1. **The budget for MGNREGA was slashed by 18% this year. There have been issues of delayed payments and unmet work demand in the programme. How will reduced allocation resolve existing issues? Your comments?**

MoRD Comments:

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is a demand driven Scheme. Any household demanding employment shall be provided atleast 100 days of unskilled manual work in a financial year in accordance with the Scheme. During the current FY 2022-23, a total of 99.81% rural households have been offered wage employment against their demand for work. If an applicant for employment under the Scheme is not provided such employment within fifteen days of receipt, he shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.

The persondays generation during last three years and current financial year so far is as under:

	FY 2022-2023(as on 2.2.23)	FY 2021-2022	FY 2020-2021	FY 2019-2020
Persondays Generated [In Cr]	248.08	363.33	389.09	265.35

This reflects that the generation of persondays depends upon the demand for the works.

In the FY 2019-20 BE was Rs.60,000 crore which got revised to Rs.71,001 crore, for the FY 2020-21 BE was 61,500 crore which increased at RE to Rs.1,11,500 crore and for the FY 2021-22 the BE of Rs.73,000 crore has revised to Rs.98,000 crore. Therfore, it can be seen that the actual releases to the States have been much higher than that provided for at the BE level. Even during the current Financial year 2022-23, the BE has been Rs.73,000 crore, which has been revised to Rs.89,400 crore.

From the perusal of the above, it is inferred that previous release has no bearing on the requirement for funds for next year.

Under the Scheme, the muster roll opens in 2nd half of the Month of March of a financial year, gets closed at the end of the March and subsequently fund transfer orders (for wage and material expenditure) against these works requires 8 days to complete all the basic formalities including measurement of works, wage list generation, checking by 1st signatory and signing by 2nd signatory. Ultimately, FTOs of previous Month (2nd half) March become available for payment in the 2nd week of April. So all such liability (of previous FY) is being cleared in next FY.

Also, Central Government has adopted National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) to provide wage payment directly into the account of Bank / Post Office of the beneficiary through DBT protocol. This system has been adopted since FY 2016-17. Prior to this system, fund towards wage payment was being released to State treasury. To ensure proper release with transparency and accountability, the new system NeFMS has been adopted. As on 07.02.2023 payments generated within 15 days is 95.97%.

2. **Experts say that the National Mobile Monitoring System used for MGNREGA is not reliable and many those who work are often not registered because of technical issues. What is the government's comment on this and are there any steps being taken to improve the app and make sure that those who work are paid for it on time?**

MoRD Comments:

Government of India has decided that States/UTs shall ensure capturing of real time attendance for all the works (except Individual Beneficiary scheme/project) through National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) App under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS). This digitally capturing of real time attendance for all works(except Individual beneficiary project/scheme) along with two time geo tagged photographs, has been implemented, after the successful implementation of NMMS for the worksite for which muster rolls having 20 or more workers. This new provision is in place from 01st January, 2023.

NMMS facilitates timely attendance which in turns leads to timely payment. It ensures accountability and transparency in the implementation of the Scheme. All the issues concerning the NMMS application are reviewed and resolved from time to time. As such no major issue has been reported in its implementation.

Mates are encouraged to take the responsibility of capturing the attendance of the workers through the NMMS App. The Ministry has been providing training to the States/UTs to ensure smooth transitioning to NMMS app as and when requested by the States/UTs.

The technical issues are being resolved on real time basis. The new provisions/ suggestions requested by the States/UTs are being incorporated.

Some important decisions taken with respect to NMMS as per request of State Governments are given below:

1. NMMS application has been modified to capture second photograph just after the 4 hours from the uploading of attendance and first photograph. It has eased out the specific time point requirement for capturing the attendance and photographs. The morning attendance along with the first photograph and second photograph can be captured in offline mode and to be uploaded once device comes in network.

2. In case of exceptional circumstances due to which attendance could not be uploaded, the District Programme Coordinator (DPC) has been authorized to approve the manual attendance.