

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3879
ANSWERED ON 21/12/2021

EMPLOYMENT TO RURAL YOUTH OF SC/ST/EWS

3879. SHRI. RAMESH CHANDRA MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rural youth of Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes/Economically Weaker Sections are provided employment as guaranteed under the employment generation schemes in the State of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last five years;
- (c) the amount of funds provided by the Government under the said schemes during the said period;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed implementation of the said schemes and if so, the details of the said assessments; and
- (e) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government for effective implementation of said the schemes in the country particularly in the State of Odisha?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) & (b): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment programme which provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It provides livelihood security i.e., fall back option for livelihood for the rural households when no better employment opportunity is available. The Scheme is available in the State of Odisha also.

The details of total number of households and SC/ST households who have turned up at the worksites and thus availed employment in the State of Odisha in last five financial years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 is given below:

(Figure in lakh)

Financial Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of household availed employment in Odisha	20.31	23.07	21.48	23.25	37.49
Number of SC household availed employment in Odisha	3.45	3.99	3.59	3.69	5.42
Number of ST household availed employment in Odisha	7.08	7.75	7.11	8.09	11.93

(c): The details of fund released to State of Odisha under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in last five financial years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 is given below:

Financial Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Fund released (Rs. in crore)	1895.27	2198.35	2218.21	2488.22	5409.50

(d): Government has made assessment of implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS through third party study sponsored by NITI Aayog in 2020. Some of the key findings are as below:

- i. High relevance based on ability to respond to shocks and security provided by the guarantee of 100 days;
- ii. Significant improvement in complying with 15 day mandate for the payment of wages;
- iii. Social Audits under MGNREGS have been institutionalised and becoming a regular feature in villages;
- iv. MGNREGS has had a positive impact on the standard of living of households and improvements in production from agriculture;
- v. Convergence of MGNREGS across different sub -sectors enhances the sustainability of works and benefits;
- vi. Share of SC, ST and Women in employment has been more than their proportion in the total rural population;
- vii. Significant scope for improvement in complying with delivery of entitlements to wage seekers and at work sites;
- viii. Low level of awareness regarding scheme provisions such as travel and unemployment allowance.

(e): The responsibility of implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is vested with the Government of States/UTs. The Ministry has a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Some of the important elements of the above framework are listed below:

- i. The Ministry regularly reviews the performance of the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in States/UTs through various fora viz., Mid-Term Review, Labour Budget meetings, Labour Budget Revision meetings, Programme Review meetings. Central Employment Guarantee Council and State Employment Guarantee Councils periodically monitor implementation of the programme.
- ii. National Level Monitors, Common Review Missions and Officers of the Ministry visit States/UTs at regular interval to review implementation of the programme. After the field visits, the findings/shortcomings and recommendations are shared with the States/UTs for appropriate action at their end.
- iii. Auditing Standards for Social Audit have been issued and States/UTs have been advised to establish independent Social Audit Units, conduct Social Audit as per Audit of Scheme Rules, 2011 and training of village resource persons for conducting Social Audit etc. Internal Audit Teams of the Department also conduct regular audit.
- iv. Steps have been taken to strengthen transparency and accountability which include geo-tagging of assets, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), National electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS), Aadhar Based Payment System (ABPS), Software for Estimate Calculation using rural rates for Employment (SECURE) and appointment of Ombudsperson in every district of States/UTs.
- v. Steps have been taken for establishment of State Technical Cell at various level for qualitative monitoring and supervision of works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

- vi. In order to ensure higher level of monitoring and oversight, National Mobile Monitoring System and Area Officer App have been introduced. In the former, attendance of workers on a particular work, where more than 20 workers are employed is taken daily along with a geo-tagged & time stamped photograph of theirs. The latter has been designed to ensure that field officials do conduct inspections in the requisite numbers and look into all the relevant aspects of the scheme.
- vii. In addition Central and State Employment Guarantee Councils, District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committees (DISHA) as also PRIs do also take up the monitoring and oversight of the Programme.
