

No. J-11011/2/2008-NREGA
Government of India
Ministry of Rural development
NREGA Division

.....
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 7th April, 2008

To

1. All Members of the
Central Employment Guarantee Council
2. Shri R. Gopalakrishnan, Joint Secretary (PMO), New Delhi
(Special Invitee)
3. Shri Sharda Prasad, Joint Secretary (Labour), (Special Invitee)

SUB : Meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the fifth meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council has been fixed on **30.4.2008** at **3.00 p.m.** in 'Unnati', Conference Room No. 51, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi. You are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting. Agenda notes will follow.

Yours faithfully,

(**Krishna Kumar**)
Director (NREGA)
Tele : 23384338

Agenda Items for the Fifth Meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council to be held on 30.4.2008

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting:

The last meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council was held on 6.2.08 and the minutes were circulated on 22.2.08. No comments have been received from any Hon'ble Member of the Central Council. The minutes may be confirmed.

2. Review of the action taken on the issues discussed in the last meeting:

Action Taken Report on the decisions taken during the last meeting is at Annexure-I for information of the Members of the Central Council.

3. Implementation status of the NREG Programme:

Status of implementation of the programme for the year 2007-08 is at Annexure-II.

4. Key initiatives taken: (For information of the members)

(i) Orientation programme for new districts

A workshop for District programme Coordinators of phase-III districts was held in New Delhi on 4.3.2008. Members of the Central Council were invited to participate in the workshop. Four members of the Central Council participated and interacted with DPCs.

(ii) Disbursement of wages through NREGA workers accounts in Post Offices/Banks.

As per reports received from various states, 1,45,06,012 accounts of NREGA workers have been opened in Post Offices/banks.

(iii) Capacity building at National level

Establishing an Institutional Resource Network : .

Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), NIAR Mussourie, is conducting training for DPCs, State Officers and SIRD faculty under an MoU signed between MoRD and LBSSNA. Annual calendar for providing training has been drawn up and first batch of 35 DPCs have been imparted training. As per Annual

calendar, LBSNAA will conduct two batches of training programmes in each month for 35 participants in each batch.

Development/dissemination of prototype training materials for key stakeholders in local language (print, audio visual) and placed on the website for easy universal access and use :

-Manual on water conservation have been developed and distributed. Preparation of manual on Road connectivity is in process.

- Training films for PRIs and Government functionaries is in process

- NREG materials for semi-literate persons

-e-knowledge network for dissemination of best practices, ideas and information

(iv) Status of Technical Secretariat

Technical Secretariat has been set up. Twelve technical personnel have joined. A temporary premise for Technical Secretariat has been made available at Baba Kharak Singh Marg till its own premises in the same place is renovated.

(v) IEC activities

Use of media both electronic and print, preparation of TV spots, radio jingles, advertisements, films, etc. and preparation of brochures and peoples primers for semi/neo literate workers

It has been decided to introduce awards to be known as **Rozgar Jagrookta Puraskar** to recognize the outstanding contribution by Civil Society Organisations for promoting effective implementation of NREG Act.

States have also taken up initiatives for generating awareness about NREGA through meetings of the Gram Sabha, orientation programmes of Village Pradhans at Block level, distribution of leaflets and brochures in local languages, radio talk, shows, wall-paintings, street plays, folk songs and involvement of NGOs for inter-personal communication.

5. Issues for discussion:

(i) Studies undertaken

a) Draft reports on professional studies.

Six studies have been commissioned in 2007-2008 to look into various aspects of implementation of NREG Act. Two studies specially focus on gender issues.

Draft reports have been submitted by the respective institutes which are attached for discussion in the meeting. (Annexure-III)

b) World Bank studies on NREGA

World Bank in association with NSSO has proposed to undertake Impact Assessment studies on NREGA in selected districts of three States namely Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

A steering Group has been constituted in the Ministry under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) for finalization of World Bank's proposal.

The proposal and the questionnaire prepared for the study is submitted for discussion in the meeting. (Annexure-IV)

(iii) National Seminar on NREGA

A National Seminar to review the implementation of NREGA is scheduled to be held on 16.5.2008.

Suggestions on the Seminar are invited from the members of EC.

(6). Any other item with the permission of the Chairman of the Council.

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN DURING THE
FOURTH MEETING OF THE CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE
COUNCIL HELD ON 06.2.2008**

S.No.	Decisions Taken	Action Taken Report
1..	Appropriate action following due process under the NREG Act will be taken on the suggestions made by the Council Members, that pertain to provisions under law	Suggestions were made regarding setting up of a grievance redressal system, taking up works on individual lands and definition of Household. To address these legal issues, a High level Expert Group has been set up in the Ministry in which representative of Ministry of law is a member. Expert Group convened its first meeting on 8.4.2008.
2.	In case of work on individual lands, it would be stipulated that (a) it should be as per provisions of law and the beneficiary should be owner of the land (b) at least 10 persons should be working (c) 60:40 ratio of labour and material should be maintained for every such work	The issue has been examined in the meeting of the Expert Group held on 8.4.08 and draft notification is under process.
3.	A professional group would be set up to examine the issue of Schedule of Rates in respect of NREGA	National Productivity Council (NPC) and V.V. Giri National Labour Institute have sent their proposals for undertaking a study on Schedule of Rates in respect of NREGA. While both Institutes have accepted the Terms of Reference specified by this Ministry. The methodology, sample design etc. suggested by these Institutes are similar in nature. These Institutes have agreed to submit the report within three months. However, NPC has indicated the cost of the study at Rs.29.19 lakh. The V.V. Giri Institute has indicated of the study at Rs.12.26 lakh.
4.	The Core Group will finalise the revision of Operational Guidelines by February end	Operational Guidelines for NREGA have been revised.
5.	The apparent difference in the definitions of households under the Act and in the Guidelines will be resolved in consultation with the Ministry of Law	The issue has been examined in the meeting of the Expert Group held on 8.4.08 and draft notification is under process. A formal reference to Ministry of law is being made.
6.	The findings of the professional studies will be made available by March, 2008 and be discussed with Executive Committee and the Central Council	Ministry of Rural Development has commissioned six short studies that will look at the extent to which key objectives of NREGA are achieved. The short studies will also form part of a baseline on the implementation of the Act. The institutes undertaking these studies and their

		<p>preliminary findings are as under: (i) National Federation of Women Preliminary findings: NREGA is seen as an economic opportunity by women. Low level of awareness and absence of worksite facilities especially Crèches adversely affecting women participation.</p> <p>Lower migration trends noticed in sample districts</p> <p>(ii) Centre for Science and Environment Preliminary observations: Water conservation has been on top of the agenda for the people in the sample districts. Agricultural growth has almost doubled due to the water conservation works as people have started investing in a second crop with surety. Crop diversification has also begun with the availability of water Migration levels have come down.</p> <p>(iii) Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore: Has completed field study and data entry and is in the process of drafting its report.</p> <p>(iv) Institute of Development Studies Interim report has been submitted</p> <p>(v) Indian School of Women’s Studies and Development Interim report has been submitted</p> <p>(vi) Institute of Human Development: Interim report and draft of first two chapters, covering the objectives of the study and socio-economic background of States of Bihar and Jharkhand have been submitted.</p>
7.	State Government of Rajasthan will be requested to clarify the status of Keshawbadi Yojana and its linkage with NREGA	Clarifications have been sought for from the State Government of Rajasthan vide letter dated 24.3.08. (Copy enclosed). The matter is being followed up with the State Government.
8.	State will be requested to enforce the amendment of the NREG Act for changing the nomenclature of the Scheme	Letter dated 19.3.08 (copy enclosed) has been sent to all States for changing the nomenclature of the State Schemes in view of the amendment made in NREG Act,2005 vide notification No.J-11011/5/2006 dated 6.3.07. The State Governments have been instructed to notify State scheme as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme followed by the name of the State.

9.	Follow-up action will be taken to streamline preparatory activity in the new districts where NREGA commences from 1.4.2008	A Workshop of DPCs of all Phase III districts and State Secretaries (RD) of all States was convened in New Delhi on 4.3.08 to take stock of the preparatory activities under taken by these districts. Area officers and NLMs are being asked to visit Phase III districts.
10.	Workshop will be organized for generating more awareness about NREGA for press persons, MPs, MLAs and PRI functionaries	A seminar inviting media representatives is being organized on 16 th May, 2008.
11.	For greater awareness generation local cultural media like folk songs and folk music will be used.	This is under formulation
12.	Convergence with Adult Education Programme will be achieved	A Task Force has been set up for suggesting the modalities.
13.	All official members will be requested to attend meeting of the Council	Letters dated 27.3.08 have been sent to Secretaries of all concerned Ministries to depute their officials for the meetings of the Council (copy enclosed).
14.	Social audit processes would be strengthened	NIRD has prepared a manual on social audit based on the Best Practices of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. The manual has been circulated to all States vide letter dated 8.4.08 emphasizing that Social Audit should be done on regular basis in the light of this manual. A copy of the letter is enclosed.
15.	Issue of increase of administrative expenses to 6% would be examined	Ministry has set up a Working Group on Technical and Administrative Strengthening for Effective Implementation of NREGA. First meeting of the Working Group was held on 8.4.08. A draft Cabinet Note in this regard is being prepared.
16.	Identify card to non-official members of the Central Council will be provided	Ministry of Home Affairs has been consulted in this regard. Letters along with blank forms have been sent to all non-official members of the Central Council and they have been asked to return filled in forms along with their Photographs for taking up the matter further with Home Ministry. Copy of letter dated 3.4.08 is enclosed.