

Need to release pending funds under MGNREGS to West Bengal- Laid

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): I wish to raise the urgent issue of the continued withholding of MGNREGS funds to West Bengal, which has resulted in the disruption of livelihood guarantees for nearly 59 lakh registered workers. As per official records, the Union Government owes the State more than Rs. 243,000 crore in pending wage and material payments under the scheme, severely affecting the most vulnerable rural households. The Calcutta High Court, in its recent judgment, directed the Union Government to resume MGNREGS operations in West Bengal by 1st August 2025. Instead of complying with the order, the Union Government challenged it before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which subsequently dismissed the petition and allowed the High Court's directions to stand. Despite the clear legal position, MGNREGS work has not been restored, nor have the dues been released to the workers of the State. It is deeply concerning that, even after judicial clarity at both High Court and Supreme Courts levels, the rightful entitlements of West Bengal's rural poor remain withheld. Across various schemes and commitments, the Union Government's cumulative outstanding dues to the State amount to nearly Rs. 22 lakh crore, further straining the principles of cooperative federalism. I urge the Union Government to immediately release all pending MGNREGS payments and ensure the resumption of the programme in West Bengal in the interest of rural employment, Constitutional obligations and the rights of the people.