

NREGA Sangharsh Morcha's Press Release on demand for ensuring payment of pending wages and more fund allocation in NREGA

November 17, 2021

MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) has provided a cushion to millions of rural households amidst great economic distress during the Covid-19 pandemic. A substantial portion of the household expenditure in rural areas has been met through the NREGA wages and the nation has witnessed significant rise in demand for work under the programme since the pandemic had hit us. However, while the actual demand and need for work has only increased on the ground, the programme has run out of funds. More than 90 % of the central budget allocation for the programme had already been exhausted with about 5 months remaining in the current financial year. Additionally, the rationale for trifurcation of FTO based on the caste categories of workers is unclear and is causing unnecessary tension among workers. This is also at odds with the universal nature of the Act. We would also like to highlight that as on 14th November 2021, 3.46 crores transactions are pending for response and following are the pending wages in various states from the centre for this financial year.

Pending wages from centre:

Sl No.	Name of State	Pending wages from centre as on 15 th Nov
1	Andhra Pradesh (14 th Nov)	801.5cr
2	Bihar	268cr
3	Chhattisgarh	16cr
4	Gujarat	64.6cr
5	Haryana	16.98cr
6	Himachal Pradesh	137cr
7	Jharkhand	176.6cr
8	Karnataka	420cr
9	Kerala	348.5cr
10	Madhya Pradesh	279cr
11	Maharashtra	98.7cr
12	Odisha	76cr
13	Punjab	98.7cr
14	Rajasthan	198cr
15	Tamil Nadu	1393.5cr
16	Telangana	22.9cr
17	Uttar Pradesh	131.7cr
18	Uttarakhand	13cr
19	West Bengal	1045.7cr
Total pending wages of all states:		5093.95 cr

Source: MIS R.8.8.1

In the light of the current crisis of delay payments & low fund balance availability with states, People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) had released their annual NREGA [performance tracker](#) highlighting the issues. Also, LibTech India had released a report titled [Heavy Wait](#). In this context, NREGA Sangharsh Morcha (NSM) network in various states sent deputation to CMs demanding:
(A detailed note for the same is attached.)

- 1. The pending wages from the central government to be released immediately.**
- 2. Considering the need for creating more employment in the rural parts of the state, adequate additional allocations be made for NREGA.**
- 3. Provision at-least 150 days of work for each job card holding household in this financial year.**
- 4. The caste-based trifurcation of FTO needs to be revoked.**

And further demanded to communicate these demands to the central government for seeking their proactive action.

In such trying times, the spirit of MGNREGA as an entitlement for people's right to work with dignity and social protection must be strengthened. We sincerely hope that the government of India will make much awaited provisions at such a critical juncture.

NREGA Sangharsh Morcha

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Annexure:

State	Organisations/ Unions	Date	Demands
Andhra Pradesh	The Human Rights Forum (HRF), Samalochana	6.11.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear pending wages ● Additional allocations ● Ensure adequate availability of employment and timely payment of wages ● Provision of at least 150 days of work for each household of beneficiaries
Telangana	Dalit Bahujan Front, Upadhi Hami phone Radio	14.11.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance and release adequate budget allocation ● Provision of at least 150 days of work for each household of beneficiaries ● Reinstate the field assistants unconditionally ● Adequate availability of employment and timely payment of wages
Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh NSM, Pahari Korwa Mahapanchyat, Chhattisgarh Kisan Mazdoor Aandolan (Surguja), Adivasi Adhikar Samiti (Koriya), Jan Chetna Manch (Raigarh), Kanooni Margdarshan Kendra, Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan, Nanga Baiga Janshakti Sangathan (Mungeli), आदिवासी दलित महिला मोर्चा (तिल्दा), वनांचल वनाधिकार फेडरेशन (राजनंदगाव), जन जातिये अधिकार मंच (जांजगीर), छत्तीसगढ़ महिला किसान मंच (महासमुंद)	15.11.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Release of pending wages ● Payment of compensation for the delay ● Adequate additional allocation
West Bengal	Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity, Shramajivee Mahila Samity, RTFWN, Masum Udayani, Sewa, Durbar, NOSKK, Pally Gram Unnayan, GBS, IRRWS, SMOKUS, SS, UFAR, SRHEDS, UJJIBAN	15.11.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rationalization of SoR to ensure disbursement of stipulated wages to workers after working for 8 hours in the field. ● Prioritizing category B works for vulnerable rural families with identification based on the laid down criteria declared in SECC, 2011. ● Release of pending wages ● Enhance and release adequate budget allocation ● Ensure adequate availability of employment and timely payment of wages
Bihar	Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan,	15.11.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clear pending wages

	Seva Kendra, Kosi Nav Nirman Manch, National Alliance of People's Movements		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Adequate additional allocations● Provision of at least 150 days of work for each household of beneficiaries
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