

Press Release
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National MGNREGA Tracker Shows Fall in Employment Despite Rise in Registrations: LibTech India Report Released by NSM

The **NREGA Sangharsh Morcha (NSM)** today released a new national report titled “*The Missing Work: A National Review of MGNREGA Implementation (FY 2024–25)*”, compiled by **LibTech India**. Based on government data as of April 7, 2025, the tracker reveals a troubling disconnect: while more rural households registered for work under MGNREGA, the actual employment generated has declined significantly.

The report was released online, accompanied by testimonies from workers across states who highlighted how **payment delays, Aadhaar-related exclusions, and budget constraints** are undermining the spirit of India’s right to work.

Key National Findings: FY 2024–25 Compared to FY 2023–24

- **8.6% increase** in registered households, but a **7.1% drop** in persondays generated and a **4.3% decline** in average days worked per household.
- Only **7% of households completed 100 days** of work (down from 7.6%).
- **No work recorded in West Bengal** for a third consecutive year due to stalled central funds.
- **Net addition of 1.16 crore Job-cards and 1.31 crore workers**, but this did not improve employment outcomes.
- **27.5% of all workers and 1.5% of active workers** remain **ineligible for Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS)**; field reports show they are often **denied work**, violating legal entitlements.
- No measurable **efficiency gains from ABPS** over traditional systems.
- The Union government allocated only **₹86,000 crore** for MGNREGA in FY 2024–25 — far below the **₹2.64 lakh crore** recommended by civil society (As per 2022-23 calculations).

Voices from the Field

During the online release, workers from multiple states shared how **delays in wage payments** and **technical and bureaucratic barriers** have discouraged their continued participation:

- **Karnataka:** A worker said, “Even after linking our job cards with Aadhaar and fulfilling all required formalities, we don’t receive wages within the mandated 15 days of completing work. In many cases, it takes up to three months for the payments to arrive.”
- **Odisha:** Several workers from Balangir district complained of rampant wage delays, they said that “even after working for two weeks, they haven’t received payment for more than 5 months.”
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Several female workers noted, “Our job cards had been deleted more than 2 years back because of which we couldn’t get any work.” Other workers stated that “sometimes we have to wait for more than 3 months to receive our wages. In order to pay for our children’s education, medical and other expenses we are forced to take loans from moneylenders.”
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Tribal workers stated that their job cards have been deleted due to which they have been denied work, and despite repeated appeals to those responsible their job cards haven’t been renewed.
- **Bihar:** A female worker said, “MGNREGA officials at the block level often give workers excuses when they go and ask them for work, saying they don’t have the money.” She also stated that sometimes “even if we do the work our attendance is not captured in the NMMS because of which our wages are not paid.”
- **West Bengal:** A worker said that “in the past three years since there has been no NREGA work and since there are no towns nearby where people can find work, the situation in the villages has become a matter of life and death. This is why people are leaving the village in search of work.”

State-Level Trends (Summarised):

- **Sharpest employment declines:** Odisha (34.8%), Tamil Nadu (25.1%), Rajasthan (15.9%)
- **Largest gains:** Maharashtra (39.7%), Himachal Pradesh (14.8%), Bihar (13.3%)

Call to Action

NSM call on the government to:

- **Restore funds** to West Bengal immediately.
- **End the ABPS mandate** and allow alternative wage payment modes.

- **Significantly raise the MGNREGA budget**, in line with actual demand.
- **Ensure timely payments** and protect workers from tech-driven exclusions.

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LibTech India – a collective of researchers, engineers, and social workers focused on improving welfare delivery in rural India. **Download the Full Report:** <http://libtech.in>