

The real blackout is for the daily-wage workers

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MYSURU: Kumar, a construction worker from Talur village, has become jobless ever since the government announced demonetization of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes. Though his employer is ready to pay him with the scrapped notes, the difficulty of going to banks everyday and standing in long queues to withdraw small amounts has forced him to decline the job. There is also the additional burden to travelling to his workplace, which is in Mysuru, by travelling in bus or train, where again he requires smaller denomination notes.

"If we work for a day, we have to go to the bank the next day to get the money exchanged. Due to long queues, then we won't be able to go to work that day," Kumar said.

Construction activities have been hit badly due to non-availability of new currency notes. While a mason earns Rs 600-700 per day, a worker is paid Rs 500 daily, and contractors are unable to dispense the amounts in Rs 100 notes.

Another worker, B Raju, said, "A day after the demonetization of notes, I was paid Rs 1,000 in old currency. I was confused whether to work or bank, as I couldn't do both in a single day. No one will give us work if we go two hours late."

Shiva Prakash, who is constructing a house has stopped work for a week as he doesn't have liquid cash to pay his workers.