

6.

DIVISION-WISE INFORMATION

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA)

I. Objective / purpose

VISION

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA seeks to enhance the livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

MISSION

To augment wage employment opportunities by providing employment on demand and thereby extend a security net to the people and simultaneously create durable assets to alleviate some aspects of poverty and address the issue of development in the rural areas.

Brief History

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA was launched in 200 select districts on 2.2.2006 and was extended to 130 additional districts during 2007-08. All the remaining rural areas in the country have been covered under the Act w.e.f. 1.4.2008. Presently, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is being implemented in all the notified rural areas of the country.

Duties/Main activities /functions and List of services being provided

The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. It is responsible for ensuring timely and adequate resource support to the States and to the Central Council. It has to undertake regular review, monitoring and evaluation of processes and outcomes. It is responsible for maintaining and operating the MIS to capture and track data on critical aspects of implementation, and assess the utilization of resources through a set of performance indicators. MORD will support innovations that help in improving processes towards the achievement of the objectives of the Act. It will support the use of Information Technology (IT) to increase the efficiency and transparency of the processes as well as improve interface with the public. It will also ensure that the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA at all levels is sought to be made transparent and accountable to the public.

A Central Employment Guarantee Council (or 'Central Council') has been set up under the chairmanship of the Minister of Rural development. The Central Council is responsible for advising the Central Government on Mahatama Gandhi NREGA-related matters, and for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Act. It will prepare Annual Reports on the implementation of Mahatama Gandhi NREGA for submission to Parliament.

Organizational Structure Diagram at various levels namely State, directorate, region, district, block etc

The Panchayats at district, intermediate and village levels are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under this Act. Key stake holders are :- wage seekers, Gram Sabha, PRIs specially the Gram Panchayats, Programme Officer at the block level, District programme Coordinator, State Governments and Ministry of Rural Development

Expectations from the public for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency

To be aware of their rights enshrined under the Act and actively exercise them

Arrangements and methods made for seeking public participation /contribution

Awareness generation through intensive IEC activities using electronic media, print, press advertisements, workshops, outdoor through DAVP and interpersonal communication through DFP and S&DD have been taken up.

Mechanism available for monitoring the service delivery and public grievance resolution

Periodic reviews in the Performance Review Committee (PRC) meetings are held on quarterly basis. State specific reviews are also undertaken. Independent Monitoring and verification by National Level Monitors and Eminent Citizens. Visit by members of Central Employment Guarantee Council. State and district level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up. Ministry also sends Area Officers to monitor the progress.

As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned States for taking appropriate action as per law. In complaints of serious nature, the Ministry deputes National Level Monitors (NLMs) to investigate the complaints. Reports of the NLMs are shared with the concerned State Governments for taking corrective action.

In order to have an effective and speedy grievance redressal mechanism, instructions dated 7.9.2009 have been issued to all States for setting up of district level Ombudsman. National HELPLINE has also been setup in the Ministry and instructions have been issued to all the States for opening their own states HELPLINES.

II. **Details of powers and duties of officers and employees of the organization**

Work allocation is as under:

Smt. Indu Sharma, Director		
Shri P.N.Shukla, Under Secretary	Shri R.K. Sood, Under Secretary	Shri A.D.James, Under Secretary
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative matters of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA 2. Central and State Council 3. Audit (C&AG) 4. Post Office, Bank and Insurance 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Litigation 2. Ombudsman 3. Wage Rate 4. Social Audit 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parliament 2. ARC Reports 3. Savottam 4. RFD 5. Notification of New Districts 6. National Commission for SC/ST
Shri L.Fanai, Deputy Secretary		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Works 2. Coordination with DONER 3. Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra 4. Convergence <p>Budget matter including Labour Budget, Supervision and Monitoring of the Following States:</p>		<p>Shri G.N. Sharma, Consultant will assist in matters pertaining to Sl.No.1,3&4</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arunachal Pradesh 2. Manipur 3. Meghalaya 4. Mizoram 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Uttarakhand 6. Kerala 7. Goa 8. Lakshadweep 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Daman & Diu 10. Tripura 11. Sikkim
Shri D.K. Singh, Dy.Secretary Shri Mashoda Lal, Under Secretary		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grievance Redressal (Complaints / Helpline) 2. NLM Reports and their follow-up 3. VIP References 		

Shri S.P. Vashisht, Director Shri S.K. Verma, Under Secretary		
1. RTI 2. Coordinatin with CAPART 3. State Schemes and Guidelines 4. PRIs and Coordination with Ministry of Panchayati Raj 5. Miscellaneous		
Shri K.K. Tripathi, Jt. Director Shri M.Jayachandran, Under Secretary Shri Rajesh Makkar, Under Secretary		
1. Labour Budget (Coordination) 2. Central Accounting System 3. Eminent Citizen 4. FCI matters 5. UNDP Budget 6. Budget matters including Labour Budget 7. Release of assistance to training institutions and coordination with NIRD 8. NSSO Survey	9. Outcome budget 10. Annual Plan and Five Year Plan 11. State Fund Policy matters relating to MG NREGA Budget, National Employment Guarantee Fund, Financial Rules Monitoring, Evaluation Research and Review (including studies) PRC, POM Matters relating to drought Cabinet Secretariat including monthly DO and Senior Officers Meetings.	
Budget matters including Labour Budget, supervision and monitoring of the following states:		
1. Andhra Pradesh 2. Tamil Nadu 3. Madhya Pradesh 4. Himachal Pradesh 5. Gujarat 6. Assam	9. West Bengal 10. Karnataka 11. Haryana 12. Maharashtra 13. J&K 14. Rajasthan	17. Orissa 18. Nagaland 19. Jharkhand 20. Chhattisgarh 21. D&N Haveli 22. Pudicherry

7. A&N Islands	15. Uttarpradesh	
8. Bihar	16. Punjab	

III. List of rules, regulations, instructions, manual and records held by public authority or under its control or used by its employees for discharging functions as per the following format. This format has to be filled up for each type of document.

Answer:

Name /Title of the document – Choose one of the types given below (Rules, Regulations, Instructions, Manuals, Records, others)

Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act & Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Guidelines

Brief write-up of the document

Instructions issued by the Ministry & amendments made in the Act have been put on the website of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA (www.nrega.nic.in)

From where one can get a copy of rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and records.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Division, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. However these are also available at the website of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA (www.nrega.nic.in)

Fee charges by the department for a copy of rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and records (if any) - NIL

IV. Whether there is any provision to seek consultation/participation of public or its representatives for formulation of policies? If there is, please provide details of such policy in following format

Sl. no.	Subject /Topic	mandatory public participation (yes/no)	Arrangements for seeking public participation
1	Inclusion of new activities in the list of permissible activities under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA	yes	Recommendations are received from the State Govt after approval of the State Council which is representative of the public. The issue is put up as an Agenda Item in the meeting of the CEGC which also represents the public at large

V. Use the format given below to give the information about the official documents. Also mention the place where the documents are available e.g. at secretariat level, directorate level, others (Please mention the level in place of writing “others”)

Sl. No.	Contents of the document	Name of the document	Procedure to obtain it
1	Various Provisions of Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme	Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005	The web site of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA i.e www.nrega.nic.in
2	Procedures for implementing the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act	Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Operational Guidelines	The web site of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA i.e www.nrega.nic.in

VI. Information on Boards, councils, Committees and other Bodies related to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the following format

Name and Address of the affiliated Body: Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC)

Type of affiliated Body

(Board, Council, Committees, Other Bodies): Council

Brief introduction of the Affiliated Body (Establishment Year, Objective/Main Activities):

- a) Central Employment Guarantee Council was established vide notification dated 22nd September, 2006. The Central Council shall perform and discharge the following functions and duties, namely:-
- b) establish a central evaluation and monitoring system;
- c) advise the Central Government on all matters concerning the implementation of this Act;
- d) review the monitoring and redressal mechanism from time to time and recommend improvements required;
- e) promote the widest possible dissemination of information about the Schemes made under this Act;
- f) monitoring the implementation of this Act;
- g) preparation of annual reports to be laid before Parliament by the Central Government on the implementation of this Act;

- h) any other duty or function as may be assigned to it by the Central Government.
- i) The Central Council shall have the power to undertake evaluation of the various Schemes made under this Act and for that purpose collect or cause to be collected statistics pertaining to the rural economy and the implementation of the Schemes.

Role of The affiliated Body: Advisory and supervisory in nature as elaborated above

Structure and Member Composition: The Central Employment Guarantee Council of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is headed by Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development in his capacity as ex-officio Chairperson of the Council. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Rural Development is ex-officio member of the Council. Joint secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Rural Development in charge of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005 is Member-Secretary of the council. One nominee each, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, of the Ministries of Women & Child Development; Agriculture; Environment & Forests; Statistics & Programme Implementation; Panchayat Raj; Tribal Affairs; Social Justice; Labour and Law & Justice is also the member of the Council. One representative of the Prime Minister's Office (not below the rank of Joint Secretary) and one representative of Planning Commission (not below the rank of Advisor) are also the members of the Council. Besides there have to be not more than fifteen non-official members representing Panchayati Raj Institutions, organisations of workers and disadvantaged groups.

Head of the Body: Minister for Rural Development: Government of India

Address and main office and its Branches: So far no separate Secretariat has been provided to CEGC. However, Headquarter of the Council has to be in Delhi Frequency of meetings: The Central Council shall meet at least two times in a year or more frequently as it may consider necessary, provided that six month shall not intervene between two consecutive meetings of the Council.

Can public participate in meetings? No

Are minutes of the meeting prepared? Yes

VII. Contact information about the Public Information Officers, Assistant Public Information Officers and Departmental Appellate Authority of the Public Authority:

Name Designation & Address of CPIO	Phone No. E-Mail Fax No.	Appellate Authority Name, Designation, Address Phone No. E-Mail
Shri S.K. Verma Under Secretary (MGNREGA) Krishi Bhavan	011-23386590 Sk.verma@nic.in	Shri S.P. . Vashishta Director(MGNREGA) Krishi Bhavan, Room No.464

New Delhi		New delhi Tel. No. 011-23070129, Fax No. 011- 23070129
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VIII. What is the procedure followed to take decisions for various matters?

(A reference to Secretariat Manual and rule of Business Manual, and other Rules/regulations etc. can be made)

- Examination of the proposal/issues
- Consultation with other Ministries like M/O law, Finance, Labour & Employment etc. depending upon the subject
- Concurrence by IFD (if required)
- Approval by Hon'ble Minister (RD)/Secretary (RD)/Jt. Secretary (Mahatama Gandhi NREGA) depending on the subject
- Issue of communication etc. to the concerned

IX. What are the documented procedures/laid down procedures/ Defined Criteria / Rules to arrive at a particular decision matters? What are different levels through which a decision process moves?

As explained above at point (VIII)

X. What are the arrangements to communicate the decision to public?

The decisions are uploaded on the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA website www.nrega.nic.in, as deemed necessary from case to case

XI. Who are the officers at various levels whose opinions are sought for the process of decision making?

As explained above at point (VIII)

XII. Who is the final authority that vets the decision?

Hon'ble Minister (RD)/Secretary (RD)/Financial Advisor (FA)/
Jt. Secretary (Mahatama Gandhi NREGA-based on the subject matter concerned.

Please provide information separately in the following format for the important matters on which decision is taken by the public authority

Sl. No.	1
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Subject on which decision is to be taken	Release of funds for implementation of the Act to all States/UTs
Guidelines/directions if any	In accordance with directives contained in Chapter 8 of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Guidelines, available on Mahatma Gandhi NREGA website- www.nrega.nic.in
Process of execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrutiny of proposals • approval by JS(MGNREGA) • concurrence by the IFD • Issue of sanction and Release of funds

Sl. No.	2
Subject on which decision is to be taken	Formulating policies & guidelines for better implementation of the Act
Guidelines/directions if any	Finding through regular monitoring and feed back from the states
Process of execution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of the issue • Discussion in the Council meetings • Discussions with other concerned Ministries • Approval of Minister • Communication to States/UTs

Sl.No.	3
Subject on which decision is to be taken	Grievance redressal relating to complaints of irregularities in the implementation of the Act
Guidelines/directions if any	As implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments in accordance with the Schemes formulated by them as per the provisions of the Act, all complaints received in the Ministry are forwarded to the concerned States for taking appropriate action as per law. In complaints of serious nature, the Ministry deputed National Level Monitors to investigate the complaints. Reports of the NLMs are shared with the concerned State Governments for taking corrective action.
Process of execution	Same as mentioned above

XIII. Information about the details of budget for different activities under different schemes in the given format

XIV. Directory of officers and employees:

Given under chapter heading “Directory of Officers”

XV. Details of budget for activities under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand driven legislation passed by the Parliament and not a programme. Schemes are formulated by the concerned State Governments to give effect to the provisions of the Act. Central Govt. releases funds to the States as per the labour demand arising at the field level.

XVI. The Manner of Execution of Subsidy Programmes.

No subsidy is provided under the Act.

XVII. Particulars of recipients of concessions, permits or authorization granted by it.

Not applicable.

XVIII. Details of the Norms/Standards set by the Department for execution of various activities/programmes.

Sl. No.	Item of Work	Prescribed Norms
01	Central release of funds to States/UTs	Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand driven legislation. Central Govt. releases funds to the States as per the projections made in the approved labour budget which is based on physical and financial performance of the State in the previous financial year. As per prescribed norms, the States are required to submit district and month-wise projections as agreed to in the labour budget so that the seasonal trend can be taken care of. First installment is released in April/May subject to a minimum of 50% of agreed labour budget after adjusting the opening balance available with the State/district. For second installment, the States are required to submit their release proposals in prescribed format. If the actual performance matches with the month-wise projections in the labour budget the balance requirement of fund for a State/district for the entire year are

		released in one go.
02	Conducting CEGC Meetings	The Central Council shall meet at least two times in a year or more frequently as it may consider necessary, provided that six month shall not intervene between two consecutive meetings of the Council.
03	Formulating policies & guidelines for better implementation of Schemes in States/UTs	No time limit can be prescribed.
04	Placing the copies of sanction orders etc. in public domain	Immediately after issue of the sanction
05	Grievance Redressal	As per the provisions of the Act.

XIX. Details of the information related to the scheme which are available in the electronic format

The details of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are available on the website of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA i.e. www.nrega.nic.in

XX. Means, methods or facilitation available to the public which are adopted by the department for dissemination of information;

Awareness generation through intensive IEC activities using electronic media, print, press advertisements, workshops, outdoor through DAVP and interpersonal communication through DFP and S&DD have been taken up.

All relevant details/information is also up loaded on Mahatma Gandhi NREGA website i.e. www.nrega.nic.in

XXI. Frequently asked Questions on Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

Question 1. Who is entitled to get employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA?

Answer: Any registered rural household having a job card is entitled to get employment under the Act. A job seeker has to apply in writing for getting employment under the Act.

Question 2: How many persons have so far been benefited under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA?

Answer: A household is the basic unit for providing employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. All adult members of a household whose names appear on the job card may demand employment subject to an overall ceiling of 100 days in a financial year per household. 2.10 crore households were provided employment during 2006-07, 3.39 crore during 2007-08, 4.51 crore during 2008-09, 5.26 crore households during 2009-10 and 5.00 crore households during 2010-11 (provisional upto March 2011) have been benefited so far.

Question 3: Does Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act has any separate provision for employment for the agricultural labourers?

Answer: No, The Act does not have a separate provision for agricultural labourers. Adult members of any registered rural household who are willing to do unskilled manual work may get employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA on demand subject to a ceiling of 100 days in a financial year per household.

Question 4: What are the provisions regarding wage rate payable to the workers under the Act?

Answer: Wages are paid to the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers in accordance with the wage rate as provided in Section 6 of the Act. Section 6(1) provides that Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act provided that the wage rate notified by the Centre shall not be less than ₹ 60 per day.

Section 6(2) of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Governments under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be the wage rate applicable to that area.

Question 5: What wages will be paid to a worker under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA?

Answer: Central Government has notified the wage rate under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in accordance with Section 6(1) of the Act in respect of all States and Union Territories and has revised the notified wage rate for unskilled manual workers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA by indexing the notified wage rate to the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPIAL) vide notification dated 14.1.2011.

Question 6: When does the un-employment allowance become payable? Has un-employment allowance been paid by any State Government to the NREGA workers?

Answer: If an applicant for employment under the Scheme is not provided employment within 15 days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which the employment has been sought in the case of an advance application, whichever is later, he shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance. The rate of unemployment allowance will be 1/4th of the wage rate for the first 30 days and ½ of the wage rate for the remaining period of the financial year. Unemployment allowance has been paid by a number of States. Unemployment allowance is paid by the respective State Governments from its own budget.

Question 7: What are the provisions under the Act for payment of wages to the workers?

Answer: The workers are entitled to be paid wages on a weekly basis and in any case within a fortnight of the date on which work was done. Payment of wages to the NREGA workers has been made mandatory through their accounts in post offices/banks. In the event of any delay in wage payment, workers are entitled to compensation as per the provisions of the payment of wages Act 1936 Compensation costs shall be borne by the State Governments.

Question 8: Whether compensation has been paid by any of the State Govts to the NREGA workers under the Act?

Answer: Compensation for delayed payment of wages has been paid by the Govt. of Jharkhand in Khunti district and in Murhu block. A sum of ₹ 3.08 lakh has been paid to 154 workers in Khunti block and ₹ 1.90 lakh to 95 workers in Murhu block..

Question9: Is any other type of compensation payable under the provisions of the Act?

Answer : Para 26 of Schedule-II of the NREGA provides for payment of ex-gratia to the legal heirs of a worker who dies or becomes permanently disabled by accident arising out of and in the course of employment under a scheme under the Act. As per report received from the State Govt. of West Bengal, a sum of ₹ 25,000 has been paid to the family of a job card holder viz. Mrityunjoy Ruidas of Tarakeswar Block in Hoogly district on account of his death due to injury sustained while working in a NREGA work. Payment of compensation of ₹ 25,000 each on account of death has also been made in two more cases in Burdwan district .

Question 10: Whether all the households provided employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA have availed 100 days of employment?

Answer: Employment under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is demand based. Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act provides for a legal guarantee of not less than 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household for doing unskilled manual work on demand. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides a supplementary means of livelihood for the rural

people, primarily during their lean periods. Members of the household are free to avail other available employment opportunities in addition to the 100 days of guaranteed employment per household provided under the act on demand.

Question 11: What is the national average of the number of days of employment provided to each household since the inception of the programme?

Answer : The average number of days of employment provided per household under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for the years 2006-07;2007-08;2008-09; 2009-10 and 2010-11 (provisional up to March-2011) has respectively been 43, 42, 48, 54 and 40 days.

Question 12. What action is taken by the Government on these complaints?

Answer: Implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is done by the respective State Governments in accordance with the State Employment Guarantee Schemes formulated by them. Panchayats at district, intermediate and village level are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of these schemes. Therefore, all complaints received in the Ministry are sent to the concerned States for appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Act. In complaints of serious nature, the Ministry deputed National Level Monitors to investigate the complaints. Reports of the NLMs are shared with the concerned State Governments for taking corrective action.

Question 13: What steps have been taken by the Government to monitor the performance of MGNREGA and to check the misuse of funds across the country?

Answer: The following mechanism has been put in place to monitor its performance and for checking misuse of funds across the country.

- (i) Independent Monitoring and verification by National Level Monitors (NLM) and Area Officers on regular basis. In cases of specific complaints, NLMs are deputed by the Ministry to investigate the matter. Central teams headed by senior officers of the Ministry are also deputed to look into the serious issues.
- (ii) Visits by members of Central Employment Guarantee Council.
- (iii) ICT based MIS has been made operational to make data available to public scrutiny. This includes Job cards, Muster rolls, Employment demanded and allocated, number of days worked, shelf of works, funds available, funds spent and funds released to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, **registering** grievances and generating alerts for corrective action. Biometric based ICT enabled real time transactions of MGNREGA workers to eliminate fake attendance and false payments is also being rolled out.
- (iv) Performance of the States is reviewed in the meetings of the Performance Review Committee which are held on quarterly basis.

- (v) States have been asked to include monitoring of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the agenda of District and State level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings so that in case any serious issues are raised, action may be taken by the Ministry.
- (vi) Payment of wages to MGNREGA workers has been made mandatory through their accounts in Banks/Post Office to infuse transparency in wage disbursement. Use of Business correspondent model in areas not served by banks/post offices has also been initiated.
- (vii) Under Section 24(1) of the Act, Comprehensive Social Audit rules are being formulated in consultation with C&AG with a view to strengthen the process of social auditing of expenditure under the Act. The draft rules have been referred to Ministry of Law for vetting.
- (viii) Evaluation studies regarding progress and impact of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in rural areas are done by Professional Institutions like IITs, IIMs, social sector organisations and other Agricultural Universities.
- (ix) States have been asked to set up District level Ombudsman for redressal of grievances.

Question 14: What are the permissible limits for Wage:material ratio under the Act?

Answer : Para 9 of Schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides that the cost of material component of projects including the wages of the skilled and semiskilled workers taken up under the Scheme shall not exceed forty per cent of the total project costs.

Question 15 What are the provisions for convergence of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA funds with funds from other sources?

Answer: Funds available with the PRIs from other sources and other Central or Centrally Sponsored Schemes can be dovetailed with Mahatma Gandhi NREGA funds for the construction of durable community assets/works permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. However, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA funds should not be used as a substitute for developmental plan funds of different departments and agencies. Funds from other programmes for the works permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA can be dovetailed with Mahatma Gandhi NREGA funds but not vice versa.

Question 16. Whether any initiative has been taken by the Ministry regarding convergence?

Answer : The Ministry of Rural Development has developed and disseminated Guidelines for convergence of NREGS with different Schemes and specific programmes viz. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Afforestation Programme and other schemes of the Ministry of Environment & Forest(MoE&F), Schemes of the Ministry of Water Resources(MoWR), PMGSY (Department of Rural Development), SGSY (Department

of Rural Development), Watershed Development Programmes (Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development) . 115 pilot districts in 23 states have been identified by the MoE&F, MoWR and ICAR. Joint Guidelines are also being prepared with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Department for convergence of NREGS and schemes of Ministry of Agriculture.

To review the status of implementation of convergence guidelines, monitoring plan has been prepared and are being reviewed regularly to oversee the impact of these initiatives in enhancing the agricultural productivity. National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad has been assigned with the task of reviewing the progress status and submitting periodical reports to the Ministry. To ensure effective and efficient implementation of these convergence initiatives, NIRD has also commissioned 15 institutions for the purpose of capacity building and monitoring of the convergence initiatives. An interim report has been received. Possibility of providing medical kits under NRHM of M/O Health at the NREGA worksites is being explored.

Question 17. What are the details of the permissible works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)?

Answer: Works which are permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA are given in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act and are as under:

- (i) water conservation and water harvesting;
- (ii) drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation);
- (iii) irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works;
- (iv) provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojna of the Government of India or that of small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008. (The benefits of works on individual lands have been extended to small and marginal farmers vide notification dated 22.7.2009)
- (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;
- (viii) rural connectivity to provide all-weather access. The construction of roads may include culverts where necessary, and within the village area may be taken up along with drains. Care should be taken not to take up roads included in the PMGSY network under NREGA. No cement concrete roads should be taken up under NREGA. Priority should be given to roads that give access to SC/ST habitations; and
- (ix) any other work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

Construction of Bharat Nirman, Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act vide Notification dated 11.11.2009.

XXII. Related to seeking information:

Findings through regular monitoring, feed back from the States and findings of the evaluation studies provide inputs to the Ministry regarding implementation of the Act.

XXIII. With relation to training imparted to public by Public Authority:

The implementation of the Act is done by the State Governments. Central Government releases funds for its implementation and monitors the progress of the Act. Training to the officials/PRI's and other staff is provided by the State.