

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 268
ANSWERED ON 22/07/2025**

REFORMATION OF MGNREGS

268. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);**
- (b) the number of beneficiaries availed employment under such scheme within Tamil Nadu during the last three years;**
- (c) the funds allocated and utilized for the implementation of MGNREGS within Tamil Nadu during the last three years;**
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any evaluation or impact assessment of the MGNREG scheme to measure its effectiveness in providing sustainable livelihoods, improving rural infrastructure and alleviating poverty;**
- (e) the number of beneficiaries under MGNREGS who have been provided with skilling opportunities or employment in livelihood creation beyond mere manual labour; and**
- (f) whether the Government has any plans to expand or reform the MGNREG scheme, including measures to increase wage rates, improve work quality, or integrate technology for better monitoring and management, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a): The salient features of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) are detailed at Annexure.

(b): Number of workers who availed of employment in Tamil Nadu State under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) during the last three financial years are given below:

Financial Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Number of workers who availed of employment in Tamil Nadu [In Lakhs]	75.79	79.39	74.34

(as per NREGASoft)

(c): The details of funds released by Central Government to the State of Tamil Nadu for the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme and expenditure (Including State Share) incurred under the scheme during the last three financial years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Central funds released	9743.53	12616.53	7585.49
Expenditure (Including State Share)	11420.95	13395.54	10744.75

(d): Government of India has made assessment of implementation of the 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 provides 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 NREGA 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 NREGA plans which could be a significant indicator of poverty alleviation in rural areas.

(e): In order to upgrade the skill base of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers, Government of India launched “Project UNNATI” in December 2019. By upgrading skill base of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers, the project intends to improve their livelihoods, so that they can move from the current partial employment to full employment through either self employment or wage employment. The Project aims to enhance the skill base of 2 lakh Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers. The total achievement till 31st March 2025 is 90,894 candidates.

(f): Ministry of Rural Development has continuously undertaken various steps to strengthen the quality of implementation of the scheme. Several steps have been undertaken to improve its effectiveness, efficiency and relevance in changing rural contexts.

- i. Targeted interventions in Natural Resource Management (NRM) and agriculture-related activities have yielded a substantial reduction in water-stressed blocks. From FY 2017-18 to FY 2023-24, the number of such blocks has declined from 2,264 to 1,456, with 1,519 blocks across 199 districts in 18 states removed from the water-stressed list. This reflects MGNREGS’s success in transitioning from water scarcity to water security.**
- ii. Mission AmritSarovar: Mission AmritSarovar was launched in FY 2022 guided by vision of Hon’ble Prime Minister in order to construct or rejuvenate 50,000 water bodies across India, aiming to strengthen water conservation efforts nationwide. The mission's first phase exceeded expectations, with over 68,000 AmritSarovars developed, showcasing a successful “whole of government” approach. An impact assessment by IIT Delhi revealed a 16.3% increase in surface area of water bodies and a 42% reduction in dry water bodies. A parallel study by GIZ India emphasized the mission’s broader environmental and socio-economic benefits, including improvements in groundwater recharge, agriculture productivity, biodiversity and rural livelihoods.**
- iii. Social Audit:- As per the mandate of the Act, social audits of all the Gram Panchayats are required to be conducted at least**

twice a year. A total of 27 States and 1 UT have established Social Audit Units.

- iv. **Aadhaar Based Payment System:** Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Direct Benefit Transfer, all payments to the workers are to be credited into the accounts of the workers through Aadhaar based payment system. 99.6% of Aadhaar numbers of the active workers have been successfully seeded under the scheme.
- v. **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.
- vi. **Yuktdhara:** GIS based planning tool – To simplify the GIS based planning at GP level under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA “Yuktdhara” a Geospatial planning portal is developed in collaboration with ISRO-NRSC.
- vii. **SECURE – Software for Estimate Calculation for using Rural Rates for Employment:** Application is being used for estimate the calculation of works to be undertaken under the scheme.
- viii. **GeoNREGA:** the app has been developed by using Space Technology to track the creation of assets by geotagging it, at “Before”, “During” and “After” stages of the asset creation. Till date 6.36 crore assets have been geotagged.
- ix. **National Mobile Monitoring Service (NMMS):** enables capturing of attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites (except for individual beneficiary works) along with geo-tagged photographs twice a day.
- x. **Area Officer Monitoring Visit Application:** This App facilitates the officials of the State/UT to record their field visit findings online and facilitates the officials to record time stamped and geotagged photograph for all the worksites visited.
- xi. **JALDOOT App:** enables Gram RojgarSahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon).
- xii. **JANMANREGA app:** aids in proactive disclosure of information to its citizens as well as a feedback mechanism about the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 268 dated 22.07.2025.

The salient features of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS are as under:

- i. Adult members of a rural household, willing to do unskilled manual work, may apply for registration in writing or orally to the local Gram Panchayat.**
- ii. The Gram Panchayat after due verification will issue a Job Card free of cost within 15 days.**
- iii. The worker has a right to demand and receive work within 15 days of the receipt of the application or the date of the demand in case of advance application, whichever is later, as mandated by the Act.**
- iv. In case employment is not provided within fifteen days from the date of registration of the demand for work or the date from which work has been demanded in case of advance applications, whichever is later, the worker is legally entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.**
- v. Preparation of Labour Budget (LB) which is an essential annual work plan document that entails planning, approval, funding and project execution modalities.**
- vi. The shelf of projects for a village will be recommended by the gram sabha and approved by the zillapanchayat. At least 50% of works will be allotted to Gram Panchayats for execution.**
- vii. Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works.**
- viii. A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained at the district level. No contractors and labour displacing machinery is allowed.**
- ix. The Central Government bears 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.**
- x. Social Audit has to be done by the Gram Sabha.**
- xi. Grievance redressal mechanisms have to be put in place for ensuring a responsive implementation process.**
- xii. All accounts and records relating to the Scheme should be available for public scrutiny.**
