

Regarding need to release funds due to West Bengal under MGNREGS and resume operation of work under the scheme- laid

SHRIMATI BAG MITALI (ARAMBAG): The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been forced to not achieve its objective in West Bengal. Work for nearly 59 lakh beneficiaries has been stopped. All this because Union Government continues to owe the State more than Rs 43,000 crore. Calcutta High Court, in its recent judgment, directed the Union Government to resume MGNREGS operations in West Bengal by 1 August 2025. Despite this clear order, the Union Government has neither restored the scheme nor released the funds due to the states workers. Instead, it filed a petition before the Supreme Court challenging the High Courts order. A petition that was ultimately dismissed. However, it is with extreme disappointment, that till date, the Government of India has not released the withheld payments nor taken steps to restart the programme in the State. In total, the Union Governments outstanding dues across various commitments amount to nearly Rs 2 lakh crore. Depriving States of their rightful dues, shatters the foundations of cooperative federalism and the very ethos of the Constitution. Thus, I request the Union Government to restart MGNREGS and disburse the amount owed at the earliest.