

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5142  
ANSWERED ON 24/03/2026**

**MANDATORY APPROVAL OF GRAM SABHA IN MGNREGA WORKS**

**5142. Smt. Roopkumari Choudhary:**

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that in some States, including Chhattisgarh, muster rolls maintained under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act do not mandatorily require the approval or signatures of the Sarpanch or Gram Sabha, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the absence of such verification by elected Panchayat representatives has led to concerns regarding transparency and possible irregularities in work execution and labour entries at the Panchayat level, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure mandatory verification, strengthen social audit and enhance transparency and accountability in the implementation of the scheme?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is implemented by the States/UTs in accordance with the provisions of the Act, 2005 and the Operational Guidelines issued by the Ministry.**

**Maintenance of muster rolls under the scheme is mandatory and must follow prescribed procedures. The detailed modalities for certification and verification of muster rolls are determined by the respective State Governments within the overall framework of the Act and Guidelines.**

**In the case of Chhattisgarh, as informed by the State, the signature of the Sarpanch on muster rolls is not mandatory. Instead, muster rolls are authenticated through the signature of the Gram Rozgar Sahayak (GRS), along with the signature of either the**

**Sarpanch or the Panchayat Secretary. As reported by the State, this system has not led to any concerns regarding transparency or irregularities.**

**Further, the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) has strengthened transparency in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Real-time, geo-tagged attendance captured through NMMS has streamlined the timely creation of muster rolls and reduced the scope for fake attendance by ensuring accurate and timely recording of workers' presence at worksites.**

**(c): The scheme is implemented on an end-to-end integrated transaction-based Management Information System (MIS) platform called NREGASoft. To strengthen transparency, accountability and verification mechanisms under the Scheme, the Government has taken several measures, these includes:**

- i. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system in wage payment has been adopted under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS). The payment of wages to the bank/ post office accounts of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS workers is through National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS)/Electronic Fund Management System (eFMS).**
- ii. National Mobile Monitoring Service (NMMS): It enables capturing of attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites (except for individual beneficiary works) along with geo-tagged photograph twice in a day. This app aids in increasing citizen oversight of the programme. This is one more step towards transparency and accountability.**
- iii. Area Officer Monitoring Visit Application: This App facilitates the officials of the State/UT to record their field visit findings online. The App also allows the officials to record time stamped and geotagged photograph for all the schemes launched by Department of Rural Development. Also, this App helps in developing hassle-free reporting of the field visits. This app records the field visit findings and views the field visit outcome report by the senior officials.**
- iv. 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.**
- v. 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.**

- vi. **SECURE – Software for Estimate Calculation for using Rural Rates for Employment :- Application is being used to estimate the cost of works to be undertaken under the scheme.**
- vii. **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.**
- viii. **JALDOOT App: JALDOOT app has been developed to enable monitoring of ground water tables across the country. The Jaldoot app enables Gram Rojgar Sahayak (GRS) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon and post-monsoon).**
- ix. **JANMANREGA app: this app helps in proactive disclosure of information to its citizens in reference to the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Citizen awareness is a key to efficient, effective, and transparent execution of the scheme.**
- x. **Ombudsperson App- An Ombudsperson App has been developed for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, easy tracking and timely passing of awards on each case as per the guidelines and easy uploading of quarterly and annual report on the website.**
- xi. **Social Audit: As per the mandate of the Act, the Ministry has laid emphasis on the setting up of an institutional structure at the States/UTs level for facilitating social audits of all the Gram Panchayats at least twice a year. With the consistent efforts by Ministry, a total of 27 States and 1 UT have established Independent Social Audit Units.**

**Further, monitoring by National level monitors regular and special monitoring, monitoring by team of central level officers, monitoring visits by Common review Mission teams, monitoring through use of Area Officers app is being conducted for better implementation of the programme. Also, State/UT specific reviews are also undertaken from time to time.**

**These measures collectively ensure enhanced transparency, strengthen verification processes and minimize the possibility of irregularities in muster rolls and work execution under the Scheme.**

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