

जयराम रमेश
JAIRAM RAMESH



ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री
भारत सरकार
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110114
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
KRISHI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110 114

D.O. No. J-14034/1/2011-MGNREGA-I (FTS 9473) 1st December 2011

Dear Madam Chief Minister -

1. Tamil Nadu is the only major state which has been making wage payments to MGNREGA workers by cash. In 2010/11, around 75 lakh workers were paid about Rs.2215 crore as wages in cash. However given the good postal and banking network in Tamil Nadu as well as the robust administrative systems in place for implementation of rural development programmes in the State, I wonder whether it is a good idea to continue with cash payments.

2. It is true that we are now allowing cash payments in specific areas like the Naxal-affected districts where the reach of banks and post offices is poor and where even the bank correspondent model is unlikely to have much of an impact in the short-term. But it seems to me that Tamil Nadu can be a trend-setter in seamless transfer of funds direct into bank/postal account of workers thereby deepening financial inclusion.

3. I am, therefore, writing to request you to kindly consider changing over to wage payments through banks and postal accounts, gradually over a period of time – over the next year, perhaps.

Warm personal
With regards,
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Yours sincerely,

Jairam Ramesh
(Jairam Ramesh)

Selvi J. Jayalalithaa,
Chief Minister,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Chennai.