

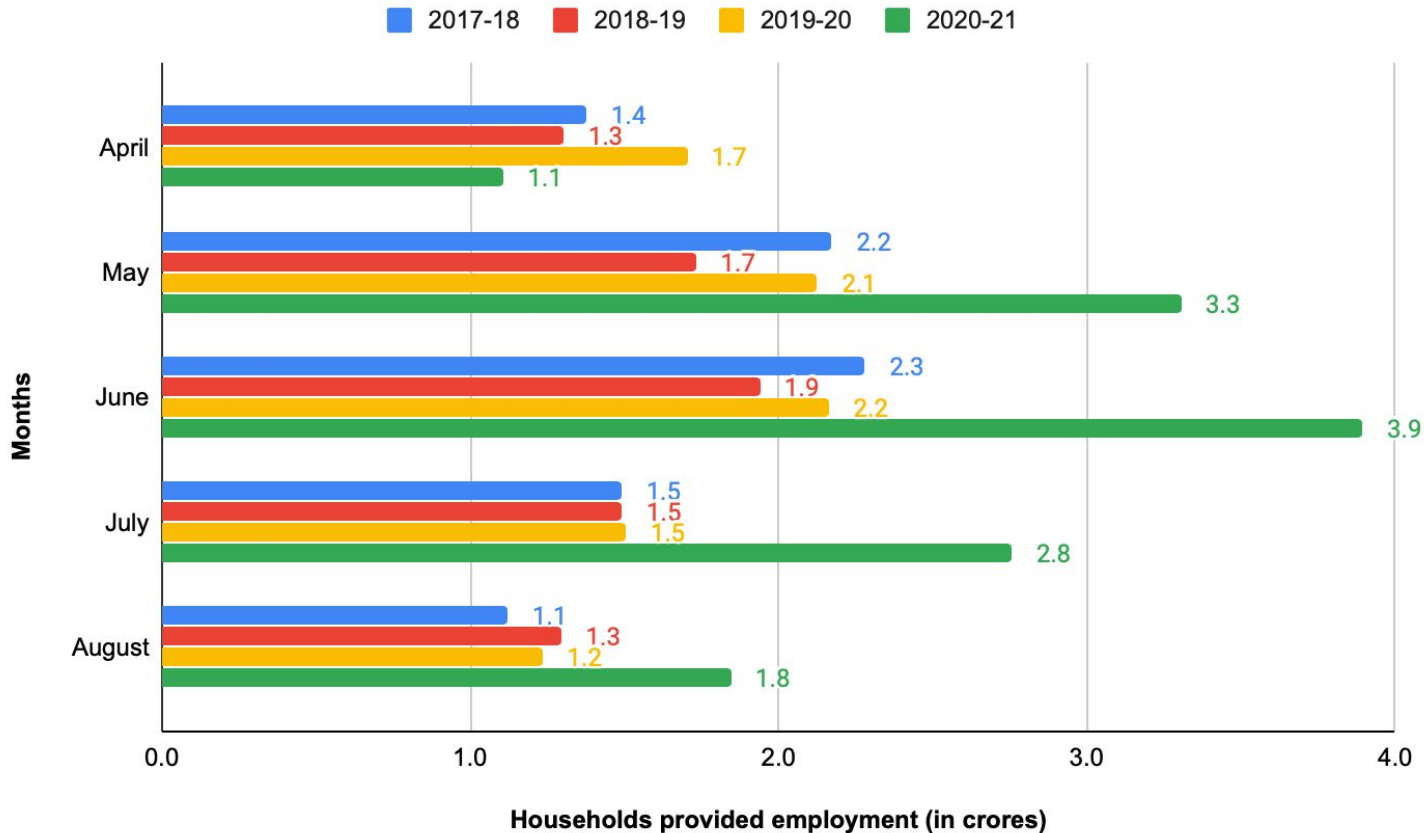
NREGA during the pandemic and beyond:
*Implementation highlights, concerns and
questions and demands for
parliamentarians*

**Press conference organised by Peoples' Action
for Employment Guarantee**

NREGA key to the government's relief response, increase in demand and employment validates its critical role

- Rs 1 lakh crore budget allocation, “highest ever” in absolute terms
- Unprecedented take up of NREGA this year
 - 85 lakh new job cards issues since April 2020 (~22% increase in the number of new job cards compared to the last 5 years)
 - 5.8 crore households have got work under NREGA since April, 2020
 - On average, the number of households that worked in NREGA in the last 5 years is 5.2 crore

Highest number of households employed in the last three years



Most states unable to provide a 100 day guarantee, but what about households that need work and have exhausted 100 days?

- 6.8 lakh households have already completed 100 days of work, but this is only 1.2% of those employed under NREGA.
- An additional 51 lakh households have already completed 70 days of work.
- On average in the last 5 years, 42 lakh households completed 100 days of work in a year
- Only some states are able to provide a full 100 days to a larger share of households such as Andhra Pradesh (2.6 lakh), Chhattisgarh (84,000), West Bengal (82,000) and Odisha (52,000)

| Select States | 71-80 days (in lakhs) | 81-99 days (in lakhs) | 100 days and above (in lakhs) |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ANDHRA PRADESH | 2.6 | 4.45 | 2.65 |
| BIHAR | 0.98 | 0.95 | 0.02 |
| CHHATTISGARH | 1.02 | 1.12 | 0.84 |
| KARNATAKA | 0.87 | 1.87 | 0.11 |
| MADHYA PRADESH | 2.34 | 5.04 | 0.38 |
| MAHARASHTRA | 0.21 | 0.25 | 0.39 |
| ODISHA | 1.08 | 2.04 | 0.53 |
| RAJASTHAN | 3.79 | 4.74 | 0.38 |
| TELANGANA | 1.34 | 2.04 | 0.17 |
| UTTAR PRADESH | 1.75 | 2.89 | 0.29 |
| WEST BENGAL | 1.82 | 3.14 | 0.83 |
| All India | 20.20 | 31.38 | 6.87 |

16% unmet demand

- **1.55 crore persons who have demanded work have not got work**
- Unmet demand highest in Uttar Pradesh (27%), Madhya Pradesh (22%) and Bihar (20%)
- These are conservative figures because:
 - Demand suppression at source
 - MIS only shows the number of people and households who have demanded work and got receipt.
 - While the MIS shows the number of days of employment generated, **it does not show the total number of days of work demanded.**
 - True unmet demand is likely to be much higher.

| Select States | First Tracker (10 July 2020) | | Second tracker (03 August 2020) | | 08 September 2020 | |
|------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | Difference between persons demanded employment and persons provided employment (in lakh) | Percentage of people who demanded and didn't receive employment (%) | Difference between persons demanded employment and persons provided employment (in lakh) | Percentage of people who demanded and didn't receive employment (%) | Difference between persons demanded employment and persons provided employment (in lakh) | Percentage of people who demanded and didn't receive employment (%) |
| Uttar Pradesh | 35.43 | 30.64 | 33.57 | 27.47 | 35.01 | 27.11 |
| Bihar | 10.48 | 24.24 | 9.6 | 20.81 | 9.98 | 20.22 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 16.39 | 23.72 | 17.45 | 22.81 | 19.38 | 22.75 |
| West Bengal | 17.48 | 21.83 | 13.26 | 14.98 | 13.03 | 13.35 |
| Rajasthan | 19.11 | 20.92 | 16.63 | 16.95 | 13.78 | 13.37 |
| Chhattisgarh | 11.94 | 19.96 | 11.9 | 19.79 | 11.74 | 19.37 |
| All India | 1.74 Crore | 22.23 | 1.52 Crore | 16.77 | 1.55 Crore | 15.90 |

Source: MGNREGA MIS Report R5.1.1 accessed on 10/07/2020, 03/08/2020 and 08/09/2020

Original Budgetary Allocation Is Exhausted in Less than Half the Year: CORONA Relief Package for NREGA Yet to Be Released

- As on Sep 9, 2020, Rs 64,000 crores have been spent.
- The promised special relief package of Rs 40,000 crores is yet to be released
- As a result, the Gol has a negative balance of Rs 481 crores (total pending liabilities)
- System of releases from Centre to states as per Labour Budgets means some states have much higher pending liabilities.
- For eg, Gol owes Rs 3,200 crores to the workers of Chhattisgarh.
- Other states with high negative balance are: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana

| Selected States | Total allotted funds to the States (in crores) | Total expenditure including payment due (in crores) | Net Balance (in crores) | Funds left as a percentage of total allotted funds (%) |
|------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| BIHAR | 4,149.09 | 4,373.34 | -224.25 | -5.40 |
| CHHATTISGARH | 2,632.95 | 5,803.74 | -3,170.79 | -120.43 |
| JHARKHAND | 1,700.56 | 979.09 | 721.47 | 42.43 |
| KARNATAKA | 3,248.30 | 3,120.44 | 127.86 | 3.94 |
| MADHYA PRADESH | 4,622.68 | 4,430.49 | 192.19 | 4.16 |
| ODISHA | 2,439.67 | 2,508.99 | -69.32 | -2.84 |
| RAJASTHAN | 6,068.57 | 5,820.82 | 247.75 | 4.08 |
| TAMIL NADU | 4,001.72 | 4,047.85 | -46.13 | -1.15 |
| UTTAR PRADESH | 6,429.96 | 6,523.83 | -93.87 | -1.46 |
| WEST BENGAL | 6,961.79 | 6,148.32 | 813.48 | 11.68 |
| All India | 63,176.43 | 63,511.95 | -335.52 | -0.53 |

Source - MGNREGA MIS Report R.7.1 accessed on 08/09/2020

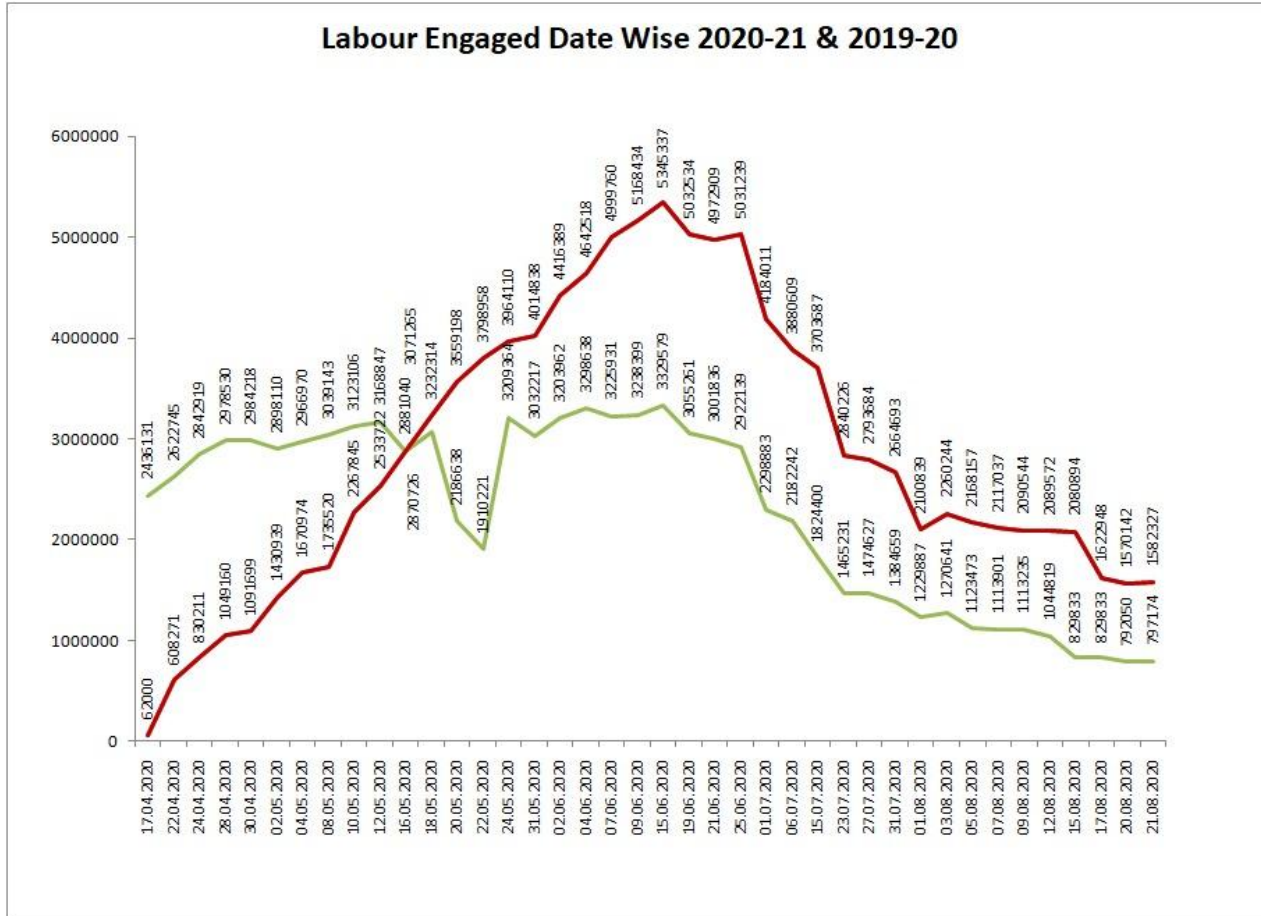
Rs 1200 crore wage payments continue to be rejected

- A rejected transaction is like a bounced cheque. Payments get rejected due to technical reasons such as incorrect account numbers, incorrect mapping of Aadhaar with bank accounts etc.
- All India, around 1 in every 23 transactions get rejected.
- Workers are usually in the dark about how to rectify them.
- Unless rejected payments get rectified the workers don't have access to their own wages.
- As of July 2020, over the last 5 years, about Rs 4,800 crores of wage payments were rejected. (More than 5 crore transactions)
- Wages for 6.43 crore days of work remain rejected and unresolved
- Top 5 States with most number of rejected transactions in the last 5 years: MP, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and AP

No difference in NREGA performance in GKRA vs non GKRA districts

- Gareeb Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan launched in 116 districts on 20th June to boost employment in districts with large numbers of returned migrants.
- GKRA itself offers little new money and pools already allocated funds
- Despite the high profile launch, prioritisation and additional focus and monitoring, there is little difference in NREGA performance
- In Khagaria, for every 100 households that demanded work, 1/3rd of them were not provided work, 1/4th households in Sitamarhi and 1/5th households in Banka, Begusarai, and Hazaribagh were not provided work till July.

Rajasthan- employment generation since April



Declining proportion of womens' employment under NREGA

