

Need to release MGNREGS dues to West Bengal

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I rise to speak on the dues under MGNREGA to the State of West Bengal.

In three years, the dues to the State of West Bengal under MGNREGA have mounted to Rs. 7,300 crore. Twenty-one lakh daily wage workers have been deprived because of this very cruel step taken by the Centre. Along with the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, we have met with the hon. Prime Minister. He promised to look into this matter but has not done anything.

The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has promised that she will pay the dues to these 21 lakh workers by 21st February. But this is a gross violation of the federal principles.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be brief.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I am just concluding.

There is a gross violation of federal principles. The Centre is using a false pretext. They are saying that something has been spoken about this scheme in West Bengal by AG. This is totally false. AG has said, 'Why have Utilisation Certificates not been submitted?? That is false.

I demand that the Centre should pay dues under MGNREGA to the State of West Bengal and save the poor.