

# Rural housing scheme a mega job-spinner

‘Created 52cr  
Man Days Of  
Work In 2 Yrs’

**New Delhi:** The rural housing scheme has generated over 52 crore person days of employment in two years, emerging a key source of subsistence for unskilled and skilled labourers in the countryside, says a study by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (rural), the revamped version of Indira Awas Yojana, was launched in 2016. In two years, the scheme has constructed 25.32 lakh houses while 21.28 are under construction. The total expenditure during this period has been Rs 35,135 crore.

An analysis of the PMAY construction by NIPFP has concluded that the scheme over two years has generated 52.47 crore person days of direct employment. Of this, 20.85 crore person days are for skilled labour and 31.62 crore for unskilled labour. The PMAY (rural) has set a target of completing one crore houses by 2019.

The completed houses account for 40.07 crore person days and under-construc-

tion houses for 12.42 crore person days.

According to Union rural development ministry, the NIPFP findings are in sync with in-house calculation about work to be generated through rural housing based on factors like time taken to complete a house and the money spent.

Amarjeet Sinha, secretary, RD, said, “We believe 145 crore person days would be generated by constructing one crore houses by March 2019. But besides direct employment, rural construction also leads to

indirect employment by boosting allied sectors involving construction material like bricks, steel.”

The RD ministry provides Rs 1.47 lakh and Rs 1.59 lakh under PMAY for construction of a house in plain and hilly areas respectively.

While MGNREGA provides work to unskilled labourers in rural areas and is also dovetailed with rural housing, the numbers show that PMAY has provided additional work outside the job scheme, adding to the safety net for rural folks.