

Rejoinder of Published News

A news item published in the local daily '*Planet East*' on 16th October 2025, titled "*Workers unpaid amid false claim over SNA Sparsh*", has drawn the attention of the Rural Development Department. Upon thorough examination, the Department finds the report misleading and factually incorrect. The following clarification is issued:

The salaries of REGA employees, including GRS, Technical Assistants, and others under the Rural Development Department, have been temporarily delayed during October'25 due to technical reasons, not due to a shortage of funds.

The Central Government has introduced a new fund flow mechanism—'SNA SPARSH', integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and RBI's e-Kuber platform—to enhance transparency and accountability in centrally sponsored schemes (CSS). The transition from the earlier 'SNA' model to 'SNA SPARSH' is a nationwide reform already under implementation.

The claim in the news item that "*SNA SPARSH will be mandatory for all CSS only from 1st November 2025*" is incorrect. The Central Government had issued instructions on this much earlier, and the rollout is being undertaken progressively across states. Due to the technical complexities of this transition, requiring coordination between multiple departments at both state and central levels, salary payments during October have been temporarily affected.

The State Government reiterates that, all salaries of the REGA employees up to September have been paid on time and Festival bonuses were also disbursed in time in pursuance to the Durga Puja.

During the current financial year, the Central Government has approved a labour budget of 3.5 crore person-days under MGNREGA. Due to this, the State expects to receive a maximum of ₹448 crore under Material component and ₹89.6 crore under Admin component of the program. Of these, ₹62.2 crore under Material component and ₹18.08 crore under Admin component have already been sanctioned to the State in this financial year from the Government of India. Further, there was an unspent balance of ₹13.26 crore under Admin component from last financial year, which has been received as opening balance in this financial year. Out of this fund, the State has spent only ₹30.2 crore till date in this financial year for the salary purpose of the MGNREGA employees. Recently, the Ministry has further sanctioned ₹29.03 crore under Material component and ₹13.9 crore under Admin component through the SPARSH system.

The delay is purely technical and will be resolved shortly. The Department is taking all necessary steps to ensure smooth and timely payments under the new system.

The Rural Development Department requests all concerned to avoid spreading misinformation, which may create unnecessary confusion. REGA Employees are also being regularly updated by the department on this matter.