

For immediate release

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## **NREGA Sangharsh Morcha Releases LibTech India Report on Declining MGNREGA Employment; Demands Consultation with Civil Society on VB-GRAM G Transition**

### **Report finds sharp decline in employment generation and earnings under MGNREGA during FY 2025–26**

The NREGA Sangharsh Morcha (NSM) today released a national report prepared by LibTech India titled “*Declining Employment and Earnings Under MGNREGA in FY 2025–26*”, highlighting a significant decline in employment generation under MGNREGA during FY 2025–26 amid the ongoing transition towards the new VB-GRAM G framework.

The report, based on official MGNREGA MIS data, finds that:

- 45.4% of all workers and 9.5% of active workers did not complete eKYC: 11.58 crores of all workers and 0.95 crores of active workers did not complete eKYC
- 44 lakh fewer households were employed under MGNREGA in FY 2025–26
- 67 lakh fewer workers accessed employment
- Total persondays generated declined by 57.71 crore
- Average persondays per household dropped from 50.18 to 42.92
- Households completing 100 days of employment declined by 40.5%

The report further notes that the decline was geographically widespread, with 15 out of 20 major states analysed registering a fall in persondays generated during the year.

Quarterly trends presented in the report show that employment losses persisted throughout the year, with particularly sharp declines during Q3 and Q4 of FY 2025–26. The report situates these trends within a broader context of administrative, technological, and policy changes, including the transition following the repeal of MGNREGA and rollout of the VB-GRAM G framework, while cautioning that the data does not permit direct causal attribution.

The report also highlights the income implications of reduced employment generation. Despite an increase in average wage rates, overall wage expenditure declined sharply from ₹67,834.79 crore to ₹56,264.91 crore in FY 2025–26, reflecting the impact of reduced employment availability on rural households.

Releasing the report, the NREGA Sangharsh Morcha expressed concern over the ongoing transition from MGNREGA to VB-GRAM G without adequate public consultation. The Morcha stated that employment guarantee programmes play a critical role in rural livelihood security and that any major restructuring of such programmes must involve meaningful consultation with workers' organisations, grassroots groups, researchers, trade unions, and civil society organisations working closely with rural communities.

#### **NSM called upon the Union Government to:**

- Hold structured consultations with civil society organisations and workers' collectives on the transition to VB-GRAM G
- Ensure transparency regarding the design and implementation of the new framework
- Protect employment access during the transition period
- Revoke technological barriers that restrict workers' access to employment and wages

The Morcha emphasized that public employment programmes must continue to remain accessible, rights-oriented, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable rural households.

#### **About NREGA Sangharsh Morcha (NSM)**

NREGA Sangharsh Morcha is a national platform of workers' organisations, trade unions, activists, and civil society groups working on issues related to MGNREGA and rural livelihoods.

#### **About LibTech India**

LibTech India is a collective of engineers, social workers, and researchers working on public service delivery, welfare systems, transparency, and accountability across multiple states in India.

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