

UP to create 20L additional jobs under centre's scheme

State To Become Largest Job Provider Under MNREGS

PankajShah@timesgroup.com

Lucknow: The UP government has planned to chart out 20 lakh additional jobs under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) in the New Year to become the largest provider of jobs under the Centre's flagship scheme in the country. The scheme had turned out to be the mainstay in provisioning jobs to a large number of migrants who came back to the state after being hit by the corona induced lockdown earlier this year.

The rural development department has planned to enrol 20 lakh labourers in

the labour department and get them 100 days employment under MNREGS by March 31 next year. This will be in addition to the existing 1.70 crore MNREGS jobs which the state government managed to create in the current year since April.

The applicants getting enrolled in the scheme would also make them eligible to get benefits under 17 programmes, including labourer scholarship student award, infant welfare scheme, construction workers' girl support scheme, food help scheme, medical treatment scheme, girls marriage scheme and housing support scheme.

Additional commissioner, MNREGS, Yogesh Kumar said that of the 1.70 crore labourers the department has sorted out 20 lakh labourers who completed 100 days of employment.

"The department would get these workers enrolled with the

labour department till March 31 next year," he said. Kumar said that the department managed to create a record by provisioning MNREGS jobs for people of 85 lakh families in the state. This was 60% more than in 2019-20 when 53 lakh families were covered under the scheme. Before that in 2016-17 around 50 lakh families

were provided MNREGS jobs. Significantly, the wages under the scheme in case of UP increased from Rs 189 per day to Rs 202 per day this year only.

Kumar said that the large scale reverse migration at the peak of Corona triggered lock down essentially contributed to the increase in the number of people getting jobs under MNREGS. Except for Ghaziabad, the scheme is applicable in 74 districts of Uttar Pradesh. "The state government was able to provide MNREGS jobs in 826 blocks and 59,000 gram panchayats. This way people got employment close to their house itself," he said.

MAJOR PUSH