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‘None given work for 100 days under job scheme’

Staff Reporter

Food First Information and Action Network organises consultation

Even as the State government has taken up steps to cleanse the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) by ensuring electronic transfer of funds to bank accounts of beneficiaries and threatened action against those swindling funds, activists and members of Grameena Kooli Karmikara Sanghatane, the State Union of MGNREGA workers, have alleged that lacunas in the implementation of the Act continue to exist.

Speaking at a national-level consultation organised by Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN), Terasa, who works with MGNREGA workers in Nanjangud in Mysore district, said that even though the scheme aims to provide 100 days of work a year to rural households at a pre-determined minimum wage rates, none of the workers were given work for 100 days.

She also pointed out that the workers who are paid Rs. 174 have to wait for several months after they completed their work to get their wages. “Even though the government has stated that delays would be avoided, the workers sometimes have to wait for two-three months after they completed work to get their wages. As a result, many do not turn up for work under MGNREGA.”

Meanwhile, Dilip Kamat, president of FIAN Karnataka, said that the members of the union were trying to have a dialogue with the local authority to ensure that productive rural assets were created. “Apart from ensuring employment to people in rural areas, we want to ensure that civil works under the scheme is of use to the people,” he said.

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