

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2805
ANSWERED ON 18/03/2025**

FUND UNDER MGNREGA

**2805. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:
SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL:**

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the release of funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has been withheld/delayed in recent years for West Bengal and Lakshadweep, if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to streamline payment process;**
- (b) the details of funds actually released under the scheme to the West Bengal and Lakshadweep since 2019, district-wise;**
- (c) the claim of the State for release of funds pending upto March 2025, the details thereof, district-wise;**
- (d) the details of amount pending for Jhargram, Purulia and PaschimMedinipur districts in West Bengal under the MGNREGS, district-wise; and**
- (e) the total number of person-days generated under the said scheme in West Bengal and Lakshadweep during the last three years, year-wise?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)**

(a)to(d): As per the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2005, it is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the scheme. In case of the State of West Bengal, based on central teams' inspection reports highlighting the implementation issues such as financial misappropriation, execution of non-permissible activities, splitting of works, lack of transparency & accountability, the Ministry sent several communications to the State for rectification of the same. However, no noticeable improvements

were observed. Consequently, release of funds to the State of West Bengal has been stopped since March 9, 2022, under Section 27 of the Act due to non-compliance with Central Government directives.

With regard to material component, States/UTs are required to furnish funds release proposals to the Government of India. The Central Government 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/UTs. Fund release to the States/UTs is a continuous process and Central Government is committed in making funds available to States/UTs for the implementation of the Scheme as per the demand for work on the ground.

While, wage payments are directly credited by the Central Government to the account of beneficiaries through the Direct Benefit Transfer protocol, the release of material and admin funds is made to the State Government/UT Administration which in turn releases the funds to its Districts accordingly. The government of India does not release material and admin funds directly to the Districts.

Details of funds released to Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep and State of West Bengal under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the last five financial years and current financial years 2024-25 (as on 12.03.2025) are given below:

Financial Year	Central funds released (Rs. in crore)	
	Funds released to UT of Lakshadweep	State of West Bengal
2019-20	0.24	8,507.61
2020-21	-	11,454.05
2021-22	0.30	7,507.80
2022-23	-	-
2023-24	-	-
2024-25 (as on 12.03.2025)	0.31	-

There is no pending liability in respect of the Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

In the case of West Bengal, the pending amount up to 09th March, 2022, is Rs. 3,038 Crore.

(e): Details of persondays generated in Lakshadweep and West Bengal States during the last three financial years are given below:

Financial Year	Persondays generated (in lakh)		
	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Lakshadweep	0.04	0.05	0.01
West Bengal	1.65	378.75	3642.15

As per information available on NREGASoft.
