

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 413
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2025**

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING MGNREGS

413. DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has faced challenges in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);**
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Government to address issues related to delayed payments and the lack of timely job availability under MGNREGS;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any assessments regarding the impact of MGNREGS on rural employment and income levels, particularly in light of recent economic challenges, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) the details of measures being implemented to ensure better transparency and accountability in the management of MGNREGS funds at the State and local levels; and**
- (e) whether the Government provided details on the initiatives being taken to enhance awareness among rural communities about their rights and entitlements under MGNREGS, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand-driven wage employment Scheme. Ministry evaluates the scheme's performance periodically to address any emerging concerns and refine implementation strategies. This ensures that the scheme not only

meets its objectives but also adapts to the evolving needs of rural India.

The implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is progressing without any significant challenges, which may be seen from the substantial person-days generated and work completed in the past three financial years and current financial year:-

Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (as on 28.01.2025)
Persondays generated [In crore]	363.19	293.7	308.69	233.72
Number of completed works[In Lakhs]	89.96	94.45	84.24	73.93

(As per NREGASoft)

(b) and (e): As per the provision of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the beneficiaries are entitled to get wage payment within 15 days of closure of Muster Roll of the work. Government of India has also issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to the States to ensure timely wage payment. The Ministry in coordination with the States/UTs has been making concerted efforts for improving the timely payment of wages. States/UTs have been advised to generate pay orders in time. The Ministry has taken various steps to ensure timely payment of wages to workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). These include:

(i) Upscaling of National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS)

(ii) Intensive consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders to strategise timely payment of wages, verification of pending compensation claims etc.

(iii) Formulation of Standard Operating Procedure for monitoring of timely payment and payment of compensation.

(iv) During various meeting with States/UTs, which includes, Meeting for finalisation of Annual Action Plan, Mid-Term Review meeting, Monthly Review Meeting and visit of senior officers to

States/UTs, matter regarding the timely payment of wages and payment of delay compensation is regularly reviewed.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, is an Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the household 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 Central Government has initiated several measures to generate awareness about the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in rural areas of the country in order to provide adequate employment opportunities to rural households under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, 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' .

(c): Government of India has made assessment of implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) through third party study in terms of increase in household income, poverty alleviation etc. sponsored by NITI Aayog in 2020. Some of the key findings of the study are as under:

(i) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is a powerful instrument for inclusive growth in rural India through its impact on social protection, livelihood security and democratic empowerment.

(ii) Mahatma Gandhi NREGS provide livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity.

(iii) Mahatma Gandhi NREGS has had a positive impact on the standard of living of households through increase in household income by improvements in production from agriculture.

(iv) Mahatma Gandhi NREGS has led to major increases in wages of rural workers

(v) SC, ST and Women along with socially excluded communities benefit from and are included in Mahatma Gandhi NREGS plans which could be a significant indicator of poverty alleviation in rural areas.

(d): The Ministry of Rural Development has implemented several measures to enhance transparency and accountability in the efficient execution of the scheme, in accordance with the provisions of the act and the guidelines issued periodically. Some of these measures include:

- 1. Conduct of Social audit at Gram Panchayat level**
- 2. Grievance Redressal Mechanisms through appointment of Ombudspersons.**
- 3. Monitoring by National Level Monitors and Central Teams**
- 4. Conduct of Internal audit**
- 5. Monitoring through use of Area Officers app**
- 6. Common Review Mission and Performance Review Committee.**
- 7. Use of National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) for capturing of attendance.**
- 8. Janmanrega app for seeking citizen feedback and information**

Some of the technological interventions that are made for effective implementation of the scheme are given below. :

1. GIS based plan– Use of Space Technology: GIS based GP level plan (ridge to valley approach) preparation using Remote Sensing technology in a saturation mode for all the GPs of the country.

2. Yuktdhara: GIS based planning tool – To simplify the GIS based planning at GP level, Yuktdhara, a Geospatial planning portal is developed in collaboration with ISRO-NRSC.

3. SECURE – Software for Estimate Calculation for using Rural Rates for Employment: Application is being used for estimate calculation of works to be undertaken under the scheme.

4. GeoMGNREGA: the app has been developed by using technology to track the creation of assets by geotagging it, at “Before”, “During” and “After” stages of the asset creation. So far, a total of 6.21 crore assets have been geotagged.

5. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): To bring in more transparency in the system and minimize leakages, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system in wage payment has been adopted. Under the programme, more than 99% of payments of wages are electronically credited into the accounts of the workers through DBT system.

6. Aadhaar Payment Bridge System: Wage payments are made through Aadhaar Payment Bridge System into the accounts of the beneficiaries following the DBT protocol. Against the total of 13.41 crore active workers, Aadhaar of 13.34 crore active workers have been seeded.
