

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 69
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05/12/2025

MGNREGS IN WEST BENGAL

69 Shri Derek O' Brien:

Will the Minister of Rural Development be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed to resume the work under MGNREGS in West Bengal in October 2025;
- (b) if so, steps taken by Government to follow this order, with dates of release of funds, approval of works, and payment of pending wages and bills; and
- (c) whether Government will reimburse the West Bengal Government for payments made during the period when Central funds were stopped, if so, the amount and timeline for reimbursement?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 69 for 05.12.2025.

(a)& (b): During the hearing dated 27.10.2025 in the matter related to Special Leave Petition No. 25528/2025, filed by the Central Government in connection with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), the Hon'ble Supreme Court was not convinced that the impugned order dated 18.06.2025 of the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court requires any interference.

For the resumption of implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the State of West Bengal and in accordance with the order dated 18.06.2025 passed by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court, the Department of Rural Development is currently in the process of reworking and refining the necessary modalities and procedures to comply with the High Court's directions.

(c): The proposal for upward revision of the Labour Budget for FY 2021-22 for the State of West Bengal was not approved by the Empowered Committee, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Department of Rural Development due to non-compliance with the directives issued by this Department. Subsequently, the release of funds to the State of West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) was also stopped with effect from 09.03.2022 by invoking the provisions of Section 27 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, owing to continued non-compliance with the directives of the Central Government by the State.

As per the Ministry's order dated 09.03.2022, whereby release of funds to the State was kept on hold, it was stipulated that all Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) generated from the date of the order (i.e., on or after 09.03.2022) would be paid by the State Government from its own resources. This arrangement was to continue until the State furnished the necessary compliance with the directives of the Central Government, which is still awaited.
