 23 | Rajasthan | 2061567 | 2327879 | 1836154 | 2085612 | 1776887 | 2037447 |
| 24 | Sikkim | 3786 | 31270 | 3648 | 29118 | 3580 | 28701 |
| 25 | Tamil Nadu | 2366394 | 130906 | 2197739 | 120923 | 2239923 | 129506 |
| 26 | Telangana | 1047938 | 993140 | 952232 | 942074 | 850827 | 858181 |
| 27 | Tripura | 140503 | 378397 | 136375 | 370085 | 137059 | 382759 |
| 28 | Uttar Pradesh | 3021446 | 111155 | 2745096 | 92697 | 2498828 | 81751 |
| 29 | Uttarakhand | 134466 | 27765 | 117661 | 23488 | 109769 | 24998 |
| 30 | West Bengal | 3071975 | 908445 | 487412 | 171868 | 1044 | 433 |
| 31 | Andaman And Nicobar | 0 | 389 | 0 | 594 | 0 | 267 |
| 32 | Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2104 |
| 33 | Lakshadweep | 0 | 24 | 0 | 101 | 0 | 77 |
| 34 | Puducherry | 12223 | 89 | 13445 | 100 | 17001 | 172 |
| | Total | 20732968 | 18606130 | 16895979 | 15841555 | 16007201 | 15022504 |
