

Madhusudan Mistry

Member - National Council

MGNREGA and Ex. M.P.

Permanent Address:

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Nr. Azad Appartment,

Hauzkhas, New Delhi.

Date : 4th October. 2010

To,
Shri C. P. Joshi,
Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development,
Government of India,
New Delhi.

Dear Joshi ji,

Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, former minister of women and child development, and now member of National council, and I visited the villages Kotada, Dharampur, Bopodar and Gosa villages of Porbandar district of Gujarat to see and inspect the sites where MGNREGA's work was carried out by the administration, and to study the impact of MGNREGA's in the Distt.

Since rainy season is still alive, we could not see the MGNREGA's sites and hence inspected the documents and records at the Gram Panchayats.

While inspecting the record of the Gram Panchayat in the villages, the sarpanches, talatis (patwari) the TDO (Taluka development Officer), the DRDA director, the programme officer and other concerned people were present.

1. We found wide spread irregularities in the mode of payment made in the villages we visited in Porbandar district of Gujarat State.
2. Cash payments were made in large amounts to tractor owners / Contractors. Cash was withdrawn from the banks to the tune of Rs. 9 Lac, Rs. 6 Lac, Rs. 4 lac and so on, and paid in cash to the tractors owners/contractors in violation of the norms laid down under MGNREGA's.

W (A)
on file
copy to S.D. Joshi
for comments

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3. This was done under the head of material component. The administration argued that money is paid for transporting the material (Muram earth) to build Kuttcha road under MGNREGA's. This interpretation of the official is not in keeping with the letter and spirit of MGNREGS.
4. Job cards are made in the names of government employees, teacher, worker and people living abroad, and persons having 85% disabilities. None of them have worked on the sites, and yet the money is withdrawn in their name on a regular basis.
5. Records are kept poorly, making it difficult to trace the actual mode of applicants of MGNREGA's norms.
6. Bori - Bandh the massive programme that Government of Gujarat had under taken for water conservation is not mentioned any where in the assest register.
7. A fax letter on the shortcoming was sent to us drawing our attention to the irregularities. When we enquired the director, block level officials confessed to the irregularities and issued show cause notices to some people.
8. In view all of the above, we are of the opinion that a group of members from National Council should visit the State of Gujarat and some district, to know first hand how MGNREGS's is functioning at the District level and the impact on the beneficiaries. This will be in consonance with the Chief Minister of Gujarat who issued a statement asking that a committee of M.P.'s be appointing to investigate corruption in MGNREGA's.


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Renuka Chowdhury