

Shri Amarjeet Sinha
 Secretary
 Department of Rural Development
 Ministry of Rural Development
 Krishi Bhawan
 New Delhi – 110001

14th September 2017

Dear Sir,

Sub: Grievances expressed by Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers

The NREGA Sangharsh Morcha, a countrywide coalition of organisations and individuals committed to the rights of MGNREGA workers, is holding a public meeting and protest at Jantar Mantar from 11-15th September 2017. Approximately 1200 workers from 12 different states have gathered to express their grievances and put forth their demands related to the challenges faced in realizing their right to employment.

The challenges most frequently faced by workers are:

- Demand for work not met

Workers reported that despite submitting applications, employment is not provided. Some others stated that the number of days of work provided is less than the number of days of employment demanded. Further, work is not provided in a timely manner. No unemployment allowance is paid to workers in such a scenario.

- Non-payment, delayed or partial wage payment

Workers reported chronic delays in wage payment ranging from three months to two years. Instances of partial wages being disbursed, and payments being made to wrong accounts were also reported.

- Corruption

Workers stated that labour contractors, use of machines, and demands for commissions by rozgar sewaks/banking correspondents/postmasters persist in the functioning of the MGNREGA.

The following table summarises the attached complaints by type of grievance and state.

The attached complaints are only a sample of the many grievances voiced by workers during the protest.

	Bih	UP	WB	Chhat	M P	Raj	Orissa	Jhar	H P	Total
Work demand not met	10	14	31	2	9	25	1			92
Wages not paid	9	18	31	3	6	1		1	1	70
Wage payment delayed	14	18	26	5	3	2				68
Incomplete wage payment	4	5	26	2	3	1	1		1	43

Entries are not made in the bank account passbook		1	25	4						30
Wages paid into wrong bank account	3	2	24							29
Work is provided without a muster roll		2	17	1						20
Job card not provided	4	2	1							7
Work not provided in a timely manner	1	1		1	4					7
No provision for elderly & handicapped			4							4
Banking Correspondent/postmaster takes a commission while withdrawing wages				1	2					3
Work done by machine and wages withdrawn in collusion with workers	1				1	1				3
Corruption via MGNREGA/panchayat functionaries						3				3
Ineffective grievance redress		1	1							2
Worklist arbitrarily decided	1	1								2
IC kept with/misplaced by pradhan/rozgar sewak		1				1				2
Inaccurate days reflected in MIS		1			1					2
Work provided far from residence		1	1							2
Fingerprint authentication at bank/BC				1	1					2
Inclusion of non-workers in muster roll		1								1
Adhar number incorrectly entered		1								1
Women not provided work		1								1
Total	47	71	187	20	30	34	2	1	2	
Note: We were unable to collect complaints from workers from Assam and Gujarat.										

We count on your urgent action to address the challenges being faced by MGNREGA workers across the country, and hope every effort will be made to help people realize their right to employment.

Sincerely,

NREGA Sangharsh Morcha.