

MGNREGA

Implementation Status

महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोज. गारंटी
वर्ष - 2021-22

कार्यकोड 63603

कार्यकारी संस्था. ग्रा. पं. कालादेह

कार्य का नाम - अर्जुनसिंह के घर के पास
श्रम + सा नाडी निर्माण

स्वी. राशि 13.93 + 054 = 14.47

कार्य प्रा. दि. 16.12.21

कार्य पूर्ण दि.

प्रस्तावित मानव दिवस

सृजित मानव दिवस

April-September 2023

About this report

In this report, we have compiled information on the status of MGNREGA implementation at the national level for the period of Apr-Sep 2023¹, providing a comparative analysis with data from the preceding financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 during the same timeframe. The data utilized for this analysis was sourced from <https://nrega.nic.in/> as of 06-10-2023. Our objective is to furnish citizens and stakeholders with valuable insights into the current state of MGNREGA implementation on a national scale, shedding light on the program's progress. Your engagement with this report is crucial for fostering a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of MGNREGA implementation in the country.



¹ April to September

1. Key Statistics

Table 1: Key MGNREGA Statistics for 2022-23 and 2023-24

Metric	2022-23	2023-24
Total Number of Districts	740	
Total Number of Mandals(Blocks)	7,172	
Total Number of Panchayats	2,69,553	
Job Cards Issued ² (lakhs) as on 6th October 2023	1466	
Total Number of Active Job Cards ³ (lakhs) as on 6th October 2023	972	
Total Number of Active Workers ⁴ (lakhs) as on 6th October 2023	1433	
Persondays ⁵ Generated in (crores) (April to September)	172.24	188.03
Average Wage Rate per Day per Person	217.89	237.65
Wages earned by workers (Rupees in crores) as on 6th October 2023 (April to September)	37,117	44,674

In the following sections, we delve a little deeper into employment provision and wage expenditure aspects of MGNREGA implementation across the country, to get insights and make policy recommendations accordingly.

² An authorised document issued by the Govt at Households level. Crucial for MGNREGA participation.

³ A Jobcard with a record of at least one worker engaging in MGNREGA employment for a minimum of one day within the past three financial years.

⁴ A worker who has been engaged in MGNREGA employment for at least one day within the past three financial years.

⁵ Number of work days completed under MGNREGS by the jobcard holders

2. Workers

8% reduction in active workers

	As on 6th October 2022 ⁶	As on 6th October 2023	Drop (%)
Job cards Issued (Crores)	16.71	14.66	12.3
Total Number of Active Job cards (Crores)	10.16	9.72	4.3
Total Number of Active Workers (Crores)	15.49	14.33	7.5

Table 2: Comparative analysis of Job card issuance and active participation (2022-23 vs. 2023-24)

The number of workers in the financial year 2023-24 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in India declined compared to the preceding year. As of October 6, 2023, the number of job cards issued witnessed a 12.3% decrease, dropping from 16.71 crores in the fiscal year 2022-23 to 14.66 crores in the current financial year. Further, the total number of active job cards experienced a 4.3% reduction, decreasing from 10.16 crores to 9.72 crores. Furthermore, the overall number of active workers in the program saw an even higher decline of 7.5%, declining from 15.49 crores in the previous fiscal year to 14.33 crores as of October 6, 2023. These statistics indicate a significant contraction in the MGNREGA workforce, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive analysis to identify the factors contributing to this decline and to formulate strategies for revitalizing the program's participation.

2.1 Job card deletions

Net deletion of 80 lakh workers this financial year

In the fiscal year 2022-23, a considerable number of workers faced deletions from job cards nationwide. As per the Ministry of Rural Development's response in Lok Sabha, the total tally of worker deletions amounted to 5.2 crores. Numerous news reports have highlighted the plight of genuine workers who have been wrongfully deleted from the job cards, creating a stir in both national and regional media⁷. The unyielding insistence of the Union government on implementing the Aadhaar-based payment system and the failure of state governments to effectively check the erroneous deletion of workers have exacerbated the issue.

In this context one would expect the government to implement corrective measures to reinstate affected workers in the current fiscal year. However, data indicates that no significant shift has occurred, as deletions continue to be high this year. From April to September 2023-24, the program saw an addition of 60,12,300 workers. However, the deletion of 1,40,48,521 workers during these six months resulted in a net decrease of 80,36,221 workers overall during April to September 2023. This suggests that the fate of all genuine workers among the 6.6 crore affected individuals across 18 months from April 2022 to September 2023 hangs in the balance. (For detailed State level net deletions data please refer to Annexure I).

⁶ http://libtech.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/TS-MGNREGA-Tracker-April-to-Sept-2022_Eng.pdf

⁷ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/job-card-aadhaar-mismatch-a-missing-letter-means-no-work-for-mgnregs-workers-in-odisha/article67005710.ece> <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/hrf-and-libtech-team-flags-large-scale-deletion-of-job-cards-and-names-of-mgnregs-workers-in-ap/article67216186.ece>

3. Eligibility for ABPS

62.6% of all workers and 86.1% of active workers eligible for ABPS⁸

In January 2023, a circular from the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) mandated the nationwide implementation of the Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) in MGNREGA programs. Despite multiple deadline extensions, a significant proportion of workers still do not meet the eligibility criteria for ABPS. On 30th August 2023 MoRD extended the mandatory ABPS deadline for MGNREGA to 31st December 2023⁹. Currently, 62.6% of all workers and 86.1% of active workers are eligible for ABPS.

3.1 State level data

The percent of workers eligible for ABPS ranges from 27.1% in Maharashtra to 97.2% in Andhra Pradesh among all workers and 43.6% in Assam to 99.7% in Kerala among active workers

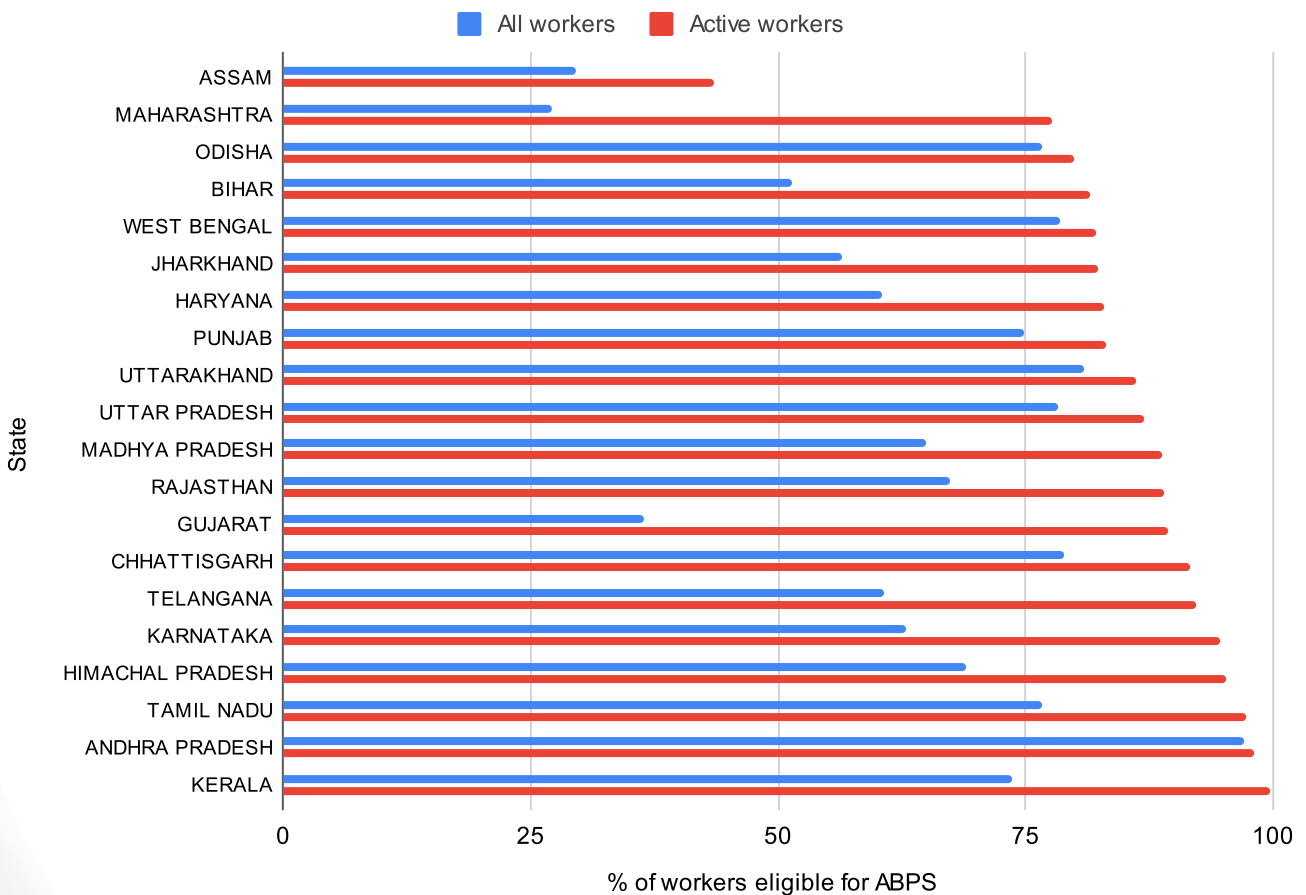


Figure 1 : Percent of workers eligible for ABPS among all workers and active workers across states

Figure 1 shows the percent of workers eligible for ABPS among all workers and active workers across states. Considering active workers, Assam has the lowest percent of workers eligible for ABPS at 43.6% and Kerala has the highest percent of workers eligible for ABPS with near universal eligibility (99.7%). All states except for Assam have more than 75% active workers eligible for ABPS. However, the proportions are much lower when we consider all workers with only 7 states having more than 75% eligible workers. Further, even states that have a high proportion of workers eligible for ABPS when considering active workers might have a much lower proportion of workers eligible for ABPS when all workers are taken into account.

⁸ https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/IFNSXOAT-z9Vvj8_hTNLMbFAczYMgz-LnnNpxmlUx90s/edit#gid=1705793024

⁹ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mgnregs-deadline-for-mandatory-aadhaar-based-wage-payments-extended-till-december-31/article67252133.ece>

3.2 Block level data

Even states with near universal eligibility for ABPS have at least one block that is performing below the national average

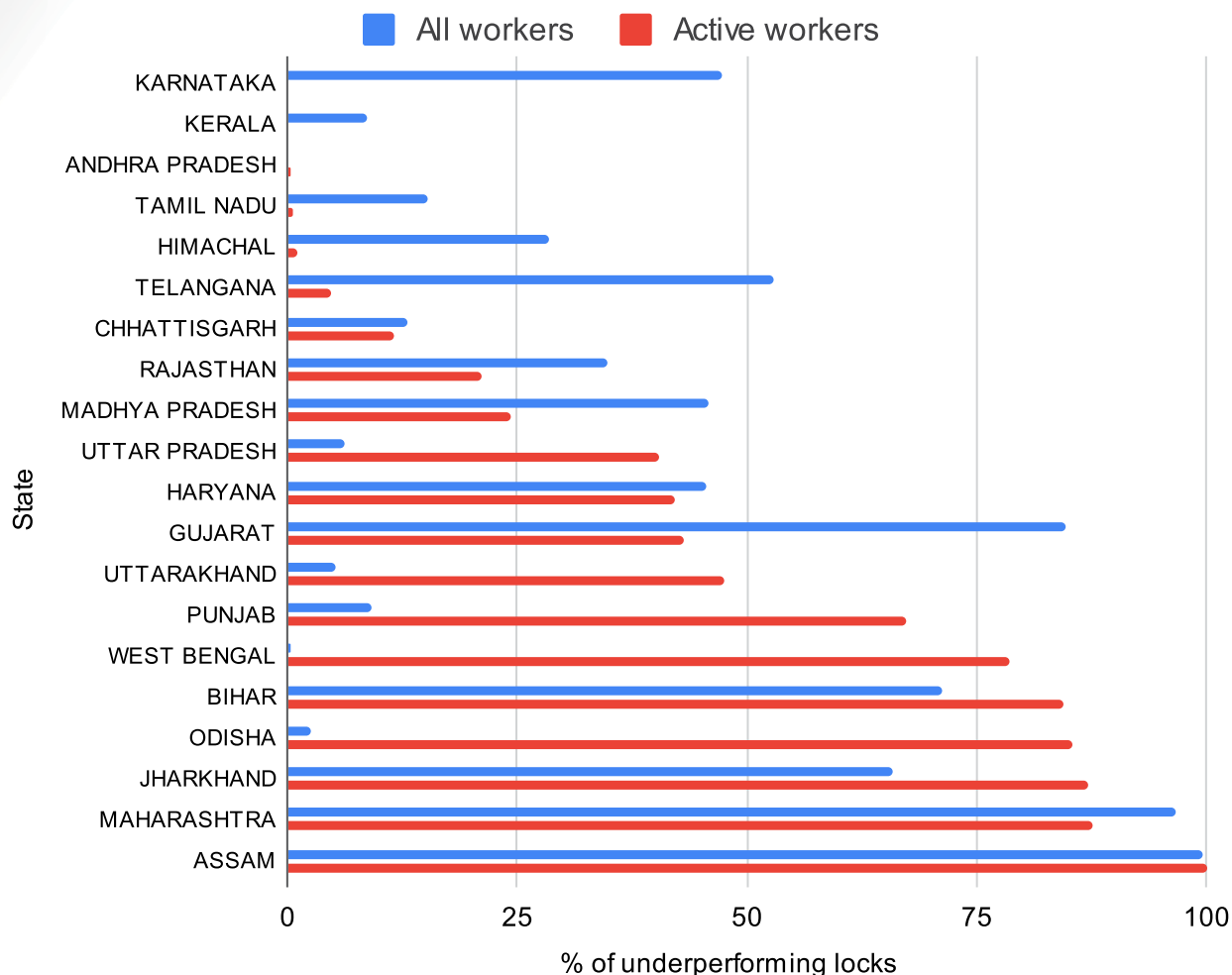


Figure 2: Percent of underperforming blocks among active workers and all workers across states

Figure 2 shows the percent of underperforming blocks for all workers and active workers¹⁰. The figure shows that even states that have near universal eligibility for ABPS have at least one block that is performing below the national average. The only exceptions are Andhra Pradesh for all workers and Kerala and Karnataka for active workers. Further, the picture is very different for active workers and all workers. For example, while none of the blocks in Karnataka are underperforming in case of active workers, in the case of all workers, 47.2% of the blocks are performing below the national average.

¹⁰ Underperforming blocks are blocks for which the percent of workers eligible for ABPS is below the national average. The national average is 62.6% for all workers and 86.1% for active workers.

4. Employment Provided

9% increase in persondays generated

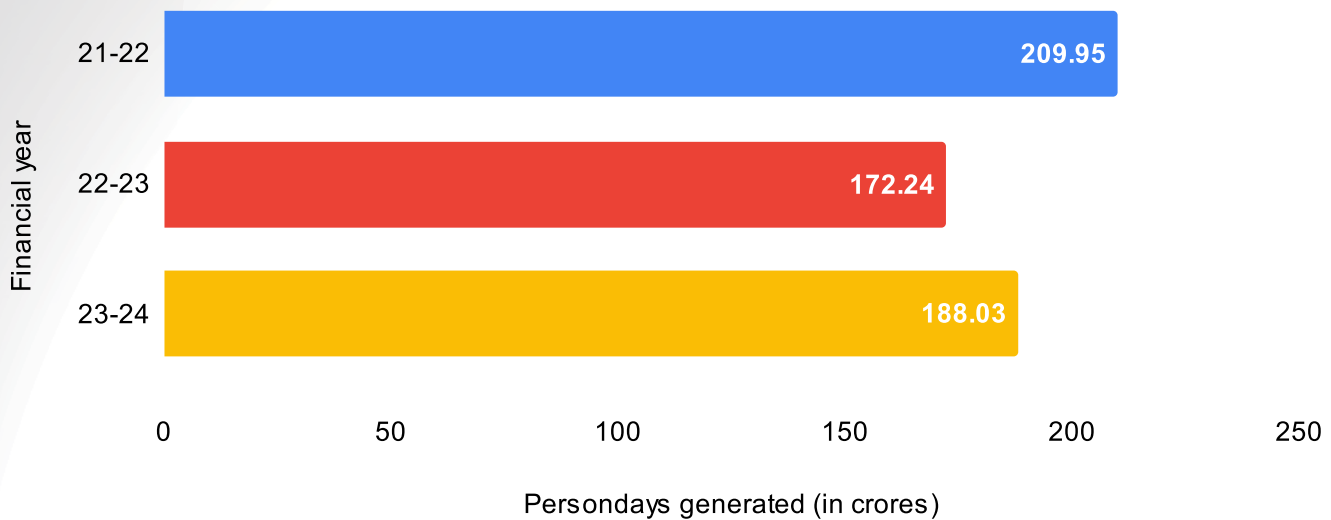


Figure 3: Trend in persondays generated between April and September for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24

Figure 3 illustrates the trend in employment generation from April to September across three financial years. Following a decline in persondays generated from 210 crores in the financial year 2021-22 to 172 – an 18% decrease – a modest increase occurred in the current financial year, reaching 188 crores (a 9% increase). This intriguing trend unfolds despite a reduction in the number of active job cards, workers, and a significant number of deletions, including the wrongful removal of millions of workers from NREGA. It is reasonable to infer that the generated persondays would have been even higher if those wrongly deleted workers were reinstated, underscoring the substantial reliance of workers on NREGA. This observation emphasizes the persistently high and growing demand for employment opportunities under NREGA.

4.1 State level data

Persondays of work increased in 14 states and decreased in 6 states

In comparison to Apr-Sep 2022-23, 14 states had an increase in the number of persondays of work created, while 6 states saw a loss in Apr-Sep 2023-24. Figure 4 illustrates trends by state.

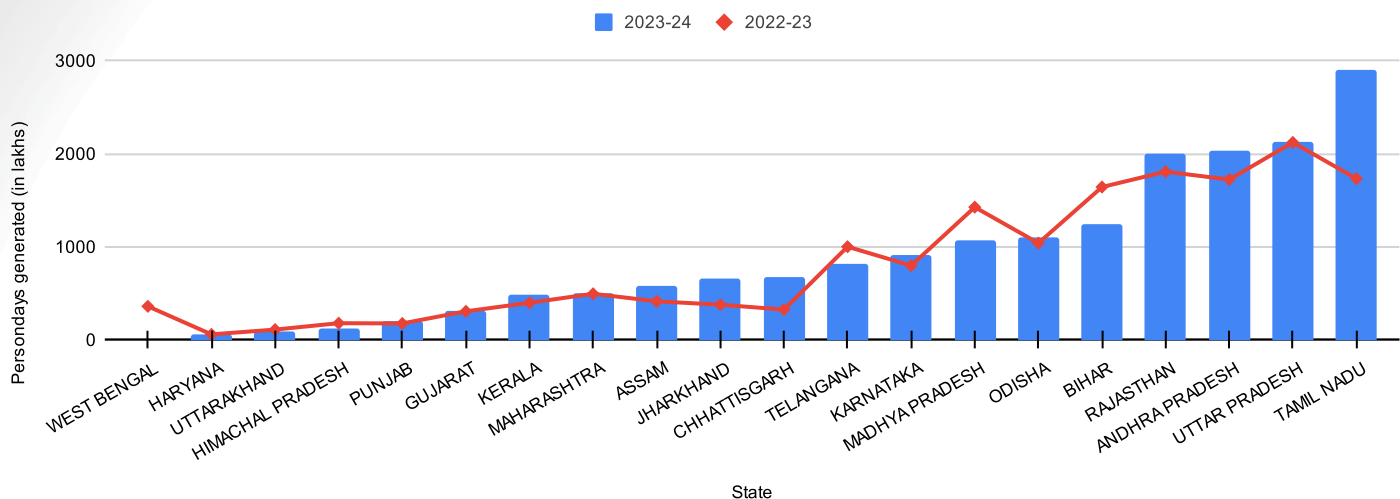


Figure 4: State-wise persondays for April-September for 2022-23 and 2023-24

As shown in figure 4, the biggest drops were observed in West Bengal (99.5%), Himachal Pradesh (28.6%), and Madhya Pradesh (25.2%), while Chhattisgarh (106.4%), Jharkhand (75.6%) and Tamil Nadu (67.4%) experienced the highest rise.

5. Budget and balances

Net negative balance of Rs. 4,942 crores with more than five months remaining

Table 3: Availability, expenditure, payment due and net balance in NREGA as on 12th October 2023

	Amount (Rs. Crores)
Availability	67,418
Expenditure	66,220
Payment due	6,140
Net Balance	-4,942

Despite the increase in overall persondays of work generated, the low allocation of funds for NREGA indicates that unless additional funds are allocated to the scheme without delay employment in the later months will be impacted adversely. Table 3 shows the total availability at the beginning of the financial year along with the expenditure, payment due and net balance as on 12th October, 2023. The funds for NREGA have already run into a negative balance of 4,942 crores. While an additional fund is likely to be allocated, as is done each year, it might not be enough to meet the increased persondays and may come with a time lag, delaying wage payments and impacting employment generation. The increase in persondays of work coupled with an increase in wage rate requires a higher allocation compared to the previous financial year.

5.1 State level data

Only five states have a positive balance. Remaining funds can cover at most 18 days of employment per household

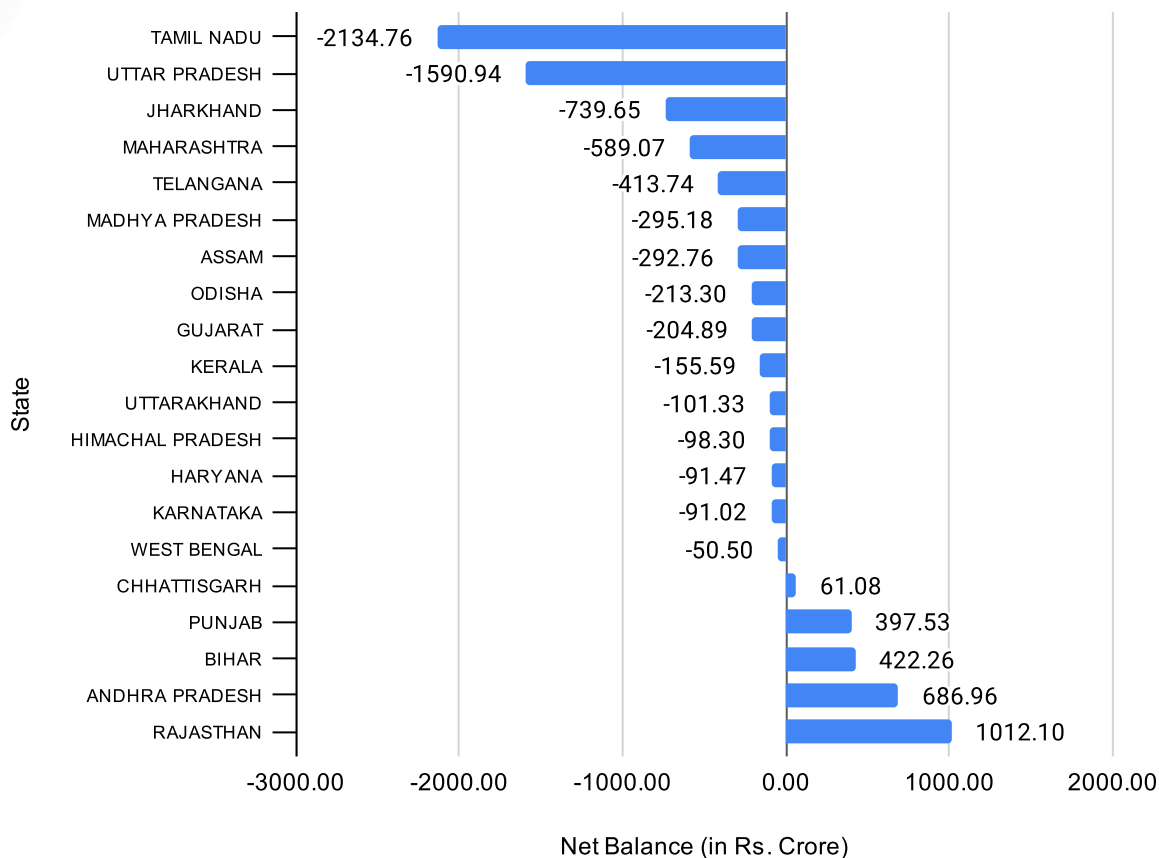


Figure 5: Net balances across the states as on 12th October 2023

Figure 5 shows the net balances at the state level as on 12th October 2023. The detailed state level data is presented in Annexure 3. Only 5 states have a positive balance, while 15 states have a negative balance. The highest positive balances are for Rajasthan (Rs. 1,012 crores), Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 687 crores) and Bihar (Rs. 422 crores). The highest negative balances are for Tamil Nadu (-Rs. 2,134 crores), Uttar Pradesh (-Rs. 1,591 crores) and Jharkhand (-Rs. 740 crores), states which have experienced a huge surge in employment in the current year.

Amongst the states with positive balance, the remaining funds can cover at most 18 days of employment per household for Punjab till 31st March 2024 if no new households seek employment¹¹. In other states, the remaining funds can cover less than 10 days of employment per household. However, if we consider the number of active Job cards, the number goes down. By these calculations the remaining funds would cover 11 days of employment per household in Punjab. Further, in other states the remaining funds can cover less than 5 days of employment. It should also be noted that these numbers are based on the assumption that the remaining funds would only be spent on wage expenditure.

¹¹ Days of employment = Net balance / (Number of households employed * Notified wage rate)

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, this comprehensive report presents a nuanced overview of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) implementation in India for the period of Apr-Sep 2023. We analyzed and compared data from the fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 to offer valuable insights. The reduction in active workers, coupled with a substantial net deletion of 80 lakh workers during the current financial year, highlights the challenges faced by the program and underscores the need for a meticulous examination. The mandated Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) faces hurdles, with a significant proportion of workers remaining ineligible despite multiple deadline extensions. The aspect of employment provision reveals a commendable 9% increase in persondays generated, signaling the sustained demand for work under MGNREGA. State-level data exposes disparities, with certain states experiencing positive balances while others grapple with significant negative balances. The national net negative balance of Rs. 4,942 crores emphasizes the urgent requirement for additional funds to meet the escalating demand for employment and prevent delays in wage payments. In essence, the MGNREGA program plays a pivotal role in providing rural employment, and its effectiveness hinges on addressing challenges such as worker deletions, ABPS eligibility, and ensuring adequate budget allocations. This report's insights are intended to inform policymakers, citizens, and stakeholders, urging collective efforts to revitalize and strengthen the MGNREGA framework for inclusive and sustainable rural development. Your engagement with this report is crucial for fostering a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of MGNREGA implementation in the country.

Annexure I:

State	No. of Registered	No. of Jobcard deleted in current year	No. of Jobcard included in current year	Net deletions
ANDHRA PRADESH	1,21,23,624	5,94,600	4,68,328	1,26,272
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	4,89,021	39,152	20,739	18,413
ASSAM	1,20,17,270	2,99,898	3,56,811	-56,913
BIHAR	2,16,65,926	3,60,184	6,79,781	-3,19,597
CHHATTISGARH	84,31,489	11,19,989	1,65,731	9,54,258
GOA	50,754	22	323	-301
GUJARAT	92,17,398	4,77,605	1,94,829	2,82,776
HARYANA	22,78,693	8,048	75,763	-67,715
HIMACHAL PRADESH	27,24,690	52,628	39,076	13,552
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	23,10,559	95,033	34,523	60,510
JHARKHAND	92,43,623	4,86,390	2,11,257	2,75,133
KARNATAKA	1,75,96,209	5,05,717	3,89,672	1,16,045
KERALA	60,20,897	2,17,915	93,894	1,24,021
LADAKH	51,509	1,773	1,168	605
MADHYA PRADESH	1,71,55,840	15,98,740	5,05,796	10,92,944
MAHARASHTRA	2,78,32,304	1,42,990	4,60,583	-3,17,593
MANIPUR	9,98,735	34,008	33,484	524
MEGHALAYA	12,31,206	1,01,570	51,369	50,201
MIZORAM	2,32,402	11,115	10,790	325
NAGALAND	7,74,664	8,531	13,009	-4,478
ODISHA	1,01,66,983	10,65,798	4,87,960	5,77,838
PUNJAB	27,09,349	1,04,236	84,406	19,830
RAJASTHAN	2,29,70,935	11,58,316	3,86,150	7,72,166
SIKKIM	1,42,375	6,487	3,726	2,761
TAMIL NADU	1,31,38,054	5,33,370	3,75,114	1,58,256
TELANGANA	1,05,29,136	1,20,281	1,34,487	-14,206
TRIPURA	11,92,664	75,698	40,634	35,064
UTTAR PRADESH	2,18,64,438	42,01,683	6,43,969	35,57,714
UTTARAKHAND	16,98,193	59,415	32,123	27,292
WEST BENGAL	2,56,90,784	5,66,721	11,328	5,55,393
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	52,784	45	684	-639
DN HAVELI AND DD	33,136	2	4	-2
LAKSHADWEEP	16,572	22	178	-156
PUDUCHERRY	1,11,464	539	4,611	-4,072
Total	26,27,63,680	1,40,48,521	60,12,300	80,36,221

Annexure 2:

State	SC (in lakhs)		ST (in lakhs)		Other (in lakhs)	
	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24	2022-23	2023-24
ANDHRA PRADESH	1903.9	2116.3	748.3	956.6	5363.3	6163.4
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	107.3	138.4	7.2	9.2
ASSAM	56.8	134.7	248.7	367.3	1260.5	1654.4
BIHAR	1172.7	977.6	117.9	98.9	5522.9	4588.8
CHHATTISGARH	111.6	303.8	411.7	1077.9	744.3	1842
GOA	0	0	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7
GUJARAT	67.2	70.3	624.5	616	707	628.9
HARYANA	105.4	117.8	0	0	101	103.5
HIMACHAL PRADESH	169.2	128.4	59.2	40.3	424.1	316
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	8	7.5	15.3	24.2	149	226.3
JHARKHAND	128.6	230.7	311.4	598.5	794.5	1714.8
KARNATAKA	522.6	604.3	402.2	469.7	2076.4	2473.2
KERALA	255.4	270.6	83.7	110.2	978.8	1145.5
LADAKH	0	0	15.3	11	0	0
MADHYA PRADESH	753.8	497.4	1794.1	1205.5	3095.5	2241.6
MAHARASHTRA	160	146.6	469.5	347.8	1492	1388
MANIPUR	2.7	0.7	19.6	26.5	15.9	15.2
MEGHALAYA	1	2.2	162.3	328	6.2	21.7
MIZORAM	0.1	0.1	397.2	370.6	2.9	3.2
NAGALAND	0	0	454.6	642	2.8	6.3
ODISHA	584.4	601	1434.1	1365.9	2036.7	2216.2
PUNJAB	420.1	530.4	0.1	0.2	157.5	196
RAJASTHAN	1500.3	1490.5	1968.9	2358.8	3950.8	4134.3
SIKKIM	3.2	3.5	23.5	29.5	32.3	42
TAMIL NADU	1733.5	2801	80.5	151.5	4042.9	7091
TELANGANA	1028.5	840.8	1013.7	823	2798.4	2211.5
TRIPURA	95.3	117.3	271.7	425.3	210.8	274
UTTAR PRADESH	2272.2	2171.5	69.5	71.8	5430.9	6064.7
UTTARAKHAND	72.7	66.5	18.1	21.5	319.2	273.9
WEST BENGAL	381	0.8	134.9	0.4	1191.2	7.5
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	0	0	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.7
DN HAVELI AND DD	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0.1	0	0
PUDUCHERRY	6.1	14.6	0	0.1	12.3	36
Total	13516.1	14247.1	11458.9	12678.3	42929.6	47091.7

Annexure 3:

State	Availability (in Rs. crore)	Expenditure (in Rs. crore)	Payment due (in Rs. crore)	Net Balance (in Rs. crore)
ANDHRA PRADESH	8,100	7,324	89	687
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	326	300	39	-12
ASSAM	1,409	1,579	122	-293
BIHAR	5,541	4,832	287	422
CHHATTISGARH	2,580	2,332	187	61
GOA	0	1	0	-1
GUJARAT	1,370	1,221	354	-205
HARYANA	273	311	53	-91
HIMACHAL PRADESH	600	586	112	-98
JAMMU AND KASHMIR	425	511	39	-124
JHARKHAND	1,758	2,344	154	-740
KARNATAKA	4,615	4,162	544	-91
KERALA	2,010	1,979	186	-156
LADAKH	24	20	2	2
MADHYA PRADESH	4,369	4,290	375	-295
MAHARASHTRA	1,922	2,054	457	-589
MANIPUR	376	236	47	93
MEGHALAYA	442	656	83	-297
MIZORAM	396	407	3	-13
NAGALAND	729	669	119	-59
ODISHA	3,649	3,314	549	-213
PUNJAB	1,262	781	83	398
RAJASTHAN	6,415	4,981	422	1,012
SIKKIM	73	79	17	-24
TAMIL NADU	7,509	9,377	267	-2,135
TELANGANA	3,077	3,077	414	-414
TRIPURA	726	727	26	-26
UTTAR PRADESH	6,974	7,553	1,011	-1,591
UTTARAKHAND	319	379	41	-101
WEST BENGAL	97	89	59	-51
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	7	3	1	3
DN HAVELI AND DD	2	0	0	2
LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0
PUDUCHERRY	41	44	1	-4
Total	67,418	66,220	6,140	-4,942

About LibTech

We are a team of engineers, social workers and social scientists who are interested in improving public service delivery in India. We have been working as a team in multiple states of the country including Telangana for the last 10 years, though individually some of us have been involved for more than a decade.



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