



Ramesh threw light on the misuse of MNREGS funds in panchayats

## MNREGS not for buying SUVs: Ramesh

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**Guwahati:** The Union rural development minister Jairam Ramesh has asked the Assam government to ensure that the funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) are used properly as anomalies in the utilization of funds is surfacing in different states of the country.

"It has been found that many panchayats are misusing the funds allotted for MNREGS. The funds are being used to buy high-end SUVs instead of giving it to the actual beneficiaries," Ramesh said at a gram unnayan sammelan here on Sunday.

"MNREGS is not a scheme for buying SUVs. It is a scheme to help the poor villagers with a 100-day work guarantee and a payment of money for their labour. Many scams on the MNREGS funds have surfaced. I appeal, particularly to women, to stand against such mismanagement of funds in their villages," Ramesh warned.

Though he clarified that the statement was not targeted at Assam, he did say that as the state receives significant funds under MNREGS, the money should be properly utilized as 2,200 panchayats in Assam get at least Rs 1 crore each under the scheme. TNN