GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3216 ANSWERED ON 08/08/2023

SHORTFALL IN MGNREGS FUNDS

3216. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has not released funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to the States due to widespread violations in the implementation of MGNREGS;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State and year-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the mates/supervisors are facing problems due to non-payment of wages;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the additional funds have been sought from the Ministry of Finance to meet the shortfall in MGNREGS funds and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a)&(b): Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS) is a demand driven wage employment Scheme.

Under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, States furnish funds release proposals to Government of India. The Ministry releases funds periodically in two tranches with each tranche consisting of one or more installments, keeping in view the "agreed to" Labour Budget, demand for works, opening balance, pace of utilization of funds,

pending liabilities, overall performance and subject to submission of relevant documents by the States.

Fund release to the States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed to making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme as per the demand for work on the ground.

Funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS to the State of West Bengal have been stopped since 09th March, 2022 as per provisions under section 27 of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 due to non-compliance of directives of Central Government.

- (c)&(d): The funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is released as per the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and guidelines. Central Government is making wage payments for unskilled components directly into the Bank/Post office accounts of the beneficiaries as per the Direct Benefit Transfer protocol through National Electronic Fund Management System (Ne-FMS) and funds for material components are released to the State Treasury under the Scheme. States have to make payment to skilled & semi-skilled workers through material head.
- (e): In the current financial year 2023-24 (as on 04.08.2023), no additional funds have been sought from the Ministry of Finance under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
