

**Regarding need to review the decision to spend 60 percent of the budget allocated under MGNREGS in the first half of the financial year-Laid**

**SHRI K. E. PRAKASH (ERODE):** I would like to indict this Government for systematically dismantling the MGNREGA. This is not inefficiency; it is a calculated attack on the rural poor. This threatens to destabilize the rural economy. The core problem is fiscal strangulation. The allocated ₹86,000 crore is fundamentally inadequate, and the newly imposed rule that only 60% of this budget may be spent in the first half of the year violates the very nature of a work on demand law. This cap ensures funds run out early, forcing officials to deny work or delay wages. The Government's claim that lower demand due to a good monsoon justifies low spending ignores the reality that huge amounts are consumed merely clearing old pending bills proof of chronic underfunding. Simultaneously, digital measures meant for transparency are being weaponized for exclusion. The aggressive e-KYC push led to the deletion of nearly 27 lakh worker names in a single month. If the Government can extend 150 workdays to Jammu and Kashmir to address specific regional needs, the same flexibility must extend nationwide. I urge the Government to revoke the 60% limit, fix digital barriers, and preserve MGNREGA as a simple, reliable safety net for all.