GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1231
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2022

MGNREGA APP

1231   DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   the effects MGNREGA apps will have on workers and their productivity;
(b)   what steps have been taken to provide a stable network in Rural India;
(c)   whether it is mandatory for MGNREGA workers to have smartphones which secludes a huge section of the society; and
(d)   whether steps have been taken to fix the improper working of the application as there is a lack of physical records?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a)   To ensure more transparency in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) in the States/UTs, a provision of capturing of attendance at worksite through National Mobile Monitoring System App (NMMS App) with two-time Geotagged photographs of the worker in a day had been started on 21st May 2021 for all the worksites wherein mustor rolls are issued for 20 or more workers, which increases citizen oversight of the programme besides potentially enabling faster processing of payments.

(b)   Following steps have been taken by the Government for enhancing internet/broadband connectivity coverage in the country:

(i) National Broadband Mission was launched on 17th December, 2019 with a vision to fast track growth of digital communications infrastructure, bridge the digital divide, facilitate digital empowerment and inclusion, and provide affordable and universal access of broadband for all.

(ii) In its endeavour to provide high speed internet/broadband connectivity, BharatNet project is envisaged in all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages of the country.

(iii) To enhance proliferation of internet/broadband services in the country, Prime Minister Wireless Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) framework has been introduced.

(iv) Various schemes are implemented under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to enhance mobile broadband services in the rural and remote areas of the country including North Eastern Region (NER), areas affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), Border areas, Aspirational Districts and Island Territories.

(c)   No, Sir.

(d)   The Ministry has received representations/requests/complaints/feedback from States and other stakeholders on the use of the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) application in the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS regarding the technical issues being faced. These issues are taken up with NIC, Rural Development on real time basis. The new provisions/ suggestions requested by the States are being incorporated into NREGASoft. All the issues concerning the NMMS application are reviewed and resolved from time to time. Some important decisions taken as per request of State Governments are given below:

1. NMMS application has been modified to capture 2nd photograph just after the 4 hours from the uploading of attendance and 1st photograph. It has ease out the specific time point requirement for capturing the attendance and photographs. The morning attendance along with the first 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 upload the manual attendance.

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