

**Regarding the payment of wages and arrears to workers in the Kasargod Constituency area under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)**

**SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN (KASARAGOD):** Thank you very much, Chairperson Madam, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to bring forward an urgent matter for immediate action. An amount of around Rs. 23 crore is to be distributed in the Kasargod Constituency area under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which includes the wages of skilled, unskilled labour and the cost of materials. This is for both the current financial year 2024-25 and the previous year 2022-23. This amount of wages is arrears despite the rule that wages must be paid within 15 days of employment. The workers are entitled to compensation for delay in payment of wages if the wages are not paid within 15 days from the date of completion of muster roll. The workers are also entitled to compensation at the rate of 0.05 per cent of the wages payable for each day of delay beyond the 16<sup>th</sup> day after completion of the muster roll. For example, the Development Block wise details of the dues for the financial year 2024-25 are as follows: in Kanhangad, it is Rs. 75 lakh; in Karadka, it is Rs. 1.5 crore; in Kasaragod, it is Rs. 35 lakh; in Manjeswaram, it is Rs. 69 lakh; in Nileswaram, it is Rs. 75 lakh; in Parappa, it is Rs. 1.55 crore; in Payyannur, it is Rs. 55 lakh; and in Kalliasseri, it is Rs. 1.5 crore. The highest is Rs. 1.54 crore due in the Parappa block and the lowest is Rs. 34 lakh in Kasaragod block. Madam, I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter immediately. Thank you very much, Madam.