

Need to increase the number of minimum employment days in a financial year along with revision of working hours under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme-laid

ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH (ATTINGAL): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) plays a significant role in addressing the rural distress. But the wages paid under the scheme remains below the minimum wages in many states even after wage revision this year. Parliamentary Standing Committee had recommended to revise the wages according to the minimum wages. It is necessary to increase the minimum employment days in a financial year. The budget allocation for the scheme should be enhanced to meet these requirements. It is also to be noted that MGNREGS workers have been plagued with insensitive practices. According to the new geo-tagging feature, workers have to travel back to the spot where they started their work initially to mark their attendance. It is unjustifiable that the efficient workers who cover larger tracts of work to distant places are compelled upon to return to the starting point of work to capture their photo. This can be conducted at the finishing point of their work. The women workers are finding it difficult to take care of their children as they have to work till 5PM. If the working hour is fixed up to 4PM it would be convenient for them.