

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 459
ANSWERED ON 02/12/2025**

DELAY IN WAGE PAYMENTS UNDER MGNREGS

**459. Shri Kalyan Banerjee:
Shri Sachithanantham R:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the quantum of wage payments towards Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) pending as of the latest available date since 2021-22, State-wise;**
- (b) whether the Government has proposed to revise at least 400 per day as recommended by the Parliamentary Committee (May 2025), if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) the details of impact of wage delays on livelihood security and distress migration therefor;**
- (d) the timeline and mechanism to ensure time-bound wage disbursement and action taken by the State of West Bengal in this regard; and**
- (e) the details of the average delay in wage payments under MGNREGS during the last three years, State-wise?**

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. Fund release is a continuous process.

Under the Scheme, the wage payments are directly credited by the Central Government to the account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer protocol. Sanctions for wage payments are issued daily by the Ministry through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) based on fund transfer orders received from the States after due procedures. At the beginning of each financial year,

admissible pending liabilities of the previous year, if any, are duly reimbursed by the Government of India. Accordingly, all pending wage liabilities upto FY 2024-25 (except State of West Bengal) have already been cleared.

In the current Financial Year 2025-26 (as on 26.11.2025), an amount of Rs. 68,393.67 crore has been released to the States including 100% of pending wage liabilities of FY 2024-25. As sanction for payment of wages are issued by Ministry on a daily basis through PFMS (Public Finance Management System), after receipt of funds transfer orders from States after following the due procedures, the fund release status keeps updating on a daily basis.

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of pending liabilities for wage component under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as on 26.11.2025 are given at Annexure-I.

(b): With regard to the Committee's recommendations regarding revision of wage rates under the scheme, it is submitted that 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 unskilled work for its beneficiaries. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development notifies Mahatma Gandhi NREGA wage rate for every financial year for States/UTs. To compensate the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers against inflation, the Ministry of Rural Development revises the wage rate every year based on the change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour(CPI-AL). The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year.

Using the present methodology of wage rate calculation, the Central Government has notified the wage rate and it has increased by around 5% (average) over the last year and around 29% (average) in the previous 5 years. However, State Governments can provide wages over and above the wage rate notified by the Central Government, from its own sources.

(c): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand-driven wage employment Scheme. It provides livelihood security, i.e. fall back options for livelihood for the rural households, when no better employment opportunity is available. As per the provisions of the Act, beneficiaries are entitled to receive wage payments within 15

days of work completion. In cases where wages are not paid within this stipulated period, Schedule-II of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 provides that wage seekers shall be entitled to compensation for the delay at the rate of 0.05% of the unpaid wages per day, starting from the sixteenth day after the closure of the muster roll.

By ensuring assured employment and predictable wage income within the local rural area, the Scheme helps reduce distress migration, as rural workers are able to access wage employment and livelihood support within their own rural area.

(d): For the resumption of implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the State of West Bengal, and in accordance with the order dated 18.06.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court, the Department is currently in the process of reworking and refining the necessary modalities and procedures to comply with the Hon'ble High Court's directions.

(e): State/Union Territories wise percentage of Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) generated within T+8 days of muster roll closure under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial years is given at Annexure-II.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 459 dated 02.12.2025.

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of pending liabilities for wage component under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS as on 26.11.2025 (Rs. in crores)		
Sl. No.	States/UTs	Pending liabilities for wage component
1	Andhra Pradesh	381.02
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.70
3	Assam	0.23
4	Bihar	7.04
5	Chhattisgarh	3.78
6	Goa	0.00
7	Gujarat	46.98
8	Haryana	0.38
9	Himachal Pradesh	15.18
10	Jammu & Kashmir	5.48
11	Jharkhand	5.83
12	Karnataka	8.94
13	Kerala	248.42
14	Madhya Pradesh	64.14
15	Maharashtra	14.32
16	Manipur	4.59
17	Meghalaya	4.13
18	Mizoram	91.43
19	Nagaland	0.79
20	Odisha	11.76
21	Punjab	0.12
22	Rajasthan	627.33
23	Sikkim	0.10
24	Tamil Nadu	111.54
25	Telangana	0.98
26	Tripura	2.93
27	Uttar Pradesh	5.98
28	Uttarakhand	0.41
29	West Bengal*	1457.22
30	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00
31	Lakshadweep	0.00
32	Puducherry	16.99
33	Ladakh	0.46
34	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	1.29
	Total	1687.27

*The proposal for upward revision of the Labour Budget for FY 2021-22 for the State of West Bengal was not approved by the Empowered Committee, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Department of Rural Development due to non-compliance with the directives issued by this Department. Subsequently, the release of funds to the State of West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) was also stopped with effect from 09.03.2022 by invoking the provisions of Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, owing to continued non-compliance with the directives of the Central Government by the State. Therefore, as per NREGASoft, the pending liability pertaining to the State of West Bengal (as on 08.03.2022) for wage component stands at ₹1457.22 crore. The admissibility of this liability is subject to verification by the Central Government.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 459 dated 02.12.2025.

State/Union Territories –wise percentage of Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) have been generation within T+8 days of muster roll closure under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial years.				
Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andaman And Nicobar	7.82	38.3	4.01
2	Andhra Pradesh	93.25	99.92	99.99
3	Arunachal Pradesh	58.86	63.06	72.5
4	Assam	93.04	94.25	97.45
5	Bihar	89.61	93.79	92.79
6	Chhattisgarh	66.28	99.4	97.62
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	0	57.04	55.86
8	Goa	53	32.68	37.62
9	Gujarat	89.84	98.03	99.22
10	Haryana	74.63	63.58	81.85
11	Himachal Pradesh	83.25	94.64	97.38
12	Jammu and Kashmir	70.05	77.56	82.29
13	Jharkhand	99.82	99.97	99.91
14	Karnataka	95.13	96.42	96.77
15	Kerala	86.17	97.79	97.45
16	Ladakh	52.28	48.67	63.5
17	Lakshadweep	56.62	49.41	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	96.26	99.05	99.11
19	Maharashtra	77.08	77.03	66.56
20	Manipur	9.26	9.03	14.34
21	Meghalaya	58.15	61.35	71.18
22	Mizoram	85.66	87.06	96.34
23	Nagaland	18.09	41.22	52.9
24	Odisha	99.34	97.31	98.73
25	Puducherry	62.44	38.25	45.69
26	Punjab	69.77	83.34	82.85
27	Rajasthan	79.12	96.44	98.85
28	Sikkim	83.03	87.53	91.62
29	Tamil Nadu	97.88	99.94	99.98
30	Telangana	46.97	96	99.23
31	Tripura	94.09	98.41	97.43
32	Uttar Pradesh	79.72	91.35	95.76
33	Uttarakhand	99.17	99.85	99.96
34	West Bengal	**	**	**
Total		85.91	95.14	94.65

(As per NREGASoft)

****The release of funds to the State of West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) was stopped with effect from 09.03.2022 by invoking the provisions of Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, owing to continued non-compliance with the directives of the Central Government by the State.**
