

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1435
ANSWERED ON 09/12/2025**

INCREASE IN WORK-DAYS UNDER MGNREGS

1435. Smt. Anita NagarsinghChouhan:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering increasing the limit of 100 work days in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to provide more wage days as 100 days seem inadequate for providing employment and livelihood security in rural areas;**
- (b) if so, the proposals or suggestions currently under consideration of the Government in this regard;**
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase this limit in view of unemployment in rural areas, seasonal gap in agricultural activities and livelihood crisis; and**
- (d) whether the Government is likely to ensure that by increasing the wage days, a kind of permanent and secure employment is made available to rural families, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(a)to (d): The mandate of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, is 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.

The responsibility of implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is vested with the Governments of concerned States/UTs. The Scheme guarantees up to 100 days of wage employment subject to demand for work by the eligible beneficiaries. In the FY 2025-26 (as on 03.12.2025), 99.80% of the eligible rural households have been offered employment against their demand.

The Ministry continues to closely monitor the implementation of the scheme and provides necessary support to States to ensure that all eligible rural households are able to access employment as per their demand under the 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'.

Here, it is stated that Mahatma Gandhi NREGS provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available.

By offering predictable wage labour when needed, the Scheme significantly contributes to income stability and strengthens the livelihood security of rural households.
