

9 Achievement of Auxiliary Objectives

9.1 Requirements

The two main objectives of the scheme are (a) enhancing livelihood security by providing guaranteed wage employment, and (b) creating durable assets. However, the auxiliary objectives of the scheme include:

- **Protecting the environment** – The priority works listed under Schedule-I of the Act include water conservation and water harvesting; drought proofing (including afforestation and tree plantation); renovation of traditional water bodies (including de-silting of tanks); and flood control and protection works (including drainage in water logged areas); these categories of works could be construed as environmentally friendly.
- **Empowering rural women** – Schedule-II of the Act stipulates that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested work under the scheme.
- **Fostering social equity** – Two categories of priority works listed under Schedule-I viz., provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households and land development works – give priority to SC/ST households and other disadvantaged sections (land of beneficiaries of land reforms, beneficiaries under IAY and BPL households for provision of irrigation facility, and small and marginal farmers for land development works). Also, SC/ST status of households is captured at the time of registration to verify that such households get a fair share of employment under the Act.
- **Reducing rural-urban migration** – It is hoped that by provision of employment in rural areas under the scheme, there will be a reduction in the trend of rural-urban migration, especially distress migration.

9.2 Audit Findings

9.2.1 Protecting the Environment

It would be seen that a high degree of priority was given to identifying and executing works, which could be construed as environmentally friendly e.g. water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation etc.

9.2.2 Empowerment of Rural Women

A gender-wise profile of beneficiaries under the scheme revealed the following position.

Table 21 – Gender-wise beneficiary profile for the State

Financial year	Total Number of beneficiaries provided employment	Number of male beneficiaries	Number of female beneficiaries	Percentage of female beneficiaries to the total beneficiaries
2009-10	1,15,14,361	52,90,557	62,23,804	54
2010-11	1,18,96,383	54,44,190	64,52,193	54
2011-12	91,24,569	41,14,368	50,10,201	55

Source: AP MGNREGS MIS Data

Further, women were also employed as FAs, TAs, APOs and POs/MPDOs. Also, bank accounts were opened individually for workers (including women), instead of a single account in the name of the head of the household.

It would be seen that the women were about half the total number of employees worked under MGNREGA, evidencing that there was no discrimination against women labour.

9.2.3 Fostering Social Equity

A profile of SC and ST beneficiaries under the scheme revealed the following position:

Table 22 – SC/ST beneficiary profile for the State

Year	Total Number of beneficiaries provided employment	Number of beneficiaries under SC category	Number of beneficiaries under ST category	Percentage of SC beneficiaries to the total beneficiaries	Percentage of ST beneficiaries to the total beneficiaries
2009-10	1,15,14,361	29,05,153	16,64,021	25	14
2010-11	1,18,96,383	29,78,827	17,85,986	25	15
2011-12	91,24,569	24,00,800	14,19,645	26	16

Source: AP MGNREGS MIS Data

It would be seen that the SC, ST and OBC beneficiary persondays constituted the vast majority of the total persondays generated under MGNREGA, evidencing that there was no discrimination against disadvantaged sections in provision of employment.

9.2.4 Reducing rural-urban migration

The beneficiary surveys conducted by audit, as well as the impact studies commissioned by the State Government, confirmed an improvement in the lives of workers (income, change in expenditure pattern, bargaining power), accompanied by a reduction in migration to urban areas.