

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 401
ANSWERED ON 04/02/2025**

ABPS UNDER MGNREGA

401. SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and total number of cases reported against the Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS) in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREG) Scheme and the measures taken by the Government to address the problem;**
- (b) whether the Government has noted concerns regarding the issue of fake job cards;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and measures taken to address such issues;**
- (d) whether the Government has any data regarding the number of States that have an ombudsman to look into the grievances under the scheme;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/District-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh; and**
- (f) whether the Government has taken into consideration the request from the beneficiaries to increase the working days from 100-150 days, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)**

(a): To ensure timely payment of wages to the beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and to address the issues arising due to frequent changes in bank account numbers of the beneficiaries and subsequent non-updation, it was decided to implement Aadhar Payment Bridge System (APBS). This has been made mandatory with effect from 1st January 2024. Payment

of wages through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode has had positive impact on the livelihood of the beneficiaries as it ensures that the payment reaches directly into the accounts of the intended beneficiaries. Out of the total 13.41 crore active workers, the Aadhaar seeding of 13.34 crore (99.47%) active workers has already been completed (As on 01.02.2025). State/UTs are continuously being monitored by the Central Government for achieving 100% Aadhaar Seeding and APBS conversion in NREGASoft. As and when any issue is flagged by the State/UT or any other stakeholders, same is resolved on priority basis.

(b)&(c): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand-driven wage employment scheme and the responsibility of implementation of the scheme is vested with the Government of concerned States/UTs. Updation/deletion of Job Cards is a regular exercise conducted by the States/UTs. One of the reasons for job cards deletion is the incidence of fake job cards. To streamline the process of deletion of Job cards, Ministry of Rural Development has recently issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) vide letter dated 25.01.2025 to all States/Union Territories, with clear guidelines for deletion and restoration of job cards. The SOP ensures compliance with the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS guidelines, promotes transparency, protects the rights of workers by defining conditions for deletion, setting up a grievance redressal mechanism, and ensure the settlement of pending liabilities if any before deletion/cancellation.

The SOP emphasizes the importance of due process, including the publication of draft lists of job cards marked for deletion, verification at Gram Sabhas, and the right of appeal for affected workers. It also mandates the linking of job cards with Aadhaar to eliminate duplicate and fraudulent entries. These measures are aimed at preventing misuse of job cards while ensuring that genuine beneficiaries are not excluded. The Ministry is committed to maintaining the integrity of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and ensuring

that that the benefits of the scheme reaches eligible rural households.

(d)&(e): The details of the Ombudspersons appointed in States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh, are given in Annexure.

(f): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), 2005, is an Act to provide at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The Ministry mandates the provision of additional 50 days of wage employment (beyond the stipulated 100 days) to every Scheduled Tribe Household in a forest area, provided that these households have no other private property except for the land rights provided under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

In addition to this, there is a provision for up to additional 50 days of wage employment in a financial year in drought/natural calamity affected notified rural areas.

Further, as per Section 3 (4) of the Act, the State Governments may make provisions for providing additional days of employment beyond the period guaranteed under the Act from their own funds.

Annexure

Annexure referred in reply to parts (d) &(e) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 401 dated 04.02.2025

Status of Ombudsperson in States/UTs (As on 29.01.2025)			
Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of Districts in which MGNREGAs is Operational	Ombudsperson Appointed
1	Andhra Pradesh	26	13
2	Arunachal Pradesh	25	8
3	Assam	35	25
4	Bihar	38	33
5	Chhattisgarh	33	22
6	Goa	2	0
7	Gujarat	33	25
8	Haryana	22	18
9	Himachal Pradesh	12	7
10	Jammu And Kashmir	20	16
11	Jharkhand	24	23
12	Karnataka	31	31
13	Kerala	14	14
14	Ladakh	2	2
15	Madhya Pradesh	52	12
16	Maharashtra	34	29
17	Manipur	16	15
18	Meghalaya	12	8
19	Mizoram	11	10
20	Nagaland	11	10
21	Odisha	30	22
22	Punjab	23	21
23	Rajasthan	33	33
24	Sikkim	6	1
25	Tamil Nadu	37	37
26	Telangana	32	32
27	Tripura	8	8

28	Uttar Pradesh	75	72
29	Uttarakhand	13	13
30	West Bengal	23	22
31	Andaman And Nicobar	3	1
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	1	1
33	Lakshadweep	1	0
34	Puducherry	2	1
	Total	740	585

**The information is based on data available on MIS of NREGAssoft
(www.nrega.nic.in)**
