

Regarding release of MNREGS funds for Tamil Nadu

**DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH):** Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme is an important Scheme. In order to eradicate poverty, the Congress government brought this MGNREGA Scheme for benefitting the farmers of our country. If they get Rs.100 per day and get employment for 100 days, then they will earn Rs.10, 000 per year. This was the reason why this Scheme was brought to wipe out poverty in this country. But this government has been continuously reducing the allocation of funds for MGNREGA Scheme aimed at collapsing the implementation of this Scheme. An amount of Rs.4000 Crore is pending for the last 5 months to be released under MGNREGA Scheme for Tamil Nadu by the Union government. Several lakhs of beneficiaries, particularly women are not provided the wages that are due to them under MGNREGA. Mostly women are being affected due to delay in release of funds from the Union government. But the Union government continues to delay the release of funds to Tamil Nadu under MGNREGA. As much as Rs.2, 152 Crore is pending as dues for the Education Department of Tamil Nadu. Union government has been continuously betraying the Government of Tamil Nadu and its people by not releasing the funds timely. For the loss incurred by Tamil Nadu due to disasters, we requested for an assistance of Rs.40, 000 Crore to carry out relief and restoration work. But the Union government provided only a meagre amount of Rs.200 Crore. This is not proper on the part of the Union government to provide such a small amount of Rs.200 Crore. You are treating us, the people of Tamil Nadu in a shameful manner, which is highly condemnable. I urge that adequate and necessary funds should be released immediately for the people of Tamil Nadu. Do not engage in vendetta politics. Rather, I humbly request you to provide Rs.4, 000 Crore as dues meant for MGNREGA; Rs.2, 152 Crore meant for Education Department and Rs.39, 800 Crore meant for disaster relief and restoration work in Tamil Nadu. Thank you.