Ministry of Rural Development

ISSUES RELATING TO WAGES UNDER MGNREGS

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State and year-wise details of workers who availed of employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) during the last five financial years are given at Annexure-I.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is a demand-driven wage employment scheme. Funds release to States/UTs is a continuous process, and the Central Government is committed to making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of the scheme as per the demand for work on the ground.

Regarding budget allocation for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, it is submitted that, for the financial year 2024-25, budget allocation of ₹86,000 crore has been made, which was the highest ever allocation for scheme at the Budget Estimate (BE) stage since inception. In the financial year 2025-26, the Government has retained this allocation at ₹86,000 crore, ensuring continued support for rural employment.

Here it is also submitted that keeping in view demand driven nature of the Scheme, the Ministry of Rural Development closely monitors demand for employment at ground level and seeks additional funds from the Ministry of Finance, as and when required.

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last five years, more than 96% of Funds Transfer Orders (FTOs) have consistently been generated within 15 days of closure of muster roll. The Scheme is a demand-driven wage employment programme under which wage payments are directly credited by the Central Government into the accounts of beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) 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 have already been cleared.

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, 100% of wage payments are made by the Central Government directly to the accounts of beneficiaries through DBT mode.

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 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.

Currently, three States i.e. Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh & Odisha are providing a top-up over and above the wage rate notified by the central government.

State/UT-wise notified wage rates for unskilled workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last five financial years are given at Annexure-II.

Annexure-I

State and year-wise details of workers who availed of employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last five financial years. (Fig. in Crores)

States/UTs	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22	FY 2020-21
Andhra Pradesh	0.75	0.75	0.76	0.77	0.80
Arunachal Pradesh	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Assam	0.26	0.33	0.34	0.40	0.36
Bihar	0.56	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.58
Chhattisgarh	0.45	0.44	0.47	0.55	0.60
Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gujarat	0.13	0.15	0.16	0.18	0.19
Haryana	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.07
Himachal Pradesh	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.09
Jammu and Kashmir	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.11
Jharkhand	0.23	0.26	0.25	0.31	0.32

Karnataka	0.52	0.54	0.53	0.64	0.57
Kerala	0.15	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.19
Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	0.58	0.64	0.76	0.96	1.05
Maharashtra	0.51	0.41	0.37	0.37	0.31
Manipur	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.06
Meghalaya	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08
Mizoram	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Nagaland	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04
Odisha	0.34	0.50	0.52	0.56	0.62
Punjab	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.12
Rajasthan	0.77	0.87	0.88	1.01	1.11
Sikkim	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Tamil Nadu	0.74	0.79	0.76	0.80	0.79
Telangana	0.42	0.41	0.45	0.49	0.54
Tripura	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.08
Uttar Pradesh	0.76	0.81	0.84	0.95	1.16
Uttarakhand	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.20	1.11	1.18
Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Puducherry	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
Total	7.88	8.34	8.75	10.61	11.17

Annexure-II

State/UT-wise notified wage rates for unskilled

workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last five financial years

(in Rs.)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Andhra Pradesh	237	245	257	272	300
2	Arunachal Pradesh	205	212	216	224	234
3	Assam	213	224	229	238	249
4	Bihar	194	198	210	228	245
5	Chhattisgarh	190	193	204	221	243
6	Goa	280	294	315	322	356
7	Gujarat	224	229	239	256	280
8	Haryana	309	315	331	357	374
9	Himachal Pradesh Non-Scheduled Areas	198	203	212	224	236
9(a)	Himachal Pradesh Scheduled Areas	248	254	266	280	295

10	Jammu And Kashmir	204	214	227	244	259
11	Ladakh	204	214	227	244	259
12	Jharkhand	194	198	210	228	245
13	Karnataka	275	289	309	316	349
14	Kerala	291	291	311	333	346
15	Madhya Pradesh	190	193	204	221	243
16	Maharashtra	238	248	256	273	297
17	Manipur	238	251	251	260	272
18	Meghalaya	203	226	230	238	254
19	Mizoram	225	233	233	249	266
20	Nagaland	205	212	216	224	234
21	Odisha	207	215	222	237	254
22	Punjab	263	269	282	303	322
23	Rajasthan	220	221	231	255	266
24	Sikkim	205	212	222	236	249
24 (a)	Sikkim (Three Gram Panchayats Named Gyanthang, Lachung And Lachen)	308	318	333	354	374
25	Tamil Nadu	256	273	281	294	319
26	Telangana	237	245	257	272	300
27	Tripura	205	212	212	226	242

28	Uttar Pradesh	201	204	213	230	237
29	Uttarakhand	201	204	213	230	237
30	West Bengal	204	213	223	237	250
31	Andaman	267	279	292	311	329
31(a)	Nicobar	282	294	308	328	347
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	258	269	278	297	324
33	Daman & Diu	227				
34	Dn Haveli	266	266	284	304	315
35	Puducherry	256	273	281	294	319

This information was given by Minister of State for Rural Development Shri Kamlesh Paswan in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.

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RC/ KSR/AR

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