

## **Regarding availability of adequate funds under**

### **MGNREGA for West Bengal-laid**

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH):** In August 2005, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was established, focusing on rural development. This initiative guarantees 100 days of employment per year at minimum wages for adult members of rural households engaging in unskilled public work. It plays a direct role in building rural infrastructure and assets, influencing rural demand and employment indirectly. The allocated budget for MGNREGA in 2023-24 has been reduced to Rs 60,000 crore. Bengal owes more than Rs 7,000 crores by the Union government under MGNREGA. In the 2021-22 fiscal year, West Bengal led in the number of people employed (over one crore) and person-days generated (36 crore). Despite the norm of disbursing MGNREGA funds after 15 days of work, delays in clearing dues from the Union government to the State have occurred. The Union Government had already decreased West Bengal's funding from Rs 11,45,405.21 crores in 2021-22 to Rs. 7,50,780.15 crores in 2022-23. This has also deprived the SCs ,STs and OBCs of their rightful earnings. Adequate funds are crucial for the scheme's effective implementation. Immediate attention is needed to rectify the lack of funds for MGNREGA, ensuring its successful continuation and ongoing support for rural communities.