

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi -110001

1st April, 2008

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Constitution of Task Force on convergence of Pogrammes/
Schemes with National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been extended to all districts across the country with effect from 1st April 2008.

2. Substantial public investments are being made under NREGA for strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor and creation of durable assets in rural areas. It is observed that other Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are also making large public investments in rural areas for strengthening the rural economy. In order to ensure planned and coordinated investments in rural areas for generation of sustainable income and employment of the rural households it has been decided to constitute a Task Force to examine the modalities of convergence of various social sector programmes with National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and evolve suitable guidelines for this purpose.

3. The Task Force shall consist of the following Members:-

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|------|--|---|-------------|
| i) | Secretary
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development | - | Chairperson |
| ii) | Representative
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Land Resources | - | Member |
| iii) | Representative
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | - | Member |
| iv) | Representative
Ministry of Agriculture
Deptt. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying
and Fisheries | - | Member |

v)	Representative Rainfed Areas Development Authority, Ministry of Agriculture	-	Member
vi)	Representative Ministry of Agriculture Dept. of Agricultural Research & Education	-	Member
vii)	Representative Ministry of Environment & Forests	-	Member
viii)	Representative Ministry of Water Resources	-	Member
ix)	Representative Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Department of Health and Family Welfare	-	Member
x)	Representative Ministry of Women and Child Development	-	Member
xi)	Representative Ministry of Tribal Affairs	-	Member
xii)	Representative Planning Commission	-	Member
xiii)	Joint Secretary (NREGA)	-	Member –Convenor

4. A copy of the Terms of Reference for the above-mentioned Task Force is indicated at Annexure.

5. The participating Ministries may nominate a representative preferably not below the rank of Joint Secretary.

6. The Task Force may also co-opt such members as it may consider necessary.

7. The Task Force will hold meetings with such frequency as it may require.

8. The Task Force may interact with State Governments and other stakeholders to examine all the issues.

9. Requisite support to the Task Force will be provided by Ministry of Rural Development.

10. The expenditure on TA/DA of the Members in connection with the meeting of the Task Force will be borne by the parent Ministry/Department/Organization. However, expenditure towards TA/DA in respect of non official Members, if any, will be borne by Ministry of Rural Development as per the rules and regulations of TA/DA applicable to Grade I officer of Government of India.

11. The Task Force will submit its report containing recommendations within three months from the date of its constitution.

12. This has the approval of Secretary (RD).



(Amita Sharma)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Tele: 23385027

To:

All Members of the Task Force

Copy for information to:

1. PS to MRD
2. PPS to Secretary(RD)
3. PPS to Special Secretary &FA
4. PS to JS(S)

Terms of Reference for The Task Force on Convergence of NREGA with other development programmes of other Ministries of Government of India.

1. Background

- 1.1 Ministry of Rural Development in the Government of India is engaged in the implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 which guarantees at least 100 days of employment to the adult members of all rural households who volunteer to do unskilled manual work in the rural areas. The Act commenced on 2 February 2006 in 200 Districts. From 1 April 2007 it was extended to 130 more Districts. The Act has been extended to all the remaining 266 Districts (barring urban Districts) with effect from 1 April 2008.
- 1.2 The Act provides 8 categories of works which can be undertaken – water conservation and water harvesting, drought proofing (including afforestation and plantation), canal and other minor and micro irrigation work, provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development on the private lands of SC/ST, IAY and land reform beneficiaries and BPL families, land development, flood protection and drainage works, providing all-weather connectivity in rural areas.
- 1.3 Any rural household can apply in the Gram Panchayat for registration and issue of job cards. Once the job cards are issued, the members of the household may apply for employment to the Gram Panchayat or the Programme Officer. On submission of application, the applicant must be issued dated acknowledgement receipt. He should be provided employment within 15 days of the application, failing which he should be provided unemployment allowance whose cost is borne by the State Government. Panchayati Raj Institutions are principal planning, implementing and monitoring authorities. The Gram Sabha must monitor the execution of projects and conduct social audit of all projects executed within its territorial jurisdiction. Complaints should be submitted to the Programme Officer and disposed of within seven days (statutory period) of its receipt.
- 1.4 During the year 2006-07, Rs.8,823.25 crores was spent against the budget outlay of Rs.11,300 crores and 90.5 crore persondays were generated. Employment was provided to 2.1 crores households. A total of 8.35 lakhs works were taken up. During the current year, a budget provision of Rs. 12,000 crores has been made. Employment has been provided to 3.07 crores households and 120.42 crores persondays of employment has been generated up to February, 2008.

have been taken up.

- 1.5 There are several programmes run by other Ministries which have a direct bearing on generation of rural livelihoods which is the principal object of NREG Act. Some of these programmes are National Horticulture Mission, Irrigation, National Food Security Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Bamboo Mission, Schemes for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding, Agriculture Marketing, Watershed Development, National Rural Health Mission, ICDS, ITDA, etc. At present, there is no coordination between the implementing agencies at the field level for converging these programmes to yield maximum possible benefit to the rural households. There is a need to design mechanism for converging these programmes at the Center, State, District and Sub-District levels.

2. **Purpose**

- 2.1 To examine the modalities of convergence of programmes of various Ministries with NREGA for furtherance of the common objectives of all the programmes i.e. generation of sustainable livelihood and income for the rural households.
- 2.2 To develop guidelines for the convergence of all the programmes.

3. **Deliverable**

The Task Force will prepare a comprehensive guideline for convergence of all the schemes as mentioned in para 1.5 that have a bearing on generation of sustainable rural livelihood and income.