826. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government owes as on December 14, 2022, Rs. 4,700 crore in wages to 18 States and Rs. 5,450 crore in material cost to 19 States and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether it is also a fact that the delay in material costs has a domino effect on work since a delay in the payment breaks the supply chain and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is also true that the vendors are reluctant to supply new material because of prolonged delays in payments and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether it is also true that the Government is considering meeting the shortfall and if so, the details and the manner thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a),(b)&(d): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment Scheme. Funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of "agreed to" Labour Budget (LB) and performance of the States/UTs during the financial year. Fund release to States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available keeping in view the demand for work on the ground. No State/UT-wise financial allocation is made under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

During the current financial year 2022-23 (as on 03.02.2023) an amount of Rs. 72813.73 crore was released for wage, material & administrative components under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

(c): Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, no fund is directly released to the vendors.

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