

Q. The current crisis provides Central Government with an unprecedented opportunity to expand worker's entitlements under MGNREGA. Discuss

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 was launched under Ministry of Rural Development. Its objective was to provide guaranteed 100 days of employment to rural poor households.

It provides demand based unskilled manual labour in rural areas helping to boost rural demand and economy.

Current Crisis :-

→ The Covid 19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown has resulted in the increase of reverse migration

→ This has led to increase in unemployment and an additional 40 crore people have been pushed below poverty line

	<u>Poor</u>
Before pandemic -	42% or <u>56</u> crores
After pandemic lockdown -	52 72% or <u>96</u> crores

→ This has put tremendous pressure on agricultural land in during monsoon leading to disguised unemployment

→ Already 1.4 lakh poor households have already completed 100 days of MGNREGA & SKILL 140 million are to demand jobs and MGNREGA leading to an economic distress.

Opportunity :-

The current crisis provides an opportunity for Government to reform MGNREGA to handle economic distress.

There is need to increase the budget allocation of Rs 40000 cores since the current allocation will meet only 1/3rd of the demand.

The Government's move to increase wages from 180 Rs to 200 Rs is insufficient in current crisis and must strengthen its DBT system to avoid delay in wage payment and leakages.

The rural household must be given at least 20 days of employment per month for next 6 months or 200 days in a financial year.

As the casual workers face economic insecurity, the

The Government must reorient its economic policies to include the poor and vulnerable from facing hunger related deaths post Covid 19

Thus, this crisis has given an opportunity to Government to expand ~~workers~~ worker's entitlements under MGNREGA.