

MGNREGA

Introduction ---The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is an Indian legislation enacted on **7th September 2005** and launched on Feb 2,2006 from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh ,that aims to guarantee the 'right to work' and ensure livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work

Amendments in NREGA

NREGA was renamed to MNREGA 7TH January 2010

Old logo changed to new logo 14th may 2010

Objectives of NREGA •

Augmenting wage employment. •

Strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion and so encourage sustainable development.

- Strengthening grassroots processes of democracy.
- Infusing transparency and accountability in governance.
- Strengthening decentralization and deepening processes of democracy by giving a pivotal role to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in planning, monitoring and implementation.

SALIENT FEATURES OF MGNREGA •

- i) Adult members of a rural household willing to participate, have to apply for registration, either orally or in written, to Gram Panchayat; they will be provided with a Job Card within 15 days after verification, with proper photographs of the members willing, free of cost!
- ii) Employment will be given within 15 days of application for work; if not ,daily unemployment allowance as per the Act, has to be paid; liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the State.
- iii) Work should ordinarily be provided within 5 km radius of the village. In case work is provided beyond 5 km, extra wages of 10% are payable to meet additional transportation and living expenses.
- iv) Wages are to be paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural laborers in the State, unless the Centre notifies a wage rate which will not be less than Rs. 60/ per day. Equal wages will be provided to both men and women.
- v) Disbursement of wages has to be done on weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight in any case.

- vi) At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the scheme.
- vii) Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water and shade have to be provided.
- viii) Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works. Contractors and machinery are not allowed.
- ix) A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained.
- x) The Central Government bears the 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labor and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi skilled workers

EMPLOYMENT CARD-procedure

Adult members of rural households submit their name, age and address with photo to the Gram Panchayat.

The Gram panchayat registers households after making enquiry and issues a job card. The job card contains the details of adult member enrolled and his /her photo.

Registered person can submit an application for work in writing (for at least fourteen days of continuous work) either to panchayat or to Programme Officer. The panchayat/programme officer will accept the valid application and issue dated receipt of application;

Letter providing work will be sent to the applicant and also displayed at panchayat office.

Registration will be made for five years and may be renewed from time to time.

TYPES OF WORK UNDER THE SCHEME

- i. Water Conservation and water harvesting including contour trenches, contour bunds, boulder checks, gabion structures, underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams and springshed development;
- ii. Drought Proofing including plantation and afforestation;
- iii. Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works;
- iv. Provision of irrigation facility, dug out farm pond, horticulture, plantation, farm bunding and land development;
- v. Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks;
- vi. Land Development;

vii. Flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas, deepening and repairing of flood channels, chaur renovation, construction of storm water drains for coastal protection;

viii. Rural connectivity to provide all weather access, including culverts and roads within a village, wherever necessary

Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Knowledge Resource Centre at the Block level and as Gram Panchayat Bhawan at the Gram Panchayat level;

x. Agriculture related works, such as, NADEP composting, vermi-composting, liquid biomanures;

xi. Livestock related works, such as, poultry shelter, goat shelter, construction of pucca floor, urine tank and fodder trough for cattle, azolla as cattle-feed supplement;

xii. Fisheries related works, such as, fisheries in seasonal water bodies on public land;

xiii. Works in coastal areas, such as, fish drying yards, belt vegetation;

xiv. Rural drinking water related works, such as, soak pits, recharge pits;

xv. Rural sanitation related works, such as, individual household latrines, school toilet units, anganwadi toilets, solid and liquid waste management;

xv(a) Construction of anganwadi centres.

xv(b) Construction of play fields. xvi. Any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

(Achievements of NREGA) 9 • OUTCOME

Maximizing Work Opportunities: Livelihood Security Under NREGA , in FY 2012-13, 50 million households were provided employment and 230.5 crore person days were generated. In FY 2013-14, 48 million households were provided work and 220.7 crore person days were generated.

Inclusive Growth: NREGA has provided employment particularly for marginalized groups. The participation percentages were 55% (SC/ST) in 2008-09 and 53% (SC/ST) upto July, 2009. Women workforce participation has also surpassed the statutory minimum requirement of 33 per cent. In FY 08-09, women participation was 48%, which increased to 52% in 2009-10

Empowerment of rural women has emerged as an unintended consequence of NREGS. Women have benefited more as workers than as a community.

Augmenting household income, savings and investment: Post-NREGA, there has been a revision of minimum wages across the country ; in the last three years, average daily wage rate has increased from Rs. 114 in 2011-12 to Rs 133 in 2014-15.

Financial Inclusion:

- Over 7.33 crore NREGA bank and post office accounts have been opened so far. These accounts have helped bring the rural poor under the organized banking sector.
- This will not only infuse integrity in wage payment, but also bring the most vulnerable people in rural India into formal banking and credit system.

Regenerating Natural Resources:

- Under NREGA water and soil conservation, plantation and afforestation has been given priority.
- Works relating to drought proofing and flood protection are aimed to provide resistance to climate shocks and natural disasters.

Funding *

The Central Government bears the costs on the following items: •

The entire cost of wages of unskilled manual workers.

- 75% of the cost of material, wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- Administrative expenses as may be determined by the Central Government, which will include, inter alia, the salary and the allowances of the Programme Officer and his supporting staff and work site facilities.
- Expenses of the Central Employment Guarantee Council.

The State Government bears the costs on the following items:

- 25% of the cost of material, wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.

Unemployment allowance payable in case the State Government cannot provide wage employment on time.

- Administrative expenses of the State Employment Guarantee Council. State Employment Guarantee Fund (SEGF)

Advantage from MGNREGA

- i) Environmental Benefits and Vulnerability Reduction
- ii) Every 5th rural Indian household benefits from MGNREGA
- iii) Agricultural Sustainability

- iv) Women empowerment

LIMITATIONS

- i) Registration problems in terms of caste discrimination
- ii) Uniform distribution of job cards is a time consuming process and leads to dissatisfaction
- iii) Only 19% of the 8.5 lakh differently able people registered for the scheme have got work under NREGA
- iv) Non-issuance of receipts to applicants.
- v) Illegal charges levied on people for application forms
- vi) Another issue is that of fake muster rolls & bills being generated
- vii) Delay in appointments of officials in the villages. ☹ Inadequate number of officials for the scheme.
- viii) Measurement of work done by the workers a major problem.
- ix) Payments of wages delayed.
- x) Improper maintenance of attendance of the workers.
- xi) Unavailability of necessary facilities at the work places.
- xii) Non-issuance of receipts to applicants

IMPLEMENTATION

Phase I NREGA(200) (Backward Districts ranked on basis of agricultural wages, output per agricultural worker and SCT/ST population of the district)

Phase II NREGA(130)

Phase III NREGA(266) NREGA COVERAGE (1st Nationwide employment scheme)

The scheme was introduced in 200 districts during financial year 2006- 07 and 130 districts during the financial year 2007-08.

in the financial year 2013-14.The scheme covered 644 districts , 6,576 blocks and 7.78 lakh villages

☞ In April 2008 NREGA expanded to entire rural area of the country covering 34 States and Union Territories, 614 Districts, 6,096 blocks and 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats. ☞