

MGNREGA WORK DEMAND HIGHEST FOR MAY, EXCEPT FOR PANDEMIC YEAR

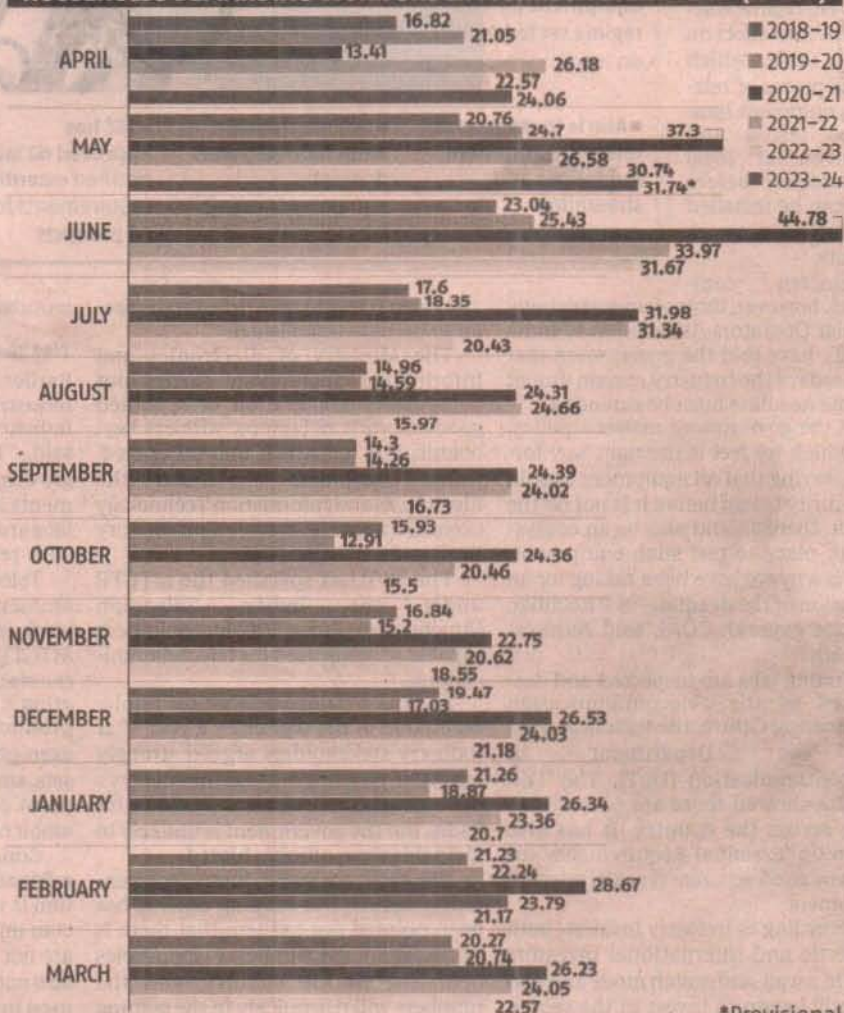
Around 31.74 million households sought work under the flagship Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in May 2023, which is the highest for the month of May in any given year in recent times except for the Covid-19 pandemic year, data on the scheme's website sourced on June 5 showed.

In April 2023, around 24.06 million households had sought work under the scheme. Though MGNREGS demand usually rises in April and May as the rabi harvest

comes to an end and casual labourers have little work in hand, some experts say the continued demand in rural areas shows that economic benefits are not percolating down. In FY24, the Centre had budgeted ₹60,000 crore for the scheme, which was around 33 per cent less than the Revised Estimate of FY23. In the past, the Centre had been adequately funding MGNREGS if there was any shortfall in funds. MGNREGS is demand-driven and fund allocation depends on work demand.

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE

HOUSEHOLDS DEMANDING WORK UNDER MGNREGA EVERY YEAR (In mn)



*Provisional
Source: MGNREGA

