

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Re. Release of MNREGS funds for Odisha.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (BEHRAMPUR): Madam, for the Odisha State, Rs.1195.58 crore towards material and admin component for first quarter of financial year 2022-23 in addition to the previous year's liability of Rs.480.82 crore is yet to be cleared by the Ministry of Rural Development. Delays in release of funds was the problem in previous financial years also and then our hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik ji wrote to the hon. Prime Minister urging him to release MNREGS funds. The livelihood of lakhs of workers from rural areas depends on the wages released by the Central Government and hence, any delays beyond the set 15 days after the closure of muster roll as per MNREGA 2005 must be avoided. Moreover, delays in payments to suppliers and contractors could disrupt progress of future projects due to erosion of trust. Keeping in view the problems of common man, the State has already requested in two separate letters to release material funds to Odisha. Hence, I urge the hon. Minister to immediately pay heed to this problem and facilitate the release of all pending MNREGS funds due to Odisha for the current financial year and previous financial years and also take measures to avoid this recurring problem in the future.