

Regarding need for timely release of payment of wages under MGNREGA along with allocation of sufficient funds

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI (KARUR): Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Scheme, the 100-day employment Guarantee Scheme, wages were not provided for 12 weeks for the beneficiaries till Deepavali festival. People throughout the country including Tamil Nadu faced severe difficulties due to this non-payment of wages under MGNREGA. I was pained to see many people in my constituency who were disturbed and seen unmanageable for several weeks as the wages due to them were not provided well in time. After so much of persuasion, two weeks ago the pending dues were cleared. With a motherly attitude, this Scheme was brought under the UPA regime led by Dr. Manmohan Singh and on the guidance of Smt. Sonia Gandhi Ji aiming to provide 100 days of work to poor households. During the rule of the Congress Government, in every 15 days, these wages were distributed without any delay. But the BJP Government led by Shri Modi has been regularly reducing the allocation of funds for this Scheme. As against the need of an allocation of Rs 2, 72,000 Crore for this Scheme, only an amount of Rs 60,000 Crore is being allocated. If I say Rs 5 is required for this MGNREGA Scheme, against that requirement, only one Rupee is being allocated. It is 18 per cent less when compared to the last year's allocation. As the allocation of funds for this Scheme is being reduced time and again, the money could not be distributed to the beneficiaries well in time and it results in inordinate delay. As they were not provided wages for almost 12 weeks, people were left with no money in hand even to celebrate Deepavali festival. This Modi led Government waived off the loans taken by 10 business giants amounting to Rs 5 lakh Crore. But it is gross injustice that the Union Government is not ready to allocate Rs 3 lakh Crore for the MGNREGA Scheme, under which around 14 Crore people are being benefitted. I urge that sufficient funds should be allocated for 100 day employment guarantee Scheme besides expanding this Scheme for the benefit of the farming community at large.

श्री प्रदीप कुमार सिंह (अररिया) : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मुझे इस नए सदन में नई बात कहने का अवसर देने के लिए मैं आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ। ? (व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : बालू जी, आप बाद में बोलिएगा। यह विषय खत्म होने के बाद बोलिएगा। आप बैठ जाइए।

? (व्यवधान)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Baalu, I will give you a chance to speak after this. Please sit.

? (*Interruptions*)