

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 35
ANSWERED ON 21/07/2026**

RURAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES

***35. Shri Aashtikar Patil Nagesh Bapurao:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the effectiveness of rural employment schemes in the country, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the total number of beneficiaries who have received employment under such schemes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve income opportunities for rural youth and women; and**
- (d) whether the Government has introduced any new initiatives to promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce migration from rural areas, if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *35 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2026 REGARDING “RURAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES”

(a) & (b): Evaluation of the various schemes being implemented by Central Government, including Rural Employment schemes is a continuous exercise. Accordingly an independent evaluation of implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mahatma Gandhi NREGA), was undertaken by NITI Aayog in the year 2020. Some of its major findings were that the implementation of MGNREGS suffered from critical design challenges, resulting in low completion rates for community assets, lack of quality, utility and durability of assets.

Keeping in view the experience gained from the implementation of MGNREGS and also suggestions and observations made in evaluation studies, a new Act titled the Viksit Bharat-G RAM G has been enacted in December 2025, and successfully implemented in rural areas of the entire country with effect from 01.07.2026.

States/Union Territories-wise number of persons who availed of employment under the erstwhile Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and presently under VB-G RAM G Scheme, during the last three financial years and current financial year 2026-27 (as on 16.07.2026) are given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): (i) Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB-G RAM G Act introduces several new initiatives to promote sustainable rural livelihoods and reduce migration by creating long-term employment and livelihood opportunities within villages. The major initiatives include:

- enhancement of the statutory employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days for every eligible rural household;**
- identification of Livelihood Infrastructure as one of the four thematic focus areas under the Act. The Act provides for the creation of durable and productive livelihood-related assets, including infrastructure for Self Help Groups (SHGs), rural haats, training and skill centres, storage, value-addition and other livelihood-supporting infrastructure, to strengthen local**

economic activities and expand sustainable livelihood opportunities;

- prioritisation of works relating to Water Security, Core Rural Infrastructure and Mitigation of Extreme Weather Events, which are expected to improve agricultural productivity, strengthen the rural economy and create sustainable employment;**
- promotion of convergence with other rural development programmes relating to rural housing, self-help groups, skill development, agriculture and natural resource management for holistic rural development.**

The Department of Rural Development is also implementing other welfare schemes in the field of skill development and empowerment of rural youth and women under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM):

(ii) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented in partnership of States and UTs through their State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM), with an aim to reduce rural poverty, improve the livelihoods of rural poor and organize rural poor households into the Self-Help Group (SHG), for their social and financial inclusion. So far, 10.05 crore rural households have been organised into 92 lakh SHGs in the country.

To improve income opportunities and promote sustainable livelihood under DAY-NRLM regular training and capacity-building programmes are conducted for SHG members and community cadres on SHG management, financial literacy, livelihood promotion and enterprise development.

In order to provide handholding support and extension support services a number of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) CRPs i.e., Krishi Sakhi, Pashu Sakhi, Van Sakhi, Matshya Sakhi are promoted and trained. As on June 2026, the DAY-NRLM has promoted 1.95 lakhs Krishi Sakhis, 1.78 lakh Pashu Sakhis, 2,052 Matshya Sakhis who are trained and have been providing handholding support to the mahila kisan households.

The Lakhpati Didi initiative is an outcome of the DAY-NRLM, which aligns directly with the program's vision of empowering rural

women and promoting their economic independence. A Lakhpati Didi is a Self-Help Group (SHG) member whose income is at least Rs. 1,00,000 annually.

(iii) Skill Development and training programmes such as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)- a placement-linked skill development program for wage employment and

(iv) Skill development through Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes (RSETIs) are also being implemented by Ministry of Rural Development.

These initiatives are aimed at strengthening sustainable rural livelihoods, creating productive local employment opportunities, enhancing rural incomes and reducing distress migration by making villages more resilient, self-reliant and economically vibrant.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in the reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 35 dated 21.07.2026.

States/Union Territories-wise number of persons who avail employment under the erstwhile Mahatma Gandhi NREGS during the last three financial years and current financial year 2026-27 (as on 30.06.2026).					
Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Number of persons who availed the employment			
		2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
1	Andhra Pradesh	7542774	7523181	6761622	5157171
2	Arunachal Pradesh	282304	311382	359467	73559
3	Assam	3347851	2634205	2402476	1275632
4	Bihar	5383600	5617766	5671219	3185441
5	Chhattisgarh	4413335	4481600	4009855	2292937
6	Goa	2186	3192	2585	874
7	Gujarat	1511579	1306178	1029003	381758
8	Haryana	523962	478788	376657	45618
9	Himachal Pradesh	949218	1026189	743461	99412
10	Jammu And Kashmir	993446	1055725	1064567	212017
11	Jharkhand	2559494	2311214	2605327	633119
12	Karnataka	5402381	5170308	3932582	1376863
13	Kerala	1661622	1540284	1398316	784874
14	Ladakh	36516	37175	37550	13441
15	Madhya Pradesh	6373186	5772104	5990054	1556074
16	Maharashtra	4128090	5111881	6173582	2383241
17	Manipur	503268	565779	572607	409147
18	Meghalaya	629087	544506	575353	193279
19	Mizoram	211413	211355	220887	199232
20	Nagaland	468211	216157	286204	113765
21	Odisha	4991241	3376513	3564847	885873
22	Punjab	1015694	984897	899700	243991
23	Rajasthan	8696618	7723308	6017534	2935847
24	Sikkim	70327	68677	61746	2585
25	Tamil Nadu	7939116	7433944	6259646	3147414
26	Telangana	4062113	4244189	3389129	3152420
27	Tripura	842843	813522	765320	522080
28	Uttar Pradesh	8127953	7582415	6232325	1390720
29	Uttarakhand	638095	575323	488392	86174
30	West Bengal	9415	0	0	8950
31	Andaman and Nicobar	5025	3523	2480	1433
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	2188	10496	9457	3734
33	Lakshadweep	77	0	0	0
34	Puducherry	58705	50264	50137	21266
	Total	83382933	78786040	71954087	32789941

As per NREGASoft

State/Union Territory-wise number of persons who availed employment under VB-G RAM G Scheme during the period from 1st July, 2026 to 16th July, 2026.

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	Number of persons who avail the employment
1	Andhra Pradesh	1178855
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6100
3	Assam	172673
4	Bihar	67670
5	Chhattisgarh	144836
6	Goa	47
7	Gujarat	35453
8	Haryana	8703
9	Himachal Pradesh	39751
10	Jammu And Kashmir	92907
11	Jharkhand	39262
12	Karnataka	88608
13	Kerala	331846
14	Ladakh	7147
15	Madhya Pradesh	54413
16	Maharashtra	132412
17	Manipur	121335
18	Meghalaya	6585
19	Mizoram	3704
20	Nagaland	552
21	Odisha	115896
22	Punjab	628
23	Rajasthan	686526
24	Sikkim	16
25	Tamil Nadu	452652
26	Telangana	415223
27	Tripura	116534
28	Uttar Pradesh	681512
29	Uttarakhand	16887
30	West Bengal	10441
31	Andaman And Nicobar	247
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	330
33	Lakshadweep	0
34	Puducherry	4635
	Total	5034386

Note: As per the attendance captured till 16.7.2026 under VB-G RAM G.
