

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 622
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

ADDITIONAL PERMISSIBLE WORK AND WAGE REVISION UNDER MGNREGS

622 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the features of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);
- (b) the details of the funds sanctioned, allocated and utilised under this scheme within Tamil Nadu during the last three years;
- (c) the details of permissible work under this scheme in Tamil Nadu as of now;
- (d) whether Government is planning to include additional permissible work as per the local area specific jobs under the scheme;
- (e) whether Government has received any proposal from Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard along with the revision of wages under the scheme; and
- (f) 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): Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand driven wage employment programme. No State/UT-wise (including State of Tamil Nadu) financial allocation is made under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

The details of funds released by Central Government to the State of Tamil Nadu for the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme and expenditure incurred by the State during the last three financial years 2021-22 to 2023-24 is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Central funds released	9638.13	9706.62	12603.36
Expenditure (Including State Share)	9795.62	11421.01	13392.81

(c)&(d): As per Section 29 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), Central Government may add new works to the permissible list of works under Schedule I of the Act. The revision of permissible works is a regular exercise under the Scheme. As and when any request for revision of permissible work are received from State Government or need for the same is felt by the Central Government the matter is examined on merit and a decision on addition and deletion of permissible work is taken. Some of the recently added works to the list of permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are given below:

- i. Construction of biogas plant for individual;
- ii. Unskilled wage component towards the construction of bio-gas plant for community;
- iii. Maintenance of tunnel constructed by Border Road Organisation (BRO);
- iv. Maintenance of bridges constructed by Border Road Organisation (BRO); and
- v. Construction of Liquid Waste Chamber for individuals

It is submitted that there is no state specific list of permissible works. At present there are 266 permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA which are uniformly applicable on all States/UTs including Tamil Nadu.

(e)&(f): Request for inclusion of some additional work has been received from State Government of Tamil Nadu. The request has been processed in the Department for appropriate decision as per norms. With regard to revision of wages, 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 financial year based on change in Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). The wage rate is made applicable from 1st April of each financial year. This is uniformly applicable on all States/UTs. The notified wage rate of Tamilnadu for FY 2023-24 was Rs.294 which has been revised to Rs.319 for FY 2024-25.

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.622 dated 29.11.2024

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 zilla panchayat. 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.
