

Implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Manipur (2015-16): An Assessment

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is demand driven, self-targeting employment generating poverty alleviation scheme which was launched by the UPA government in 2005 with full of hope to eradicate the problems of poverty and unemployment in the rural areas of India by targeting to provide at least 100 days of employment at each rural households. It is the only employment-generating programme, that a beneficiary can claim legally. The scheme was introduced in Manipur in the year 2008 with lot of hope to minimise the problem of poverty and unemployment in the state but after the eight years of implementation, the programme failed to deliver the expectations the people had on it. In this paper, an assessment of the performance of MGNREGS in Manipur of the year 2015-16 has been made.

Keywords: MGNREGS, Scheme, Employment, Social, Execution, Development

1. Introduction

Poverty and unemployment are the two main barriers in the pave of growth and development of a nation. The nation who succeeds in crossing these barriers easily solves the problems of poverty. We all know that poverty is a curse in the mankind. Poverty is the source of unemployment, social exclusion, crime and other social, political and economic problems. It has been an important impediment in the way of growth and development of a country. We can even compare poverty to a curse in the development of a country. India suffers from poverty and is still far more behind the other developed countries. According to World Bank, India has 30 percent of its population under Below Poverty Line at 224 million in year 2013, which is largest number of population below poverty line in the world. Rural poverty has been always a big reason for higher rate of poverty in India. In order to pave India in the way of development, all the sources and issues related to poverty need to be checked and solved. Without taking care of this poverty related issues and problems, a country cannot attain the targeted growth and development rates. In India,

since independence, many developmental plans have been formulated and adopted by the different government. Among those developmental plans, using public employment as a social security measure and for poverty alleviation measure in rural areas is very common. After three decades of experimentation, the government launched major schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Food for Work Programme, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana that were forerunners to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

MGNREGS is a demand driven employment programme which was introduced with an aim to guarantee at least 100 days of unskilled employment to all the poor families in rural areas of India. This scheme is different from other employment programmes on the basis of two important facts viz. it is demand driven and it is a right based employment opportunity. The scheme has a lot of expectations considering its main objectives like employment generation, food security, alleviation of poverty, preventing migration and overall rural development. Since it was launched in the year of 2006, there are a lot of mix reaction from different states about its performance and success.

MGNREGS was implemented in three phases:

(a) Phase I - started in 200 district on 2 February 2006

(b) Phase II - extended the implementation to more 130 districts in financial year 2007-08 (113 districts in 2007-08 and 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh from 15 May 2007).

(c) Phase III - extended to all other remaining districts in the Indian union from 1st April 2008

On 2nd October 2009, the scheme was renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

2. Objectives of MGNREGS

Important objectives of MGNREGS consist of ensuring social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India through providing employment opportunities, Ensuring livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity, Strengthening drought-proofing and flood management in rural India, Aiding in the empowerment of the marginalised communities, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation, Strengthening decentralised, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives, Deepening democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance. Above the empowerment of unskilled population of the rural areas, empowerment of marginalised communities like women, SCs, STs are clearly mentioned in the objectives of the scheme.

3. Important Features of MGNREGS

- Adult members of a rural household, willing to do unskilled manual work, may apply for registration in writing or orally to the locally Gram Panchayat.
- The Gram Panchayat after due verification will issue a job Card free of cost.
- The job Card should be issued within 15 days of application.
- A job Card holder may apply for the employment under the scheme to the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat will issue a dated receipt of the written application for employment.
- The gram panchayat must provide the work within the 15 days of the application otherwise daily unemployment allowance must be given to the job card holder by the state.
- Any work under MGNREGS should be provided within 5 km radius of the village. In case work is provided beyond 5 km, extra wages of 10 per cent are payable to meet additional transportation and living expenses.

- Payment of wages is mandatorily done through the individual/joint bank/post office beneficiary accounts. Wages are to be paid as per the State-wise Schedule of Rates (SoRs). Payment of wages has to be done on a weekly basis and not beyond a fortnight in any case. Equal wages will be provided to both men and women.
- At least 1/3rd beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the scheme.
- Worksite facilities such as day cares of children for the women workers, drinking water and shade have to be provided at all worksites.
- Planning and Implementation of works of a Financial year along with the order in which each work is to be taken up, site selection, etc. are the responsibility of the Gram Panchayat and it is decided in open assemblies of the Gram Sabha (GS). At least 50 per cent of works will be allotted to Gram Panchayats for execution.
- Permissible works predominantly include water and soil conservation, afforestation and land development works.
- A 60:40 wage and material ratio has to be maintained. No contractors and machinery is allowed.
- The Central Government bears the 100 per cent wage cost of unskilled manual labour and 75 per cent of the material cost including the wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers.
- Transparency and accountability is an important feature to make MGNREGS to protect the scheme from corruption, fraud, misused of fund and the other unwanted implementation factors in the course of implementation through out the country. Social audit is an important part to scrutinise all the records and works under the Scheme are to be conducted regularly by the GS. Grievance redressal mechanisms and rules have to be put in place for ensuring a responsive implementation process. All accounts and records relating to the Scheme are available for public scrutiny by using Management Information System (MIS) and Information communication technology (ICT).

Nationally, the total household worked under this scheme in the FY 2015-16 is around 4.8132 crores with total individual worked under this scheme is 7.2257 crores in FY 2015-16. The total person-days generated under this scheme in the FY 2015-16 is around 235 crores while the target was 239.11 crores person-days. Out of the whole person-days created, 55.25 % is women, 22.28 percent is Schedule Caste, and 17.75 percent is Schedule Tribe in the FY 2015-16. Average days of employment provided in the FY 2015-16 are 48.8 days. It is found that the national average day of employment is even less than the half of the targeted minimum number of employment days (100 days) according to the MGNREG Act. The total numbers of households completed 100 Days of Wage Employment in the FY 2015-16 is 48,48,013. Average national wage rate under this scheme is Rs 154.09 in the

FY 2015-16. Only 36.98 percent payments are generated within the 15 days of completion of work in 2015-16.

4. The Manipur Scenario

The present paper is an attempt to make a critical assessment about the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Manipur during the financial year 2015-16. The study is based on the secondary data sources which are available at the official website of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (www.nrega.nic.in), Economic survey of Manipur, census abstracts and published papers related with the MGNREGS in Manipur.

The name “Manipur” literally mean the land of gems which was officially introduced in the early eighteen century during the reign of Hinduism Garibaniwaza (1709- 1748). Geographically, Manipur is one of the north eastern state in India surrounded by Nagaland in the north, Mizoram in the south, Myanmar on the East and South East and Assam in the west. It has a total area of 22,327 sq. km, and having a population of 27,21,756 (2011 cen-

sus) . Manipur lies between 23.830 N and 25.680 N latitude and between 93.030 E and 94.780 E longitude. Manipur is physically divide in two part viz. Hill and valley. The hill part cover nearly 90 percent (20,089 sq. km) of the total area of the state and the valley is surrounded by the the hills like a bowl shape. There are 9 districts in Manipur viz. Thoubal, Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur Churachandpur, Senapati, Ukhrul, Tamelong and Ukhrul. The population of Manipur as per 2011 census was 28.56 lakhs comprising 14.39 lakhs of males and 14.17 lakhs of females of which, the rural population is 1,736,236 and the urban population 834,154. Population of Manipur constitutes nearly 0.24 % of the total population of India. The population growth rate of Manipur is found to be higher than that of India. The population growth rate of Manipur in 2011 is 24.50 % as against All India growth rate of 17.70 %. Chandel has recorded the highest decadal growth rate in rural population (23.2%) and Imphal East (69.2%) the highest decadal growth rate in urban population during 2001 -2011. The density of population of Manipur as per 2011 census was 128 persons per sq.km. The sex ratio for the state as a whole has improved from 974 females per 1000 males in 2001 to 985 females per 1000 males in 2011 in rural areas, it



Figure 1 Manipur Map.

is 976 while it is 1026 in urban area. The birth rate of population per annum in the rural areas of Manipur is 14.6 in 2007 and the death rate is 4.4 in the same period. The urban birth rate is 15.1 in 2013 where the urban death is 4.2 in the same period. Out of the 28.56 lakh population, 3.41 % are scheduled castes communities and 40.88 % are of scheduled tribes. The ST population was 11.67 lakhs as against 7.41 lakhs in 2001 Census. The total SC population was 97 thousand in 2011 census as against 60 thousands in 2001 Census. In terms of literacy, Manipur ranks fifth among the North Eastern States of India as per the final figures of the 2011 census. The literacy rate is 76.94 percent in 2011 with (males 83.58 percent and females 70.26 percent). The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Manipur for 2013-14 at current prices is estimated to be Rs. 14,323 crores. At constant (2004-05) prices, GSDP in 2013-14 is estimated at Rs. 8,330 crores as against Rs. 7,843 crores. The Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at current prices for the year 2013-14 is estimated at Rs. 12,559 crores. Per Capita Income (PCI) which is generally considered as the most effective indicator showing the average size of the income and the standard of living of the people. The net PCI of Manipur at current and constant (2004-05) prices in 2013-14 are estimated to be Rs. 41,573 and Rs. 24,042 respectively showing an increase of 10.40 % and 3.94 % over the previous year. (*Economic survey of Manipur 2015-16*)

The MGNREGS was launched initially on 13th April, 2006 at District Headquarter, Tamenglong by distributing Job Cards to registered applicants. The total number of households for which job cards have been issued was 18,568 in 2006-07. During 2007-08, Chandel and Churachandpur districts have also been covered under the scheme. Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal,

Bishnupur, Senapati and Ukhrul have also been covered during 2008-09.

As required under the MGNREGS, the Government of Manipur has formulated a scheme called the Manipur Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MREGS). The scheme will focus on the following admissible works:

- (i) Water conservation and water harvesting;
- (ii) Drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation);
- (iii) Irrigation Canals including micro and minor irrigation works;
- (iv) Provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or to land of beneficiaries of land reforms or that of the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojna of the Government of India.
- (v) Renovation of traditional water bodies.
- (vi) Land Development;
- (vii) Flood control and protection works including drainage in water logged areas;
- (viii) Rural connectivity to provide all weather access; and work which may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

According to the table no 1, the approved labour budget for this scheme is Rs 245.56 Lakhs in the FY 2015-16. The approved labour budget in the FY 2014-15 is found to be lowest in the last four years that is only Rs 39.93 lakhs while it is Rs 311.02 lakhs in FY 2013-14 and 414.65 Lakhs in FY 2012-13. A Total of around 4.74 lakhs Households worked in the FY 2015-16, 4.69 lakhs in FY 2014-15, 4.55 Lakhs in FY 2013-14 and 4.57 Lakhs in FY 2012-13 under this scheme. The total persondays generated

Table 1. Performance of MGNRES in Manipur

Indicator	FY 2015-2016	FY 2014-2015	FY 2013-2014	FY 2012-2013
Approved Labour Budget[In Lakhs]	245.56	39.93	311.02	414.65
Persondays Generated so far[In Lakhs]	75.33	101.17	113.23	285.11
SC persondays % as of total persondays	2	3.06	1.45	1.49
ST persondays % as of total persondays	57.52	51.56	65.86	64.05
Women Persondays out of Total (%)	37.26	38.27	35.25	34.01
Average days of employment provided per Household	15.9	21.58	24.86	62.4
Average Wage rate per day per person(Rs.)	189.96	174.93	153.01	143.99
Total No of HHs completed 100 Days of Wage Employment	1	44	2	2,422
Total Households Worked[In Lakhs]	4.74	4.69	4.55	4.57
Total Individuals Worked[In Lakhs]	4.85	4.99	5.05	5.67
Differently abled persons worked	859	890	958	666

Table 2. District-wise Persondays Generated of Manipur FY 2015-2016

Sl.No	Districts	Projected Persondays	Persondays generated	Persondays achieved (%)
1	IMPHAL EAST	1818510	978061	53.78
2	IMPHAL WEST	1527718	584820	38.28
3	SENAPATI	4362601	1514491	34.72
4	CHANDEL	1737179	591155	34.03
5	BISHNUPUR	1533721	484273	31.58
6	TAMENGLONG	1882600	541495	28.76
7	CHURACHANDPUR	3974553	1105529	27.82
8	THOUBAL	3236954	892756	27.58
9	UKHRUL	4482388	840722	18.76

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

under this scheme in the FY 2015-16 is around Rs 75.33 Lakhs. It is learned that the persondays generated in the year 2015-16 is lowest among the last four years that are 101.17 Lakhs in the FY 2014-15, 113.23 Lakhs in FY 2013-14 and 285.11 Lakhs in FY 2012-13. The average days of the employment provided per household in the FY 2015-16 is only 15.9 days and it is the lowest in the last four years and very low comparing to the targeted 100 days of work under the scheme.

In the above table number 2, the details of the whole projected persondays, generated persondays and percentage of the achieved persondays for each district is given for the financial year 2015-16. It is found that maximum numbers of person-days were projected in the Ukhrul district (4482388) followed

by Senapati District (4362601) and Churachandpur (3974553). However, Imphal East district has achieved more than 50 percent of the targeted persondays in this financial year. On the other hand, only 18.76 percent of the targeted persondays has been achieved by the Ukhrul District.

The following Chart No 1 & 2 shows the targeted persondays comparing to the generated persondays for each financial year from 2012-13 to 2015-16. It is shown that in case of Manipur, the MGNREGS failed to generate the projected persondays in the last four years except in the 2014-15 (1.01 crores person days were generated while only 0.4 crores persondays were projected) and the achieved average persondays are continuously very less from projected persondays. In the FY 2015-16, only 0.75 crores

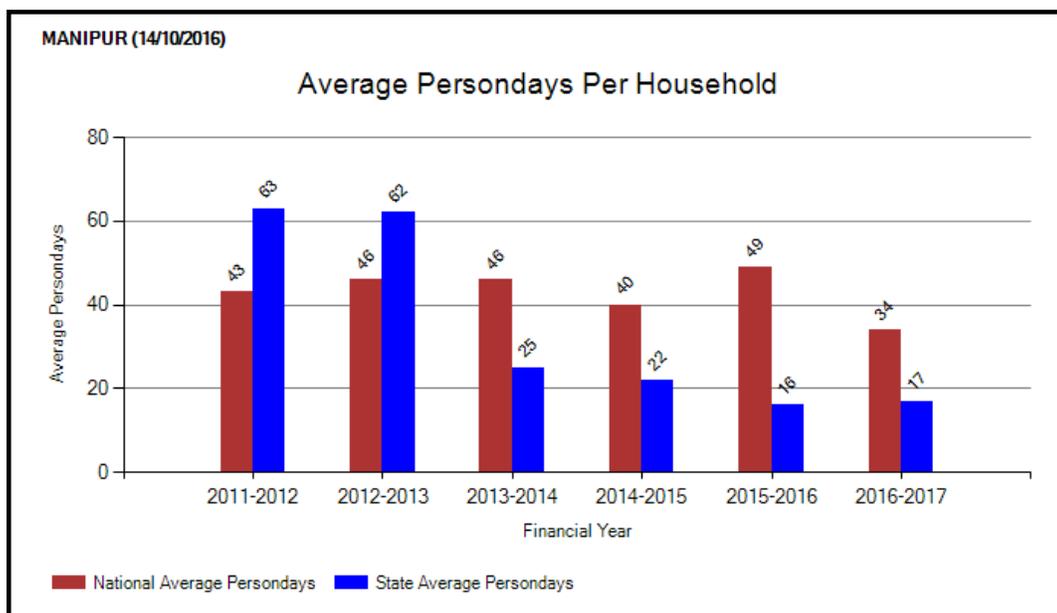


Chart 1. Average persondays per household in Manipur.

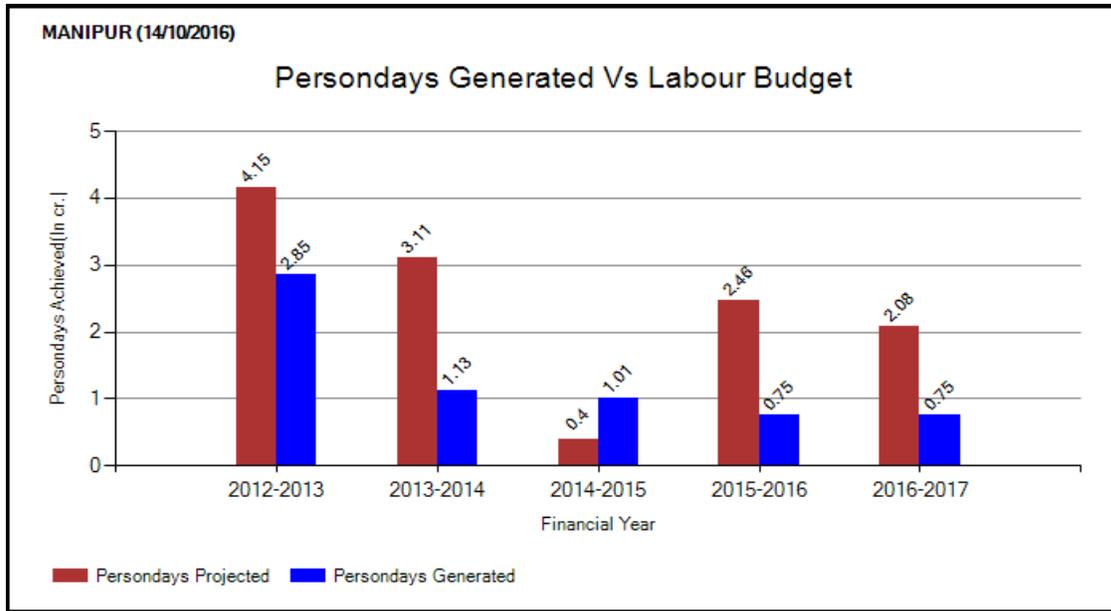


Chart 2. Persondays generated vs Labour budget in Manipur.

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

persondays were generated while the target were to generate 2.46 crores persondays.

5. Empowerment of SC, ST and Women

It is also found that the percentage of SC persondays as of the total persondays generated under this scheme in the FY 2015-16 is around 2 percent. And it is around 3 percent in FY 2014-15, around 1.45 percent in FY 2013-14 and 1.49 percent in the FY 2012-13. Regarding the percentage of ST Persondays as of the total persondays generated under this scheme in the FY 2015-16 is around 58 percent. And it is around 52 percent in FY 2014-15, around 66 percent in FY 2013-14 and around 64 percent in the FY 2012-13. It is learned that the percentage of persondays created for ST is far more than that of SCs in the last four years. Regarding the women participation in this scheme in Manipur, it is found that only 37.26 percent of the total persondays created is women in the FY 2015-16. It is 38.27 percent in FY 2014-15, 35.25 percent in FY 2013-14 and around 34 percent in FY 2012-13. Comparing to the national rate of women participation in this scheme, it is found that the national rate is higher than the Manipur in the last four years. The national women persondays created is always above 50 percent in the last four years which shows the higher participation of women in MGNREGS than man in the last financial years. But women persondays created in

Manipur state is always below 40 percent which shows the lower participation of women in MGNREGS as compared to man in the last financial years.

According to the Table no. 3, it is found that maximum numbers jobcards have been issued to SC household in Bishnupur district (7663) and to ST households in Senapati district (73637) in the FY 2015-16. Above this the two districts also have been reported for providing maximum employment to SC households (Bishnupur 7499) and to ST household (Senapati 73673). Imphal East has been reported for providing maximum numbers of employment to the women by giving employment to 40941 women under this scheme. Regarding the generation of the persondays, Bishnupur again leads other districts in Manipur by generating maximum SC persondays of 71625 followed by Imphal West (29919). Again Senapati District again leads other districts in Manipur by generating maximum ST persondays of 1389521 followed by Churachandpur (1082230). Imphal East has been reported for generating maximum women persondays by generating 530333 persondays in FY 2015-16.

Regarding the numbers of the household who have completed the 100 days of work, only one household is reported to complete the employment of the whole 100 days of work in the Manipur state. It is very important to explain the reason for enabling to provide 100 days of work to only one household among the total 538236 registered household in Manipur in this financial year.

Table 3. Details of the employment under MGNREGS in Manipur in FY 2015-16

S. No	District	HH issued jobcards			No. of HH Provided Employment			EMP Provided	No. of Person days generated						Families Completed 100 Days				
		SCs	STs	Others	Total	SCs	STs		Others	Total	SCs	STs	Others	Total	Women	SCs	STs	Others	Total
1	BISH-NUPUR	7663	135	39922	47720	7499	124	38661	46284	13966	71625	1318	411330	484273	146322	0	0	0	0
2	CHAN-DEL	17	30430	4797	35244	17	29888	4820	34725	10515	294	507455	507455	591155	176082	0	0	0	0
3	CHU-RA-CHAN-DP	5	58686	1296	59987	3	55773	1244	57020	16327	40	1082230	1082230	1105529	315596	0	0	0	0
4	IM-PHAL EAST	1563	2058	90185	93806	1162	1154	71045	73361	40941	23282	15790	15790	978061	530333	0	0	0	0
5	IM-PHAL WEST	2959	873	57614	61446	2556	705	46087	49348	30097	29919	8111	8111	584820	342260	0	0	0	0
6	SEN-APTI	264	73637	6533	80434	264	73673	6542	80479	20713	5077	1389521	1389521	1514491	389202	0	0	0	0
7	TA-MEN-GLONG	6	27528	2651	30185	6	27513	2649	30168	8135	104	493881	493881	541495	143076	0	0	0	0
8	THOU-BAL	2334	799	77170	80303	1915	264	52635	54814	32743	19372	5016	5016	892756	490971	0	0	1	1
9	UKHR UL	69	48193	849	49111	68	46818	568	47454	15436	1205	829715	829715	840722	272882	0	0	0	0
	Total	14880	242339	281017	538236	13490	235912	224251	473653	188873	150918	4333037	4333037	7533302	2806724	0	0	1	1

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

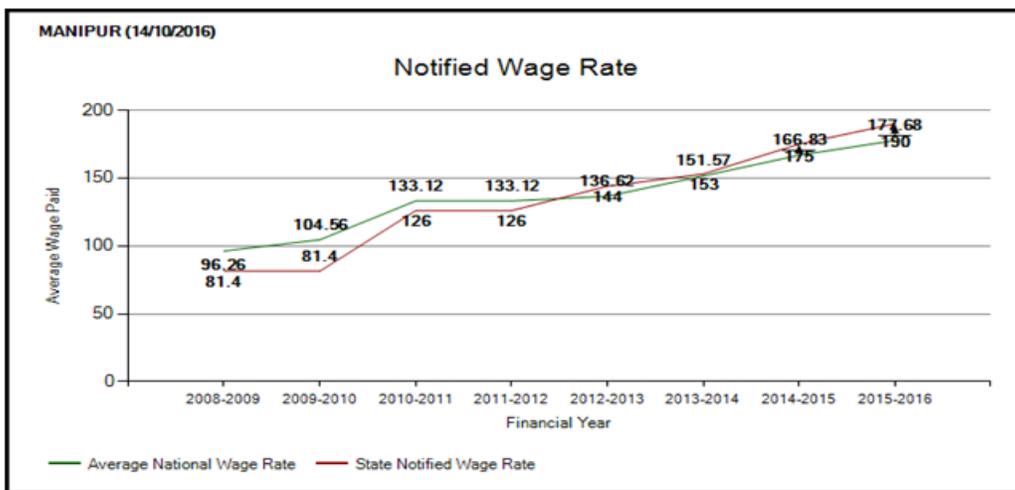


Chart 3. Notified wage rate of MGNREGS in Manipur.

Chart No. 3 showed the details of the trends of wage rate of MGNREGS. Average Wage rate per day per person in the FY 2015-16 is around Rs 190. And it is around Rs 175 in FY 2014-15, around Rs 153 in the FY 2013-14 and Rs 144 in the FY 2012-13. Comparing to the average national wage rate, it is found that the state wage rate is same or above the national average wage rate in the last four years, however it is also found that the state wage rate is lower than the national average before the FY 2011-12.

Average days of employment provided per Household in the FY 2015-16 are around 16 days. And it is around 22 days in FY

2014-15, around 125 days in FY 2013-14 and 62 days in the FY 2012-13. It is found that the national average days of employment provided per Household in the Financial year 2015-16 is 48.87 days which is very higher than the state average. It is also interesting to know that, the national average days of employment provided per Household for the last four years are always above 40 days; however it is sharply falling from an average of 62.4 days in year 2012-13 to 15.9 days in year 2015-16. It is a sign of failure and hindrance in the implementation of MGNREGS in Manipur.

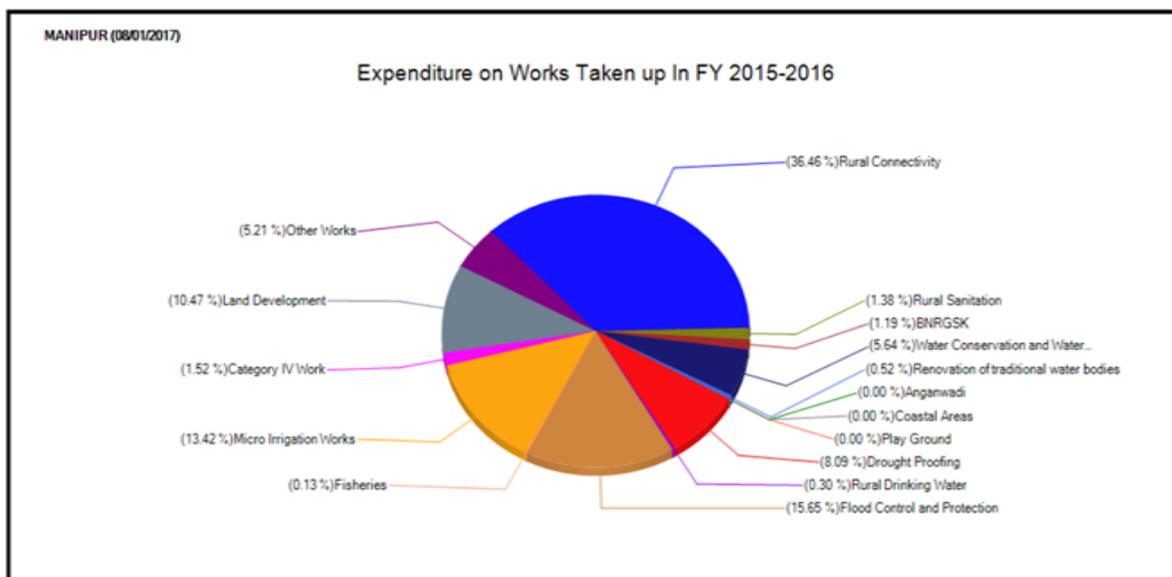


Chart 4. Details of expenditure of MGNREGS of FY 2015-16 in Manipur.

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

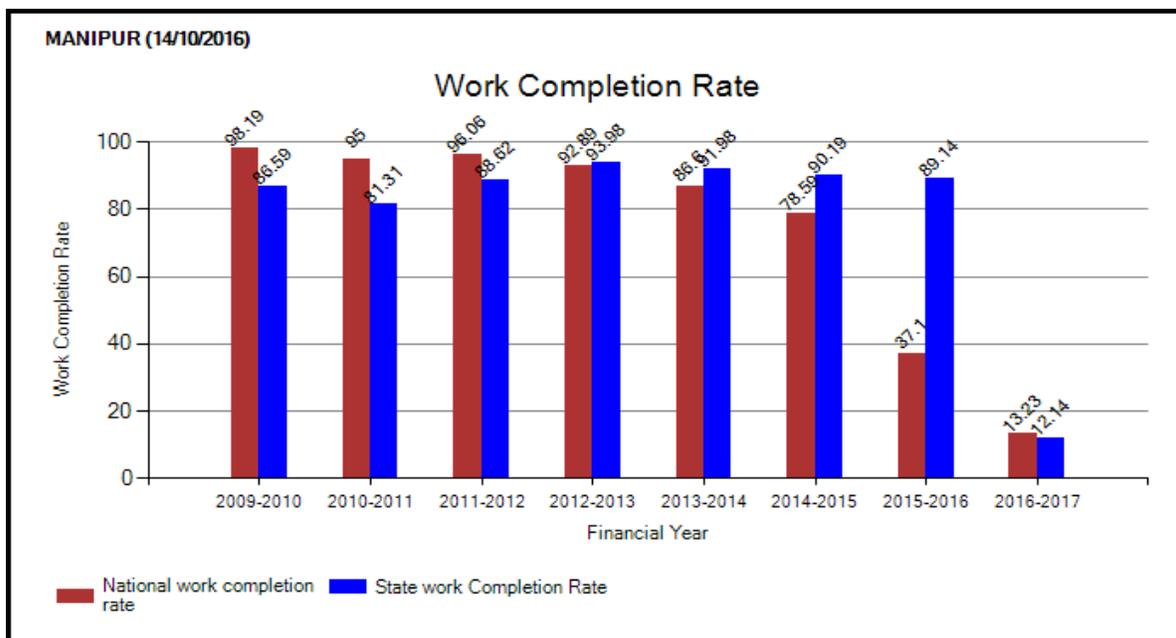


Chart 5. Work completion rate of MGNREGS in Manipur.

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

Regarding the total numbers of Households completed 100 Days of Wage Employment of the state under this scheme is negligible in the FY 2015-16 by showing only one household. The situation is same for the last four years by showing only 44 Households in FY 2014-15 and only 2 Households in the FY 2013-14. However, the situation is mysteriously different in the year 2012-13 as it is recorded that a whole of 2,422 Households completed 100 days of wage employment.

6. Financial Performance

Out of the total available Rs 29214.2 Lakhs, only Rs 25532.29 Lakhs was released by the centre in FY 2015-2016 and only 80 percent of the total funding is utilised. However the utilization of fund is above 90 percent in the FY 2014-15 and 2012-13. It is found that the fund utilisation in the financial year 2012-13 is 101.5 percent. Around 14425 Lakhs was spent on wages in FY 2015-16 which is lowest in the last four years.

Table No. 4 described the financial expenditure in MGNREGS in Manipur. A 33.11 percent of the total expenditure in the FY 2015-16 is utilised on the material expenditures and skilled wages, 6.73 percent is used for administrative expenses. Above this it is interesting to know that not a single penny was transfer through EFMS to the beneficiaries for this scheme in Manipur for the last four FYs. Percentage of payments generated within 15 days of work in the FY 2015-16 is around 83 percent of the total

payment made. It is 88.49 percent in 2014-15, 76.08 percent in 2013-14 and 86.78 percent in 2012-13.

Chart No. 4 revealed the details of the expenditure on works taken up in the FY 2015-16, 36.46 percent of the total expenditure is spent on rural connectivity, 10.47 percent on land development, 13.42 percent on micro irrigation works, 15.65 percent on flood control and protection works, 5.64 percent on water conservation works, 8.09 percent on drought proofing, 0.30 percent on rural drinking water and remaining 6.89 percent on other works like renovation of traditional water bodies, fisheries, category IV works etc.

Chart No. 5 defined the work completion rate of the state remain averagely higher in the last four years comparing to the national averages. Work completion rate of the state in the FY 2015-16 is 89.14 percent while it is only 37.1 percent for national average. Again in FY 2014-15, it is 91.98 percent while it is only 78.59 percent for national average.

Chart No. 6 described the details of the work taken up in the FY 2015-16, 34.76 percent of the total works are based on rural connectivity, 10.19 percent on land development, 10.96 percent on micro irrigation works, 8.32 percent on flood control and protection works, 6.14 percent on water conservation works, 12.88 percent on drought proofing, 0.30 percent on rural drinking water and remaining 8.23 percent on other works like renovation of traditional water bodies, fisheries, category IV works etc.

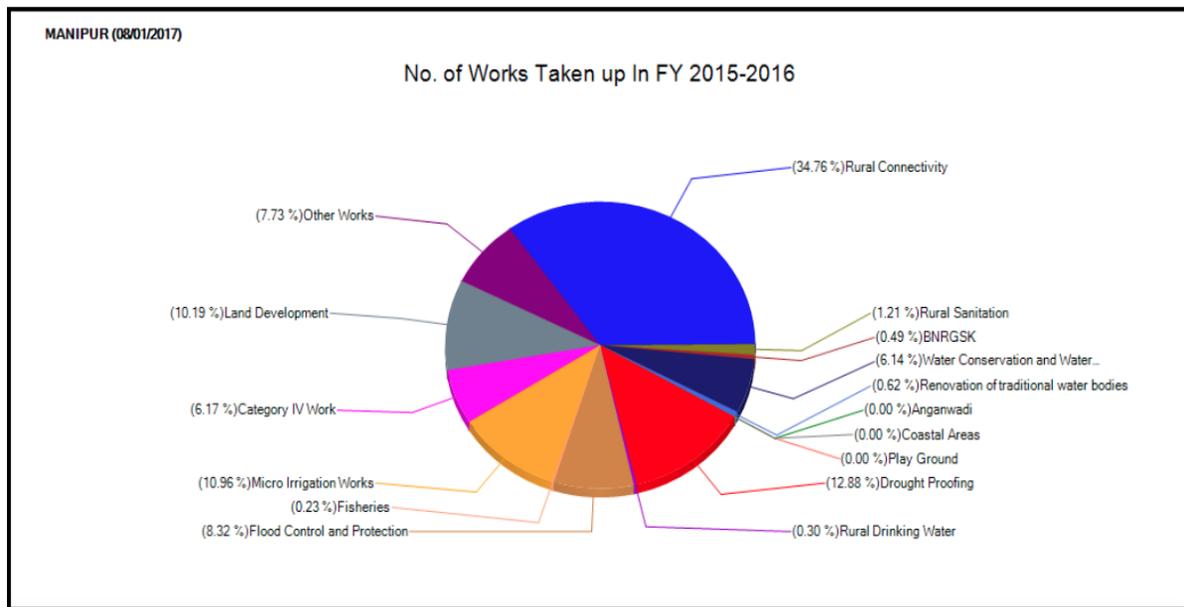


Chart 6. Details of expenditure of MGNREGS of FY 2015-16 in Manipur.

Source: www.nrega.nic.in

7. Conclusion

MGNREGS is a demand driven, self targeting and legally guaranteed employment programme which is very important for the unemployed, poor, unskilled villagers in India. It is one of its kind in the world and it utilises the work force potential of Indian rural areas by developing the far rural areas in the country. The scheme was with full of hope when it was introduced in 2006 for first time by the contemporary UPA government. The scheme was different from other poverty schemes as it gives every rural household a legal right to demand at least 100 days of unskilled works in a year. The scheme also had other main objectives to promote gender equality, social equality, rural infra structure, agricultural activities, financial activities and local self governance etc. However, the real scenario of implementation and its contribution to socio-economic development of the rural area is found to be far behind from the dreamt achievement under this scheme. *Implementation of MGNREGS* in Manipur is also an example of failure of MGNREGS. Only an average of 15.9 days of employment in a year under MGNREGS shows the ineffectiveness of the rules and regulations and policies of the scheme to provide a minimum of 100 days of employment in a year. It is totally contradicted with the main objective of MGNREGA to provide at least 100 days of unskilled works in a year. It is impossible for a rural household to depend on the mere MGNREGS wages for its basic household expenditures on food, medicine education, etc. as the cost of living is very high this days. Hence attempt must be made to increase the number of working days from the current numbers of employment in order to make the rural peo-

ple of Manipur reliable on MGNREGS for their basic household expenditure. Participation of women under this scheme regarding Manipur state in financial year 2015-16 is also found lower comparing to the national average. Only 37.26 percent out of the total persondays generated in the year 2015-16 for Manipur were women while it is 55.25 percent as national average. Being a state with a higher sex ratio at rural area, the state must have a higher participation of women in the MGNREGS employment. It is also irony to learn that only 79.14 percent of the total available fund for the state under this scheme were utilised in the year 2015-16 while an average of 15.9 days only employment were allotted out of targeted 100 days. Above this, the work completion rate in the year 2015-16 is only 89.14 percent (even though it is higher than the national average 37.1 percent). It is very important to understand the reasons for the failure to achieve the targeted higher number of employment days and completes all the targeted works if the fund is available for utilisation. Problems like lack of awareness, irregular payment of wages, corruption, lack of transparency and accountability, shortage of effective grievance system etc. make the scheme completely unreliable for the rural households for their socio-economic development.

Transparency and honesty among the implementing officials, panchayat officials, and other stakeholders must be improved and cooperation among them is very necessary to make the scheme a boon for the rural poor, unemployed households. A poor state like Manipur is at the end necessity of a scheme like MGNREGS which possess the potential to eradicate poverty, unemployment and inequality.

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