

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, District Mewat

OBJECTIVE OF THE ACT

The objective of the Act is to enhance 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.

NREGA GOALS

- a. Strong social safety net for the vulnerable groups by providing a fall-back employment source, when other employment alternatives are scarce or inadequate
- b. Growth engine for sustainable development of an agricultural economy. Through the process of providing employment on works that address causes of chronic poverty such as drought, deforestation and soil erosion, the Act seeks to strengthen the natural resource base of rural livelihood and create durable assets in rural areas. Effectively implemented, NREGA has the potential to transform the geography of poverty
- c. Empowerment of rural poor through the processes of a rights-based Law
- d. New ways of doing business, as a model of governance reform anchored on the principles of transparency and grass root democracy

COVERAGE

The Act was notified in 200 districts in the first phase with effect from February 2nd 2006 and then extended to additional 130 districts in the financial year 2007-2008 (113 districts were notified with effect from April 1st 2007, and 17 districts in UP were notified with effect from May 15th 2007). The remaining districts have been notified under the NREGA with effect from April 1, 2008. Thus NREGA covers the entire country with the exception of districts that have a hundred percent urban population. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was started in the Second Phase in Mewat district from 1st April 2007.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE ACT

- i) Adult members of a rural household, willing to do unskilled manual work, may apply for registration in writing or orally to the local Gram Panchayat
- ii) The Gram Panchayat after due verification will issue a Job Card. The Job Card will bear the photograph of all adult members of the household willing

to work under NREGA and is free of cost

- iii) The Job Card should be issued within 15 days of application.
- iv) A Job Card holder may submit a written application for employment to the Gram Panchayat, stating the time and duration for which work is sought. The minimum days of employment have to be at least fourteen.
- v) The Gram Panchayat will issue a dated receipt of the written application for employment, against which the guarantee of providing employment within 15 days operates
- vi) Employment will be given within 15 days of application for work, if it is not then daily unemployment allowance as per the Act, has to be paid liability of payment of unemployment allowance is of the States.
- vii) 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
- viii) Wages are to be paid according to the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers 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.
- ix) Wages are to be paid according to piece rate or daily rate. Disbursement of wages has to be done on weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight in any case
- x) At least one-third beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the scheme.
- xi) Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade have to be provided
- xii) The shelf of projects for a village will be recommended by the *gram sabha* and approved by the *zilla panchayat*.
- xiii) At least 50% of works will be allotted to Gram Panchayats for execution
- xiv) Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works
- xv) A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery is allowed

- xvi) The Central Government bears the 100 percent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 percent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi skilled workers
- xvii) Social Audit has to be done by the Gram Sabha
- xviii) Grievance redressal mechanisms have to be put in place for ensuring a responsive implementation process
- xix) All accounts and records relating to the Scheme should be available for public scrutiny

PLANNING

Planning is critical to the successful implementation of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). A key indicator of success is the timely generation of employment within 15 days while ensuring that the design and selection of works are such that good quality assets are developed. The need to act within a time limit necessitates advance planning. The basic aim of the planning process is to ensure that the District is prepared well in advance to offer productive employment on demand.

1. PERMISSIBLE WORKS

The following works were initially permissible under MGRNEGS:-

- i) water conservation and water harvesting including contour trenches, contour bunds, boulderchecks, gabion structures, underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams and springshed development;
- ii) drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation;
- 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 on land owned by households specified in paragraph 1C of Schedule I;
- 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 including 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;
- ix) 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 bio-manures;
- xi) livestock related works, such as, poultry shelter, goat shelter, construction of pucca floor, urine tank and fodder trough for cattleshed, 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;
- xva) construction of anganwadi centres.
- xvb) construction of playfields
- xvi) any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

The scope of work/activities that can be taken up under MGNREGA under the broad categories listed above are given in the Guidelines for the new/additional works permitted under MGNREGA (**APPENDIX -2**). As one of the objectives of MGNREGA is creation of durable assets, recurring activities, such as filling and refilling

etc. of compost pits, azolla pits etc. in above mentioned permissible works are not allowed under MGNREGA.

As per paragraph IC of Schedule I all activities mentioned in items (iv), (x), (xi) and items (xiii) to (xv) of paragraph 1B of Schedule I shall be allowed on land or

homestead owned by households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes or below poverty line families or the beneficiaries of land reforms or the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of the Government of India or that of the small or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008, or the beneficiaries under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007).

Further, the works referred to in items (iv), (x), (xi) and items (xiii) to (xv) of paragraph 1B of Schedule I shall be taken up subject to the following condition, namely:

- (a) The households referred to in paragraph 1C of Schedule I shall have the job card; and
- (b) The beneficiaries shall work on the project undertaken on their land or homestead.

Work guidelines provide details about new works. While taking up works under MGNREGA, the following conditions must be followed:

- i) Only those works can be taken up which result in creation of durable assets and strengthen livelihood resources of the rural poor.
- ii) The order of priority of works will be determined within the GP and will be reflected in the Annual Plan ratified by the GS on 15th August.
- iii) The 60:40 ratio for wage and material costs should be maintained at GP level for all works to be taken up by GP and for works to be taken by all other agencies it should be maintained at the Block/ Intermediate Panchayat level.
- iv) No contractors and no labour-displacing machinery shall be used in execution of works.

Progress of MGNREGS in Mewat district:-

Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Progress Report
since inception (upto 31st March, 2013), District Mewat

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sr. No.	Item	2007-08 (including Hathin block)	2008-09 (including Hathin block)	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 upto March 2013	Total
1	Total No. of Households issued Job Cards (cumulative)	25000	28612	26050	32330	34732	36849	36849
2	Expenditure (Rs. lacs)	1509.77	1286.28	1378.28	1927.98	1614.45	1617.56	9334.32
3	Families demanded employment (during the year)	17760	11856	9751	12448	9261	8855	69931
4	Families provided employment (during the year)	17760	11856	9751	12448	9261	8855	69931
5	Works completed (during the year)	398	296	364	637	607	580	2882
6	Works under progress (during the year)	178	191	143	51	66	110	110
8	Employment generated during the year (lac persondays)	9.23	6.73	6.10	7.80	5.93	5.53	41.32
9	Average days of employment provided (during the year)	52	57	63	63	64	62	59
10	Employment provided to women (lac mandays)	2.35	1.82	2.59	3.27	2.52	2.41	14.96
11	Women days to Total persondays	25.5%	27%	42.5%	41.9 %	42.49%	44%	36%

- Gram Panhayat is main implementing agency of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. BDPO-cum-Program Officer is responsible for implementation of MGNREGS in the GP.
- Labour budget of Rs. 23.06 cr. has been prepared for the year 2013-14 and submitted to the Govt.