



“Puja Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana”

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Context: Govt. likely to rename MGNREGS to ‘Puja BapGramin Rozgar Yojana

Key Proposed Changes

Renaming of the Scheme

- Proposed new name: “**Puja BapGramin Rozgar Yojana**”
- Original Act name (2005): **National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**
- Prefix “Mahatma Gandhi” added in **2009**

Increase in Guaranteed Employment

- Current legal guarantee: **100 days of wage employment per household per financial year**
- Proposed increase: **Up to 125 days**

Employment Trends (Important Data)

- **Average employment generated (last 5 years): 50.35 days per household**
- Government characterisation: MGNREGA acts as a **fallback option** when no better employment is available.

MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act)

Background & Nature

- Enacted in **2005**; renamed in **2009**.
- World’s **largest rights-based employment programme**.
- Converts **welfare into a legal entitlement**.
- Demand-driven ? employment provided **only on demand**, not automatically.

Objectives

- Enhance **livelihood security** of rural households.
- Create **durable assets** to strengthen rural infrastructure.
- Promote **inclusive growth**, especially for SC/STs, women, and marginal farmers.
- Strengthen **decentralised planning** through Panchayati Raj Institutions.

Guarantee & Time Limits

- **100 days** of wage employment per household per financial year.
- Employment must be provided within **15 days** of demand.
- Failure ? **Unemployment allowance** payable by the State.
- Worksite must be within **5 km**; beyond this, extra wage compensation applies.

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Eligibility & Job Cards

- Adult members (18+) of **rural households**.
- Willing to perform **unskilled manual labour**.
- **Job Card** issued by Gram Panchayat:
- Contains household details and employment history.
- Acts as a key transparency tool.

Wages & Payments

- Wages linked to **state minimum wages**.
- Paid through **DBT** into bank/post office accounts.
- Delay beyond **15 days** ? compensation under the Act.
- **Equal wages** for men and women (no gender discrimination).

Funding Pattern

- **Centre**
 - 100% unskilled labour cost
 - 75% material cost
- **States**
 - 25% material cost
 - 100% unemployment allowance
- **Labour-material ratio: 60 : 40** (mandatory)

Permissible Works (Broad Categories)

- Natural resource management:
- Water conservation, watershed development
- Drought proofing, afforestation
- Agriculture & land-based works:
- Land development for SC/ST, small & marginal farmers
- Infrastructure:
- Rural roads, flood control, irrigation canals
- Convergence allowed with PMAY-G, Jal Jeevan Mission, etc.

Institutional Structure

- **Gram Sabha:** Identification & prioritisation of works.
- **Gram Panchayat:** Planning and execution (minimum 50% works).
- **Programme Officer:** Block level coordination.
- **District Programme Coordinator (Collector):** Overall implementation.
- **State Employment Guarantee Council:** Policy guidance.

Transparency & Accountability

- **Social Audit:**
- Mandatory under the Act.
- Conducted by Gram Sabha at least twice a year.
- **MIS (NREGAsoft):** End-to-end digital tracking.
- **Ombudsman:** Independent grievance redressal authority.

Women & Vulnerable Groups

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- At least **33% women participation** mandated.
- Actual participation often exceeds **50% nationally**.
- High participation of SC/ST households.
- Crèche facility mandatory if more than 5 children below 6 years at worksite.

Environmental & Economic Significance

- Strengthens **climate resilience** in rural areas.
- Enhances **groundwater recharge** and soil fertility.
- Acts as a **counter-cyclical safety net** during droughts, floods, and economic distress.