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## No grants lost under MNREGA: Minister

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**PATNA:** Rural development minister Nitish Mishra on Monday said the state government had not lost any grant worth ₹9500 cr under MGNREGA.

He claimed, employment generating scheme gets funds on the basis of the mandays and work given to job card holders, mostly the rural poor. The minister along with department's secretary Amrit Lal Meena assertion could be seen a rebuttal to the recent CAG's report that the government had lost grants worth ₹9500 crore due to preparation of unrealistic budgets between 2007-2012.

Mishra said, there was no question of losing grants because the money released from the centre under the

scheme was totally demand driven and did not have a fixed allocation, as like other scheme like IAY. In 2012-13, he said the govt had spent ₹1250 crore against the labour budget of ₹3300 crore, whereas in this current fiscal year, a sum of ₹700 had been released so far against the labour budget of ₹2600 crore. "In the last several years, the spending on MGNREGA has increased," he said, claiming that remedial steps had been taken to plug the loopholes in the implementation of the scheme, as pointed out in the CAG report. "We have fine-tuned the system of implementation by instructing all panchayats to maintain registers and log in the names of those provided jobs and those who demanded jobs," the minister said.