

Re: Need to release funds for payment of wages to workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in West Bengal- laid

SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED (ULUBERIA): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government towards the delayed payment of wages to beneficiaries under the MGNREGS in West Bengal. As of the Financial Year 21-22 and 22-23, there are dues totaling Rs. 7029.00 crore in West Bengal, out of which Rs. 3286 crore constitutes wages owed to workers of the MGNREGA. The MGNREG Act mandates that workers are entitled to payment of wages within a fortnight of completing their work. Failure to comply with this provision results in the worker being entitled to compensation. Thus, any delay in payment of wages violates statutory provisions. The Honorable Chief Minister of West Bengal has already requested the Union Government to address this issue, and a delegation of seven Members of Parliament has also met with the Union Minister of Rural Development regarding this matter. Delayed payment of wages is unacceptable and can unnecessarily increase the compensation bill, thereby placing an avoidable financial burden on the Centre. It is important to note that any reasons for the delay in receiving wages are not the concern of the worker. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to release the payment for MGNREGS work in West Bengal without any further delay.