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Title: Need to provide adequate funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in West Bengal.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Sir, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is one of the major schemes that is being implemented by the Union Government through the State Governments. The main role being played by Panchayati Raj Institution, other implementing agencies like Public Sector Undertakings, Zila Parishad, Gram Panchayat, local authority etc. In such a scenario slashing of funds for implementation of MGNREGS would be detrimental to the welfare of the people of the State. This is not acceptable. The employment generation under MGNREGS is huge. Before slashing the funds under MGNREGS there is a need to assess as to how States would be able to cope with this loss. In a federal structure, there is a need for active interaction between Centre and State before arriving at any decision. Under such a situation, West Bengal Government would find it difficult to implement the scheme at the State level.

Hence, I would strongly urge the Central Government not to slash funds meant for implementation of MGNREGS at the State level particularly in West Bengal.