GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1603
ANSWERED ON 09/12/2025

DELETION OF MGNREGS WORKERS

1603. Shri Vijayakumar Alias Vijay Vasanth:
   Shri V K Sreekandan:
   Shri Suresh Kumar Shetkar:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government confirms deleting nearly twenty seven lakh Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers between October 10 and November 14, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b)   whether the Government acknowledges mass deletions coincided with aggressive e-KYC enforcement, if not, the reasons for denying correlation despite clear timing and widespread worker exclusion reports;

(c)   whether the Government examined why one month's deletions nearly doubled the previous six months' total, if so, the findings thereof and if not, the reasons for failing to investigate;

(d)   whether the Government is aware that over six lakh deleted persons were active MGNREGS workers, if so, the justification for removal and if not, the reasons for failing to identify active beneficiaries;

(e)   whether the Government would explain why States with higher e-KYC completion rates show disproportionate deletions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for such patterns remain unaddressed;

(f)   whether the National Mobile Monitoring System used for digitally capturing attendance of workers and the Aadhaar Based Payment System used for disbursing wages have already excluded an estimated two core workers from accessing their legal entitlements under the MGNREGS;

(g)   whether the net additions had fallen to 66.5 lakh by mid-November, 2025, effectively wiping out 17 lakh workers in a single month; and

(h)   if so, the details thereof?

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

(a)to (e): Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand-driven wage employment scheme and the responsibility of implementation of the Scheme is vested with the Government of concerned States/UTs. Updation/deletion of Job Cards is a regular exercise conducted by the States/UTs. Job cards have been deleted mainly for the reasons such as fake/duplicate/incorrect job cards, family shifted from Gram Panchayat permanently, Gram Panchayat classified as Urban and there was only one member in the job card and he/she has expired etc. However, while deleting/ removing workers/Job cards, States/UTs have to ensure compliance with provisions of the Act and the Standard Operating Procedure issued by the Ministry to ensure that no job card of deserving or eligible household is deleted/cancelled. As per NREGASoft, a total of 16.31 lakh workers were deleted between 10 October and 14 November 2025.

To streamline the process of deletion of Job cards, Ministry of Rural Development had issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) vide letter dated 25.01.2025 to all States/Union Territories, with clear guidelines for deletion and restoration of job cards. The SOP ensures compliance with the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS guidelines, promotes transparency, protects the rights of workers by defining conditions for deletion, setting up a grievance redressal mechanism, and ensure the settlement of pending liabilities if any before deletion/cancellation.

The SOP emphasizes the importance of due process, including the publication of draft lists of job cards marked for deletion, verification at Gram Sabhas, and the right of appeal for affected workers. It also mandates the linking of job cards with Aadhaar to eliminate duplicate and fraudulent entries. These measures are aimed at preventing misuse of job cards while ensuring that genuine beneficiaries are not excluded. The Ministry is committed to maintaining the integrity of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reaches the eligible rural households.

(f): To ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), the Ministry has decided that States/UTs shall ensure capturing of attendance at the

worksite through National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App with two-time stamped, geo-tagged photographs of the workers in a day for all the works (except Individual Beneficiary Work) through NMMS w.e.f. 1st January, 2023.

Further, in order to ensure timely payment of wages to the beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) and to address the issues arising due to frequent changes in bank account numbers of the beneficiaries and subsequent non-updation, it was decided to implement Aadhar Payment Bridge System (APBS). This has been made mandatory with effect from 1st January 2024.

It is stated that Job cards can not be deleted due to reasons of NMMS and non-linking of bank accounts with Aadhar or e-KYC.

(g)&(h): As per NREGASoft, during FY 2025-26 (as on 05.12.2025), States/UTs deleted a total of 54.02 lakh workers, while 118.57 lakh new workers were added during the same period.

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