

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Regarding release of pending dues to West Bengal under MGNREGA

Prof. Sougata Ray (DUM DUM): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government, through this august House, towards the pendency of huge amount on account of job guarantee scheme, MGNREGA, to the State of West Bengal. These funds have been lying pending despite the submission of proper accounts along with utilisation certificates by the State Government for the amount received earlier under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Our hon. Chief Minister has also sent two letters dated May 12 and June 9 to the hon. Prime Minister on the Issue. Under the Act, payment cannot be denied for more than 15 days to MGNREGA workers, but their wages are being stalled. It is very unfortunate that neither any fund nor any response has been received from the Ministry to the State's representations yet. This is beyond the ethics of the said Scheme, and the livelihood of the rural people in the State is suffering extremely.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please read only what has been given.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Considering the above circumstances, we would fervently request the Government to take necessary action to release all pending dues of the MGNREGA to the State Government to save the weaker sections. I urge upon the Central Government to release the pending dues with immediate effect to the State of West Bengal. Thank you.