



GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Panchayats & Rural Development Department
Joint Administrative Building
Block HC-7, Sector -III, Salt Lake
Kolkata-700 106

No 3771(23)- RD/O/18S-01/06 (part I)

Date: 03/06/2019

To: The Principal Secretary, GTA
The District Magistrate & District Programme Coordinator (all)

Sub: Implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

Madam/Sir,

Your personal attention is drawn to certain issues associated with implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the current financial year. Due to elections, activities in the field during the months of April and May were severely restricted and as a result as of date we are at a considerably low level of achievement. Now that the elections are over, it is time we step up activities and reach substantially higher level of performance. However, while stepping up activities in the field, the following should necessarily be kept in mind.

- A. There should not be any scheme implemented in the field without corresponding asset value. The simple yardstick to be followed is '**no asset no scheme**'.
- B. **No scheme should be divided into multiple works.** Even if vetting authority lies at a higher level, the field level units have to prepare the estimates in totality and not break into several schemes with intention to avoid vetting at a higher level.
- C. Since 15 March 2019, the entire State has migrated to **securesoft** for preparation of estimates. Preparing specifications of secure, getting such specifications approved by appropriate authority, uploading the specifications and finally publishing the same in the system took some time. We have been able to publish rates for all earthwork items on 29.05.2019. Plantation estimates are also at an advanced level of preparation and material entry might take some more time. However, **in no case any work can be taken up without estimation generated from securesoft until and**

unless specifically approved by the State. In each such individual cases approval has to be sought from the State under the signature of the DPC/ADPC.

- D. There still exists a tendency to bypass securesoft by using convergence tag on the proposed schemes as in case of convergence estimate through Secure has not as yet been made mandatory. To clarify, **it is categorically mentioned that if any work is implemented with MGNREGA money, either partly or fully, the MGNREGA part of the estimate has to be prepared through Secure only.** If there is any deviation, the authority responsible for such deviation will be accountable and there might be cases where any expenses incurred for implementation of work outside Secure and without approval of the State, recovery might be required.
- E. For selection of works, may please focus on the following for priority:
- 1) **River rejuvenation** with specific vetting by the Irrigation Department.
 - 2) **Watershed based activities** in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Forest Department and the Department of WRID.
 - 3) **Activities for improved irrigation/drainage contributing to improve agricultural productivity.** Here again priority may be given to concrete assets and not to only earthwork. To give an example, the minor irrigation canals (sech nala) for taking water to or draining from the agricultural fields should be made of concrete and not repetitive silt clearance activities.
 - 4) Several other interventions to **increase productivity in agriculture, horticulture or pisciculture** be given priority.
 - 5) **Plantation** continues to be of priority. However, the sapling must be of **appropriate maturity** (12 to 18 months) and of **proper quality.** For procurement of saplings the earlier stipulation of **no procurement from private agencies** continue to be enforced with the exception that in case the district finds supplies from Government agencies and own nurseries will not be able to cater, the DPC may formally write to the department with detailed reasoning and **obtain written approval from the State.**
 - 6) For any plantation, **manures are to be purchased from the Solid Waste Management units** set up either through Mission Nirmal Bangla or through MGNREGA or through a combination of both at the institutional or household level. Only when such bio-waste produced by the individuals, SHGs and Institutions do not suffice, manure can be purchased from outside with formal

approval from the DPC. By outside purchase we mean purchase from any Government Institution and not from individual suppliers.

- 7) **Housing continues to be a major thrust** in Rural Development, this year and years to come. Mandatory 90/95 days of wages to the housing beneficiaries is a must. Disbursement of such wages is to be synchronized with disbursement of housing installments. In the previous years it has often been noticed that MGNREGA wages have not been disbursed although the housing money has reached the beneficiaries after observing all formalities. This is not acceptable.
- 8) **Solid and Liquid Waste Management** has been indicated as a priority activity in MGNREGA as a national priority in MGNREGA in the current year. The blocks and gram panchayats are encouraged to be pro-active on this. In Solid and Liquid Waste Management, we will continue to contribute Rs.10 lakh for the centralize waste processing units and wherever such centralized facilities are not feasible our focus will be on household-based unit for every 10 household.
- 9) **For Liquid Waste Management**, apart from water treatment for which we are trying to prepare model estimates, emphasis may be given to harvesting of rain water even at the household and channelizing such water for use in the toilet and in the kitchen garden.
- 10) **Individual benefit scheme linked to livelihood** will continue to be a priority for which and all out effort may be made. Livelihood interventions should be made after mapping the potential of such activities in a geographical area. This would actually contribute to enhanced income.
- 11) **Working through Self Help Groups** should be attempted to the maximum possible extent. Construction of common work-shed for a cluster of the SHGs, providing IBS support to the SHG members in a planned manner, linking IBS to SHGs members to the next level of infrastructure/service facilities through the higher formations like sangha, maha sangha and SHG cooperative is important.
- 12) **More activities with SHGs/federations of SHGs** in convergence with Anandadhara and other convergence schemes would be preferred. Construction of small storage space for storage of produce at GP/SHG sangha/PACS need attention.
- 13) **Homestead based plantation for livelihoods** with SHGs/SHG Sanghas/PACS will be given weightage as these create employment and assets for sustainable

livelihood. We would prefer atleast one such SHG/SHG Sangha/PACS managed nursery in every gram panchayat.

- 14) **In construction of Anganwadi centers** we have already made good progress. The momentum should continue; ongoing schemes should be completed within this financial year and new schemes to be taken up selectively with the approval the WCD Department.

It is reiterated that in over-enthusiasm of the field functionaries to create person-days and increase average, quality of implementation and monitoring should not be compromised. It is needless to mention that the undue haste in generating person-days is always counter-productive, especially on the quality aspect. Concern for quality, concern for transparency and proper implementation may always be given topmost priority.

Yours faithfully,


3/6/2019
Additional Chief Secretary