

**Title: Relaxation in Mobile Monitoring System for MNREGA workers, increasing number of days wages.**

**SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI):** Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this 'Zero Hour' and to raise a very important issue.

The Ministry of Rural Development, in its latest order, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2022, stated that digital attendance of MNREGA through the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS), would be mandatory in all the worksites, and it has been made universal from January 1, 2023. This move has been receiving opposition from several quarters, since May, 2022, when it was made compulsory for all the worksites with 20 or more workers. This requires uploading two time-stamped and geotagged photographs of the workers. The job fell on the supervisors who are paid only marginally more than the unskilled workers. There are widespread complaints over the lack of technical support, the necessity to own a smartphone, paying for an Internet connection and issues with erratic Internet connectivity.

It replaced the paper muster rolls which was in use before NMMS was introduced. The second big problem is the two time-stamped photographs.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please put your demand.

**SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR:** I am coming to that.

Often, the workers may finish their work but are forced to return to the worksite for the second photograph.

The MNREGA programme, which was launched by the Congress Party during the period of Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, is a shining example of democracy at work focused to empower the poorest of poor of this nation. The latest order imposing technological barriers goes against this spirit.

Therefore, in order to protect the poor working class, I urge upon the Union Government to withdraw this order and bring back the process that had existed earlier until the barriers pointed out are duly addressed. I request the Central Government to increase the number of MNREGA days, and also the salary to Rs.200. The number of days also should be increased to 150.