
NREGA National Tracker December 2020



4 months left in the year - but to meet the unemployment crisis, how many households have got 100 days of work so far?

Highlights :

- 1.3 Cr job cards issued.
- 13% unmet demand (all India)
- While over 1 cr more households (HHs) worked in NREGA this year as compared to last year, the average employment per HH remains low i.e., 41 as compared to 48 last year.
- There is a 43% increase in Persondays (PD) generated as of November compared to the last year. This means that the government should have allocated at least 379 crore PD in the Labour Budget this year. However, as of now the allocation is of only 324 crore PD. This means that the government is extremely short of budget.
- 45.6 lakh households that applied for a Job Card (JC) were not issued a JC this year.
- A meagre 19.8% of the allocated NREGA fund remains to generate employment for the remaining 4 months.
- Pending wages are currently Rs. 1,458 Cr
- 17 lakh HHs have completed 100 days of employment this year, compared to 40.6 lakh last year. An additional 64 lakh HHs have completed at least 80 days of work.
- 97 lakh households have had their demand unmet at some point in the year.

Who We Are

The Peoples' Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) is a group of activists, academics and members of peoples' organizations that came together to advocate for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2004. PAEG hopes to play the role of a catalyst in provoking discussion, peoples' monitoring and convening coalitions to strengthen NREGA implementation through research and advocacy.

PAEG is also facilitating a series of consultations on an urban employment guarantee in collaboration with various campaigns, institutions and organizations.

1.3 Crore Job Cards Issued

- Total job cards demanding work this year is 7.5 crore and total active job cards are 9.02 crore. 83.09% of all active job cards demanded work, and yet only 19 lakh households have finished 100 days of work as compared to 40.61 lakh last year. This means that there was a surge in NREGA work demand due to the pandemic and the government failed to meet the rising demand.
- 45.6 lakh households that applied for a JC have not been issued a JC this year.

States	Active JCs per Total Registered Job Cards (%)	JCs demanded work this year / Active job cards (%)	JCs issued this year / JCs demanded work this year (%)
Andhra Pradesh	29.13	91.28	8.72
Assam	33.9	56.1	17.29
Bihar	24.71	70.54	29.53
Chhattisgarh	36.04	88.53	9.92
Jharkhand	29.51	86.84	34.25
Karnataka	24.18	75.2	18.08
Madhya Pradesh	33.15	89.39	21.93
Maharashtra	13.61	46.65	15.49
Odisha	24.94	80.52	18.81
Rajasthan	32.04	89.7	10.82
Tamil Nadu	56.81	88.71	6.22
Telangana	29.06	98.23	7.7
Uttar Pradesh	37.56	98.16	31.4
West Bengal	31.92	78.25	12.22
All India	30.75	83.09	17.01

Source - MIS Reports R1.1, R5.1.1 accessed on 30 November 2020

My name is Sandeep Bhuiyan, son of Late Mahavir Bhuiyan. I reside in village Sahae Dih, Post Majhauri, Police Station Chattarpur, Panchayat Hursam of District Palamu. In my village, there are 20-25 labourers. 2-3 months have passed, yet we have not been given any work. We wish to receive work under MNREGA.

-Sandeep Bhuiyan

13% Unmet Demand

- Over 97 lakh households had their demand unmet at some point or the other during the year.
- Almost 1/4th of the households in Uttar Pradesh that demanded NREGA work didn't receive a single day's work this year.
- Odisha, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh which were among the states with the highest number of return of migrants during the lockdown, still shows an unmet demand of 19%, 17% and 17% respectively.
- Rajasthan and West Bengal have done well to keep the unmet demand lower than the national average.

Select States	Unmet demand (in lakhs)	Unmet Demand (in percentage)
Bihar	8.32	17
Chhattisgarh	3.86	12
Jharkhand	6.42	25
Madhya Pradesh	8.92	17
Odisha	6.85	19
Rajasthan	6	8
Uttar Pradesh	25.93	23
West Bengal	5.61	7
All India	97.32	13

Source - MGNREGA MIS Report R5.1.1 accessed on 30 November 2020

Days of Employment

- 17 lakh households have completed 100 days of employment this year. A further 64 lakh households have finished above 80 days of employment.
- 3.5 lakh households in Andhra Pradesh, 2.7 lakh households in West Bengal, and 2.1 lakh households in Rajasthan have completed 100 days of employment.

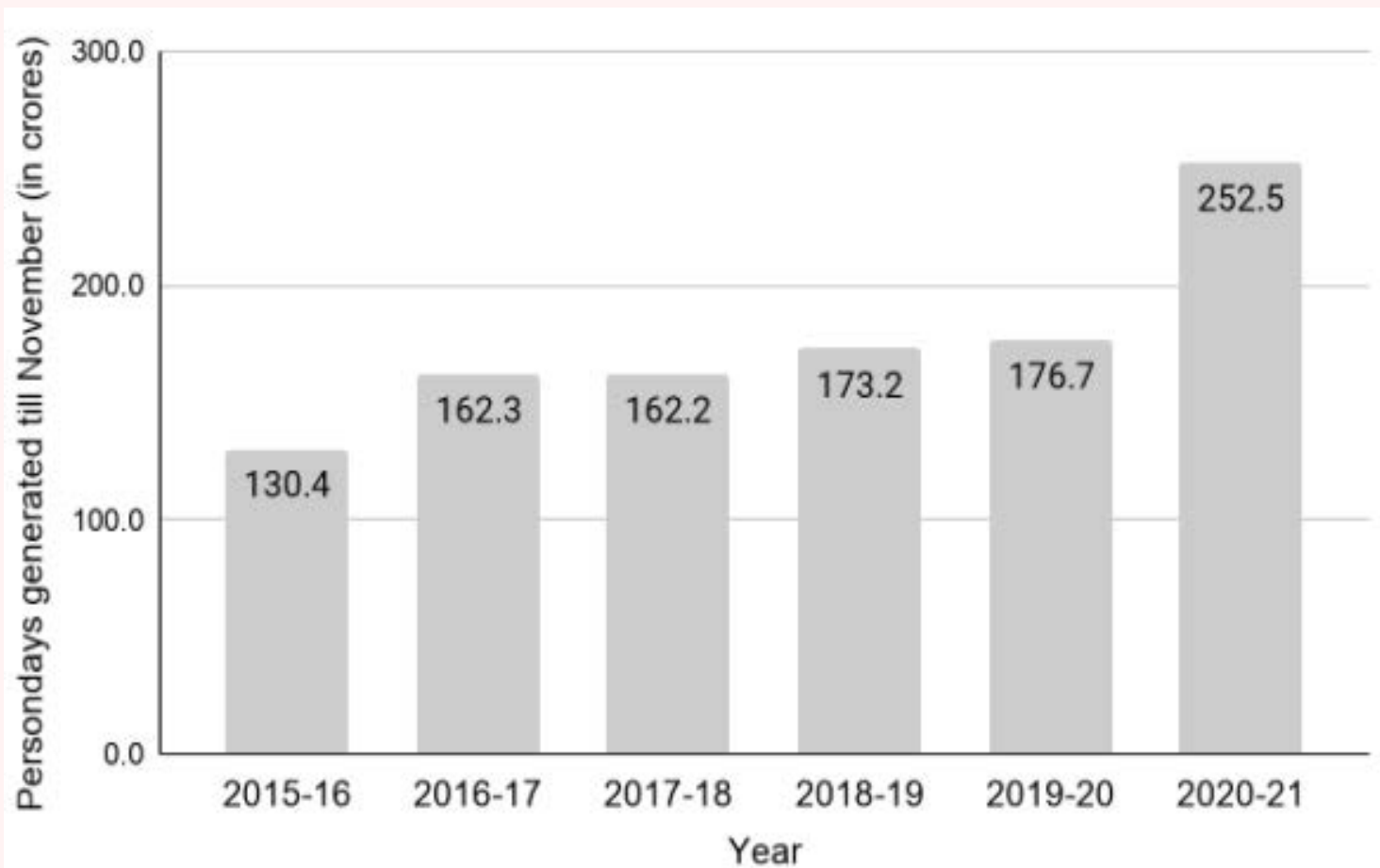
Select States	71-80 days (in lakh)	81-99 days (in lakh)	100 days and above (in lakh)	Households that have completed at least 100 days of employment (%)
Andhra Pradesh	2.7	4.8	3.5	7.5
Bihar	2.0	2.3	0.1	0.2
Chhattisgarh	1.1	1.3	1.3	4.7
Jharkhand	1.1	2.1	0.2	1.2
Madhya Pradesh	3.2	10.3	1.2	2.6
Odisha	1.7	4.2	1.6	5.4
Rajasthan	4.8	8.0	2.1	3
Tamil Nadu	2.6	4.4	0.3	0.4
Uttar Pradesh	3.1	7.1	1.3	1.5
West Bengal	3.2	7.3	2.7	3.8
All India	33.1	64.3	17.1	2.6

MGNREGA MIS Report R5.1.3 and Andhra MIS Report accessed on 30 November, 2020

- 100 days completed – 17 lakh HH as of now as compared to 40.61lakh last year. Despite the surge in demand, state governments have not been able to fully tap the potential of NREGA and while more households have been employed under NREGA this year, a fraction has got their full entitlement.

Persondays Generated

- Over 252 crore persondays generated till November this year. There is an increase of 43% compared to previous year.



My name is Janaki Devi and I reside in Hutukdag village, Hutukdag Panchayat, Post Sahae Dih Block Chattarpur, Zila Palamu, Jharkhand. We are 12 labourers, and we have been seeking work as we need it. The Employment Officer said that we should begin the work, and that the muster roll (demand) would be sent. The muster roll still hasn't arrived, however, and so we have stopped doing the work. We shall resume the work only when he sends the muster roll.

-Janaki Devi

Availability of Funds

- The net balance is the difference between the total funds available with the states minus the total expenditure including the pending liabilities.
- Over 71% of the total allocated funds for NREGA has been utilised till now and 9.1% set aside for pending payments. With a little more than 100 days still left in the financial year and the previous years trends showing a high persondays generation in the last 4 months, NREGA will require another financial boost.

Select States	Total Availability (in Rs. crore)	Total Actual Exp (in Rs. crore)	Pending liabilities(in Rs. crore)	Net Balance (in Rs. crore)
Andhra Pradesh	7,402.62	8,009.10	476.61	-1,083.09
Bihar	5,268.34	4,583.23	1,434.36	-749.26
Chhattisgarh	3,128.83	2,679.55	282.76	166.51
Jharkhand	2,430.11	1,736.20	38.88	655.02
Madhya Pradesh	6,228.60	5,779.99	616.07	-167.46
Odisha	3,890.60	3,770.73	184.80	-64.93
Rajasthan	7,474.43	6,777.90	364.10	332.42
Tamil Nadu	6,218.86	5,772.27	934.19	-487.60
Telangana	2,929.06	2,993.76	551.38	-616.07
Uttar Pradesh	8,599.53	8,439.06	731.06	-570.59
West Bengal	9,147.36	7,730.16	1,261.42	155.76
All India	82,214.30	74,563.74	9,590.18	-1,939.62

Source - MGNREGA MIS Report R7.1 accessed on 30 November 2020

State	Remaining Funds (in Cr)	Number of Active Job Cards (in Cr)	Days of Work per Household
Chattisgarh	138	34.7	2
Gujarat	136	17.4	3
Punjab	13	12.07	0
Kerala	174	20.06	3
Rajasthan	272	82.41	1.5

Source - MIS Report R7.1.1 accessed on 30 November 2020

Total expenditure incurred so far is Rs 74,563 Cr, apart from which

- Pending wage payments are Rs 1,458 Cr (1.4%)
- Pending material payments are Rs 8,132 Cr (7.7%)
- The total payments pending is Rs 9,590 Cr (9.1%)

[First displays his account book] My name is Kamesar Singh, residing in Vishaypur village, son of Late Shiv Narayan Singh, Panchayat Hulsam, Police Station Chattarpur, District Palamu. I am a farmer-labourer from Jharkhand. I have worked in the TCP construction in Jagdish Singh's field for 19 days, but so far I have not been paid for the work. I shared an account (khata) with my wife, as we had a joint account and so the Employment Officer said that this would not work and I needed one of my own to be paid. Once I got my own made, they said that the money has already been deposited, however when I went to the bank to investigate, I found that I had not been paid. I have worked from 2019 to 2020 and yet I have not been paid even a single paisa so far.

-Kamesar Singh

- The amount allocated to the MNREGA this financial year is Rs. 1,05,000 crore. The expenditure incurred is Rs. 74,563 Cr (71%) and pending payments is Rs. 9,590 Cr (9.1%). This leaves Rs. 20,847 Cr to generate fresh employment, which is a mere 19.8% of the allocation.

Studies and Media Reports

Given the significant role that NREGA has played in providing some income support to the rural poor, reeling from long term economic distress exacerbated by the lockdown, several studies have sought to document its coverage and impact. In-depth media reports have also highlighted important implementation issues. We present a few here:

#1 DALBURG'S SURVEY focussed on the socioeconomic impacts of Covid crisis in India . Out of 47,000 poor households surveyed, 24% have run out of money and supplies. 3/4th of primary income earners have lost their jobs. The average family income has fallen by more than 60% compared to pre-crisis income. 20% of primary income earners do not expect employment opportunities in the near future. The rising prices of basic commodities (food inflation was 9.6% in June) due to supply chain disruptions is a cause of worry. Find the survey [here](#).

#2 COVID19 LIVELIHOODS SURVEY - APU & 10 CSOs

- 5000 self-employed, casual, and regular wage workers across 12 states of India were interviewed between 13 April and 23 May, 2020
- 66% of workers lost their employment. 87% of the self-employed workers in urban areas and 66% of the casual workers in rural areas lost their employment
- 64% fall in the total family earnings
- 47% households did not have enough money to buy even a week's worth of essentials. 88% migrants did not have enough money to pay next month's rent.
- 77% households consumed less food than a month before. At the same time 83% urban migrants reported that they consumed less food than before.
- Only 77% vulnerable households received ration
- Only 47% of the vulnerable households received a cash transfer

#I The Sudha Narayanan, Christian Oldgies and Shree Saha article in Ideas for India. The article assess the impact of COVID on employment and if the additional person days allocated under NREGA are commensurate with the problem. Find the link here.



#II Unprecedented demand for work under the rural job guarantee scheme sees 90 million individuals finding support and 19 million more waiting their turn, but if the fund crunch continues there may not be much to look forward to. This [business today](#) article covers the same. Find the link [here](#).

Home OPINION Columns Story

Rebooting Economy 43: States exhaust MGNREGS fund, leave Rs 1,386 crore in unpaid wages

Unprecedented demand for work under the rural job guarantee scheme sees 90 million individuals finding support and 19 million more waiting their turn, but if the fund crunch continues there may not be much to look forward to

 Prasanna Mohanty | November 4, 2020 | Updated 19:07 IST

#3 ACTION AID

- 11,530 workers across 21 states were interviewed. Out of which 11,514 respondents were migrants.
- 18% of respondents were stranded for more than 50 days. Around 20% were stranded between 40-50 days, and 27% were stranded between 20 to 40 days.
- 89% of the migrant workers were working prior to the lockdown. But within a span of 60 days of lockdown, the unemployment rate among the migrants reached 78%.
- 70% workers in agriculture, 84% workers in the construction sector, 80 % workers in the manufacturing sector, and 76% workers in the services sectors lost their livelihood.

#4 INDUS ACTION

- 10,118 families were interviewed in one month after the lockdown was announced.
- 47% unemployed post lockdown.
- 19% families said they face a severe food shortage.

#III

This deccanchronical article covers how NREGA was a ray of hope for corona-hit workers of Andhra Pradesh, especially migrant workers returning home. Find the link [here](#).

NATION, IN OTHER NEWS

NREGA turns saviour for corona-hit workers in Andhra Pradesh

DECCAN CHRONICLE.

Published Nov 9, 2020, 9:16 am IST

Updated Nov 9, 2020, 11:49 am IST



As many as 3.3L new job cards were issued for 5.53L beneficiaries in the state between April and September

#IV

Another article covering the dramatic rise in demand for MNREGA work in Andhra Pradesh, this newsminute article covers several parameters affecting NREGA, based off a survey by LibTech India. Find the article [here](#).

AP sees major rise in MGNREGA work amid pandemic, Rs 10.52 crore wages pending

More than 3 lakh families have already completed the 100 guaranteed workdays under the scheme, according to a report based on data from April to September.

#5

Rapid Rural Community Response (RCRC)

- 11,380 respondents from 9 states were interviewed between 15th to 23rd May. Out of which 36.8% were migrants.
- Only 51% people were aware of PM garib Kalyan Yojana.

#6 ILO REPORT - Tackling the COVID19 Youth Employment Crisis in Asia & the Pacific

- The report is to study the impact of Covid-19 on youth employment. Two scenarios are checked - whether they are able to contain it in 3 months (short containment) or within 3 - 6 months (long containment).
- It is estimated that the youth unemployment will range between 40.8 lakh and 61 lakh depending on the country's ability to contain the virus.
- Youth employment in India was 23.3% in 2019. It is expected to rise to 32.5% by the end of 2020
- The job loss will be the highest in Agriculture and construction sector with an expected fall of 28.8% and 24.6% respectively

My village is Sirpur of Khunsum Panchayat, Thana Chat-tarpur. The NREGA mate gives me work. I work on four fields, Jagdish, Bisambar Singh, Shambhu Singh and Lax-man Singh's fields. Although I do the work, I do not get paid. They keep asking me to do the work but without pay how am I supposed to continue working? Why should I continue working? When finally we decided we needed the work now there is no work left. Even those who have left the village find no work outside. There is work there or here. They asked me to open a khata, which I have, but there is no work.

-NREGA Worker from Jharkhand

#7 The LastMile report, compiled by LibTech India covers the delays and hurdles in NREGA wage payments. It covers the hurdles faced by workers in the 'last mile' and how and why DBT continues to have challenges.

- Nearly 75% of all respondents did not know if they could transact at a bank.
 - 56% of those who opened accounts at CSPs/BCs did not get a passbook
 - 45.1% respondents made multiple visits to the bank for their last transaction
- Other important findings are mentioned in the survey. Find the survey [here](#).

#V

This scroll.in article on Nov 29, 2020 by Vani Viswanathan, Sultan Ahmad & Aaditeshwar Seth covers the all India impact of the COVID19 pandemic and how NREGA averted the the employment crisis for several lakh families. It also covers the operational and strategic issues surrounding NREGA during the lockdown and comments on the advent of the neoliberal project in India. Find the article [here](#).

WELFARE SCHEME

Lessons from the lockdown for India's rural employment scheme

Often the sole source of income for households in villages, NREGA has been plagued with issues during the pandemic.



Source of all figures : www.nrega.nic.in, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
Reports downloaded on 30th November, 2020

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