

1. **Scheme** **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA)**
2. **Year of Start** 2nd Feb., 2006
3. **Brief Write-up** The aim of this scheme is to provide 100 days of manual work to rural unemployed. The scheme is being implemented on 90:10 basis Between GoI and GoP. It was launched in Punjab on 2nd February 2006 and initially only district Hoshiarpur was selected, three more districts namely Amritsar, Nawanshehar and Jalandhar are being covered since the year 2007-08. All the districts of the State are being covered w.e.f. 1/4/2008. Under this scheme wages @ Rs 102/- per day are being paid to the workers through PO savings accounts in Punjab. Funds are released by GoI as per actual demand of the State Government.

4 **Financial Achievement**

(As on 31/7/2008)
(Rs Cr)

Year	Annual Allocation			Receipt of Funds			Release of funds			Expenditure		
	CS	SS	Total	CS	SS	Total	CS	SS	Total	CS	SS	Total
2008-09(upto 7/08):All Districts	270.00	30.00	300.00	46.72		46.72	46.72		46.72	4.91		4.91
2007-08: 4 Districts	270.00	30.00	300.00	28.19	8.89	37.08	28.19	8.89	37.08	21.16	8.89	30.05
2006-07: 1 District	45.00	5.00	50.00	27.58	3.23	30.81	27.58	3.23	30.81	25.00		25.00
2005-06: 1 District				12.21		12.21	12.21		12.21	9.02		9.02

- o The State Government has involved other departments like Irrigation, Flood Control and Drainage, Forests, Agriculture etc and Department of Rural Development itself for accessing funds under NERGA where manual work is involved on large scale.

5 **Physical Progress:**

Year	Targets	Achievements			
		Job card issued Households (Nos)	Households demanded wage employment (Nos)	Households provided employment (Nos)	Person days generated (In lac)
2008-09 (upto 7/08)	Demand Driven Scheme	264329	17307	17307	2.75
2007-08		97892	49690	49690	19.15
2006-07		37326	31788	31648	15.57
2005-06		33375	7685	7685	7.05

6 Problems faced by the State

The scheme is being implemented in all the villages of the State. Due to imposition of code of conduct for the elections to Panchayats and Zila Parishads in the State, the required targets for the quarter ending 30/6/2008 could not be achieved. The shortfall in GoI share is due to less demand projected by the State Government. As per GoI guidelines 4% of the GoI share can be used as contingency amount which is on a lower side with which it is not possible to employ sufficient staff for the smooth implementation of NREGS.

7 Suggestions

- In the State like Punjab where few people come forward for manual work, the scope of the scheme needs to be widened to provide 100 days of employment to each adult member of a family instead of total household.
- The contingency amount should be enhanced from 4% to 6% to enable the State Government employ sufficient staff for the smooth implementation of NREGS.
- There is need to clarify the upper age limit of labourers under NREGA.