

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Panchayats & Rural Development Department
Joint Administrative Building
Block HC, Plot No. 7, Sector -III
Salt Lake City
Kolkata-700 106

Memo. No. 302(20)-RD/O/NREGA/18S-03/10

Dated: 10/10/2013

From: Saurabh Kumar Das
Principal Secretary

To: The Principal Secretary, GTA
The District Magistrate & District Programme Coordinator (All Districts)
The Additional Executive Officer, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad

Sub: Engagement of Job seekers under MGNREGA in secondary/ primary schools
Ref: Memo No.526 (61)-SSE/13 dated 18/09/13.

Madam / Sir,

This office has received request for clarifications on the order issued by the school education department for engagement of NREGA Job-seekers in Secondary/Primary Schools to clean the toilets and school premises as well as to assist the cook-cum-helpers in the Midday Meal Programme. As you are aware MGNREGS follows the provisions of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act in the schedule to which the specific activities which can be taken up under the programme have been indicated. The list to such activities has been amended from time to time by the Government of India and the schedule also gets amended accordingly. The latest list of activities which can be taken up under MGNREGA has been included in the operational guidelines of MGNREGA, 2013 (4th edition). Any activity not included in the said list cannot be taken up.

In the schedule of activities the basic thrust is on creation of sustainable assets having impact on livelihood of the rural poor.

In the schedule of activities a number of schemes feature which can be implemented in the premises of primary/secondary schools. Development playground, raising of social forestry, cultivation of fruit-bearing trees in the form of orchards, construction of school toilet blocks etc. are such activities which can be implemented in the school premises. While most of the activities are one time in nature having impact on the environment in school, the environment can only be maintained if regular cleaning activities are performed in the premises. Accordingly, wherever the scheme permits efforts will be taken to include

environment cleaning activities as continued interventions under the programme. This is important to note that in social forestry and orchards there is scope of engaging unskilled wage-seekers for the purpose of maintenance of the plants. Activities pertaining to maintenance of the plants should include cleaning of the environment in order to ensure that the plants have appropriate environment to flourish. Accordingly, you are requested to take up as many plantation activities as possible in the school premises wherein watchers can be engaged for regular maintenance. In case space in the school premises is a constraint, even the social forestry schemes taken up in the adjacent areas may also be utilized for cleaning the school environment.

Kindly note that cleaning of environment of the schools is a priority of the State Government and such activities are to be taken up, if necessary in convergence with different other programmes like NBA, NRLM and the National Horticulture Mission.

Yours faithfully,



(Saurabh Kumar Das)