

It's work sans wages for MGNREGS workers

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PAYMENT DUE



Pathanamthitta	20.85 cr.*
Thiruvananthapuram	57.64 cr.
Palakkad	26.45 cr.
Wayanad	4.65 cr.
Idukki	31.26 cr.
Kasaragod	15.51 cr.
Alappuzha	42.91 cr.
Ernakulam	18.37 cr.
Kannur	19.24 cr.
Kollam	33.44 cr.
Kottayam	19.24 cr.
Kozhikode	35.84 cr.
Malappuram	32.16 cr.
Thrissur	22.15 cr.

*in Rs. as on March 15

Rs.378.20 crore pending owing to Centre's failure to allocate funds

Hundreds of rural folk, majority of them women workers, who have toiled in the scorching sun to earn a livelihood under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) across the State are yet to get their wages since January 1.

Thanks to the inordinate delay on the part of the Centre in allotting funds, wages to the tune of Rs.378.20 crore has been pending in the State, which has been selected for piloting the electronic-Fund Management System (e-FMS) from January 1.

According to Rajan Babu, Joint Programme Co-ordinator of the MGNREGS here, the e-FMS is aimed at making all wage payments to the workers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

The Centre has selected Kerala for implementing the scheme as a pilot project from January so that it could be implemented across the country from April 1.

However, Mr. Babu told *The Hindu* that the workers had not got their wages from January for reasons best known to the authorities concerned.

Rs.229 a day

As per the revised wages, each worker is entitled for daily wages to the tune of Rs.229 and maximum work days of 100 a year.

Mr. Babu said as many 2,170 workers had completed 100 days' work in Pathanamthitta alone during the current financial year and 59,463 persons worked under various projects during the period.

He said the district had got a total of 1,30,000 job card holders.