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Title: Need to release Central Share funds for the projects implemented under MGNREGS in West Bengal.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) was introduced in the country to give minimum 100-days work to the rural poor. Firstly, we started with certain number of blocks, and then it was made effective in all rural blocks in the country. West Bengal was one of the States, which implemented the scheme effectively, especially, during the present Government. In 2013-2014, West Bengal had spent Rs. 5,600 crore on the scheme, which was an all-India record. But the Central Government is not paying its share in the scheme. Till now, Rs. 885 crore is due from the Centre to the West Bengal Government on account of the MGNREGS. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has protested against this non-payment and she has demanded that this amount be paid immediately. Otherwise, wages due to hundred days' work cannot be paid to these poor people in rural areas.

Again, the Central Government is proposing to keep MGNREGS alive in only a few selected blocks in the country. This will be an anti-people step because the question will arise, what the poor will do in other blocks of the country.

I demand that West Bengal be immediately paid its dues so that wages to rural poor may be paid and the Scheme be kept alive in all rural blocks in the country.