

L-11011/01/2016-RE-I (348691)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Rural Development  
Department of Rural Development

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi -110114  
Date: 30-06-2016

To

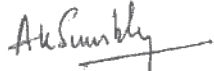
All the members of Central Employment Guarantee Council (CEGC)  
(As per list attached)

**Subject:** Minutes of the meeting of CEGC held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

Madam/ Sir,

I am directed to circulate the minutes of the meeting of Central Employment Guarantee Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 for information.

Yours faithfully,

  
(A K Sumbly)  
Dy. Secretary  
011-23070129

**Copy to:**

1. PS to Union Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Sanitation & Drinking Water
2. PS to Minister of State, Ministry of Rural Development
3. PPS to Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development
4. PPS to Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development

Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of Central Employment Guarantee Council

25<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Central Employment Guarantee Council was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 under the chairmanship of Shri. Chaudhary Birender Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development. The list of officials and non-officials present in the meeting is at **Annexure-I**.

The meeting began with the welcome address by the Chairman. In his address he stated the objectives of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and mentioned that the scheme was succeeding in providing employment to the rural poor. The high budgetary allocation towards MGNREGA and steps to ensure timely payment of wages clearly indicate that the Government accords top priority to this programme. He informed that the Ministry had started organising Inter State Exchange Programmes (ISEP) for sharing and learning. The first ISEP wherein the Ministry facilitated the visit of officials from 7 states to the State of Rajasthan for studying water conservation and watershed management works under MGNREGA. He invited suggestions from members of the Council for further improving the status of implementation of the programme. He conveyed his desire to hold the CEGC meeting at least once in every four months.

Joint Secretary, MGNREGA, who is the Member Secretary of the Council made a presentation before the Council highlighting the performance of MGNREGA over the years with special reference to FY 2015-16. The steps taken by the Ministry in implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer, taking consent of beneficiaries on AADHAR seeding, thrust on convergence, need for strengthening of Social Audit units, institution of State revolving fund based on Jharkhand Model, Cluster Facilitation Team project and the training of Barefoot Technicians were presented at length. Thereafter on request of the Members, the Member Secretary informed the Council about the directives in the interim order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the action being taken by the Ministry for complying with the Hon'ble Court's order.

The Member Secretary outlining the agenda of the meeting requested the Council to confirm the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of CEGC and approve the Annual Report FY 2015-16. The Council confirmed the minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and approved the Annual Report for FY 2015-16.

Following are the remarks made by the members of the Council during the meeting:

**1. Shri. Amitabh Mukhopadhyay**

- a. As of now demand for work by workers is compiled by the supply side and therefore more or less tallies with the work supplied. A counter narrative of actual demand of people may be collected during the planning stage.
- b. The Annual Report may include information pertaining to payment of wages made in time.

**2. Shri M N Roy**

- a. Analyse states which are not utilising funds as per the expected demand and facilitate building their capacity to do the same.
- b. Works needs to be analysed from the point of view of their effectiveness, in alleviating drought conditions and in terms of creating further avenues of employment.
- c. From the point of view of seasonality of employment, the Labour Budget may be proportionately distributed, with the bulk during post sowing to harvesting period.
- d. Comparative district wise performance report based on key parameters may be included in the Annual Report.
- e. Reporting on NREGASoft for individual and community toilets should be separate.
- f. Grievance redressal is very weak with inadequate platforms for participation of people.

**3. Ms. Madhu Khetan**

- a. MGNREGA is a large programme which has replaced earlier NRM programmes and therefore needs adequate budgeting and personnel to meet all its objectives, including demand and wage payment made in time.
- b. In the 11th year, the most basic aspect of it being demand based is still not functioning on the ground and demand is not being captured properly due to lack of capacity at Gram Panchayat level.
- c. Shelf of works may be prepared for 4-5 years to avoid repetition of planning every year.

- d. The grievance redressal system needs to be strengthened in terms of providing a response to people and taking action on complaints.
- e. Material procurements are not streamlined which allows for corruption and leakages.
- f. Percolation of Annual Master Circular among the ground level functionaries needs to be ensured.
- g. Reconciliation of MGNREGA wage rate and minimum wage rate is required.

**4. Shri Satish Chinduji Vuike**

- a. Reasons for delayed payment of wages may be assessed and efforts may be made for timely payment of wages.

**5. Justice J C Verma**

- a. Insensitivity of officials engaged in implementing rural development schemes in Haryana is a major concern and needs to be addressed.
- b. Worker rights are not fulfilled and issues of misappropriation remain.

**6. Ms. Shobha Singh**

- a. Appropriate types of works for "saem" soil, with high ground water level, should be considered.
- b. Resolve issues related to adequacy of homestead land for construction of toilets.
- c. Consider allowing agricultural work under MGNREGA.
- d. Supported decision of 60:40 labour material ratio at the district level.
- e. In convergence works, other departments should have equal pressure to implement MGNREGA.
- f. Payment of wages should be done along with workers as they are poor and their wages get delayed due to being linked to material payments.
- g. Technical staff of MGNREGA should be given regular salary and benefits.
- h. Administrative Expenses need to be revised upwards.

**7. Shri Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh**

- a. MGNREGA has helped in the creation of good assets and improved road connectivity.

- b. The notified wage rate of MGNREGA needs to be enhanced for a state like Jammu and Kashmir.
- c. Material costs are high in the state and therefore, 60:40 ratio may be made more flexible for Jammu and Kashmir and other hilly areas.

**8. Shri Ram Chander Kharadi**

- a. Works suitable to be taken up in hilly terrain of tribal areas may be thought of.
- b. Transparency in wage payments should be strengthened as in tribal areas there is the practice of intermediaries accessing wage payments on behalf of workers.
- c. Development of grazing lands with fencing is a useful work to be taken under MGNREGA.

**9. Shri Pramatesh Ambasta**

- a. Suggested the strengthening of the CFT project and setting up of a dedicated CFT Cell at MoRD and setting up a CEGC sub-committee to monitor the project.
- b. There is shortage of dedicated staff to run the programme. It should be ensured that sufficient staff is posted and to strengthen the capacity building and career growth prospects. A framework for the same can be considered.
- c. There is high attrition rate amongst MGNREGA staff at ground level. Appropriate measures may be taken to counter this situation.
- d. While taking up dug well works, rather than top down targets, assessment of ground water availability in the region should be taken as the key parameter.
- e. The Ministry should take stock of the status of states developing their own Schedule of Rates for MGNREGA, particularly for women.
- f. Labour material ratio of 60:40 at district level creates inequality between blocks and works to the disadvantage of tribal areas. A CEGC working group in 2010 had suggested that 60:40 at block level and this should be maintained.
- g. Consider change in nomenclature of MGNREGA workers as "unskilled." This creates a negative discourse on the value of MGNREGA work.

10. Dr. Dhan Kumar informed that the monitoring and supervision of MGNREGA works in Haryana is very poor and steps may be taken to strengthen the monitoring system.

**11. Ms. Vartika Nanda**

- a. The Ministry may improve upon communicating its achievements in the programme.
- b. There is a need to focus on the website to make it more user friendly.
- c. There is rural-urban divide with a lack of collective responsibility for the programme in urban areas. There is need for a young, educated force in MGNREGA. This can be addressed through facilitating internship and exposure programmes of college students to rural areas and Public Service Broadcasting.
- d. Ministry should consider using mobile phones and internet to create an interface between the Government and people to communicate with each other.
- e. Social media platforms of the Ministry can be made more effective.
- f. Consider developing a feedback mechanism of citizens to the Ministry on MGNREGA.

**12. Dr. Amrita Patel**

- a. Restoring of pastures should be considered as assets as they provide water and fodder, particularly in the time of drought.
- b. Drought relief measures are required to be addressed in a far more systematic manner. Work on greening of common lands and recharging of water bodies take time to manifest itself and there are no quick fixes.
- c. Instead of 'farm ponds' as a target, the Ministry may focus on broader categories of 'pastures' and 'water bodies', as these have a lasting impact.
- d. On the CFT project a lot more effort needs to be made to build the understanding within government that the project is one in partnership with the civil society organisations. Efforts need to be made to strengthen CFT and orient the state governments on its usefulness.
- e. Building of toilets needs to be linked with overall sanitation, bio gas and water availability.

- f. The website of the programme breaks down between January and May and cannot be accessed. This may be looked into.

**13. Prof N H Ravindranath**

- a. The website of the Ministry is very much transparent and informative. However the website can be made more user friendly for students, journalists, researchers and citizens, to understand the impact of the programme.
- b. Partnerships with Agriculture and Engineering colleges can be considered to provide technical assistance to Gram Panchayats.
- c. Incomplete works are an issue which should be taken up, along with provisions for maintenance of assets.
- d. Assets should also focus on creating resilience in the long term and sustainable employment.

**14. Ms. Kamayini Swamy**

- a. The norms for payment of compensation for delays in wage payments should be revised and examined by the CEGC. Discretion should not be left to the Programme Officer to reject payment of compensation.
- b. Reconciliation of Minimum Wage and MGNREGA should be considered as per the recommendations of the Mahendra Dev Committee Report. The deliberation on reconciliation should be shared with CEGC before a decision is made.
- c. More public consultations with persons at all levels of the implementation of the programme is desirable.
- d. Report on the compliance of the Ministry with the Supreme Court orders to be shared with the CEGC.
- e. The basic entitlements of MGNREGA are still not fulfilled, including unemployment allowance. Ministry may do a stock taking and monitor States to frame rules on unemployment allowance.
- f. Expanding entitlements for MGNREGA workers under the programme may be considered, including maternity entitlements, benefits of health insurance etc.
- g. Several issues related to biometrics of workers remain. The push for AADHAR in MGNREGA is not in the favour of workers and may be reconsidered.

- h. The change of the ratio of 60:40 to be maintained at the district level is detrimental to backward and tribal blocks and hamlets.

**15. Dr. Manoj Panda**

Demand for work depends on factors like developmental activities in districts, rainfall situation etc. and an analysis should be done to arrive at a realistic Labour Budget.

- 16. Dr Ashok Kumar**, Advisor Niti Ayog Shared suggestions from regional workshops on poverty task force including:
- 60:40 at the district level has been welcomed by all states.
  - Shortage of funds for payment of arrears by States was put forward.

**17. Shri Ashok Pai**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs

- Suggested that areas where population of SC and ST is above 25%, the Ministry targets of farm ponds and dug wells can be taken up in saturation mode.
- In scheduled areas, Gram Panchayat planning should be done at the village level.
- Focus of BFTs in tribal areas may be considered.

**18. Shri Inder Dhamija**, DIG, Ministry of Environment and Forest

- Request to share figures on afforestation under MGNREGA which will assist in achievement of targets under National Afforestation Programme.

**19. Shri Abhay Mahajan**, Commissioner MGNREGA, Maharashtra

- Consider alternatives materials for tree guards apart from locally made materials.

**20. Shri Ashish Srivastav**, Resident & Special Commissioner, Madhya Pradesh

- Request to rollout Ne-FMS in Madhya Pradesh State.
- Material suppliers should also be registered in Ne-FMS and directly paid by GOI.



21. **Shri Guishan Lal**, Ministry of Women and Child Development

- a. Mentioned working towards joint targets with Ministry of Rural Development for construction of Anganwadi Centres.

The meeting ended with thanks to all the Members for their suggestions and participation in the meeting.

Annexure-I

List of Participants in the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CEGC

Sl. No.	Name of Participants
1	Shri. Chaudhary Birender Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development, Chairman
2	Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, Minister of State, Rural Development
3	Shri Jitendra Shankar Mathur, Secretary, MoRD
4	Shri. Amarjeet Sinha, Additional Secretary, MoRD
5	Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Joint Secretary, MoRD
	<b>Representatives from Central Ministry</b>
6	Shri Gulshan Lal, Ministry of Women and Child Development
7	Shri Inder Dhamija, DIG, Ministry of Environment and Forest
8	K K Lamba, Dy Director General, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
9	Shri K S Srinivas, Joint Secretary, Marketing, Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare
10	Shri Ashok Pai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs
11	Dr. Shikha Anand, Director, DGE, Ministry of Labour and Employment
12	Dr. Ashok Kumar Jain, Advisor(RD), NITI Aayog
	<b>Representative from State Government</b>
13	Shri Rajiv S Thakur, Secretary, RD, Government of Rajasthan
14	Shri Abhay Mahajan, Commissioner, MGNREGA, Rural Development, Government of Maharashtra

15	Shri Ashish Srivastava, Resident Commissioner and Special Commissioner, Government of Madhya Pradesh
	<b>Non Official Member (Representing PRI, Organisations working for disadvantaged group)</b>
16	Sh. Satish Chinduji Vuike, Zila Parishad Pramukh, Zila Parishad, Amaravati, Bargaon Dhande, Maharashtra
17	Smt. Shobha Singh, Ex-Zila Parishad Pramukh, Zila Parishad, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan
18	Shri Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, Sarpanch, Panchayat Chanjar, Block Marwah, District-Kishtawar, (J&K)
19	Shri Pramathesh Ambasta, Co-Founder, Samaj Pragti Sahyog, District- Dewas, Madhya Pradesh-455227
20	Shri Ramachander Kharadi, RAS (Retd.), Gayatri Shaktipeeth, Indrakhet, District-Dungarpur (Rajasthan)
21	Dr. Dhan Kumar, Tehsil-Israna, District- Panipat (Haryana)
22	Ms. Kamayini Swamy, General Secretary, Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan, Patna (Bihar) - 800014
	<b>Non Official members (Representing States)</b>
23	Ms. Madhu Khetan. Integrator, Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADHAN), Kallash Colony, New Delhi
24	Shri Amitabh Mukhopadhyay, Retd. IAAS officer, A-7/6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057
25	Dr. Manoj Panda, Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University Enclave, North Campus, New Delhi-110007

26	Ms. Vartika Nanda, Asst. Professor, Department of Journalism, Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi
27	Prof. N.H. Ravindranath, IISc, Central for Sustainable Technologies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012
28	Dr. Amrita Patel, Chairman, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), HDDB Campus, Anand, Gujarat-388001
29	Justice J. C. Vemra (Retd.), 90, Sector-11, Chandigarh
30	Shri M. N. Roy (Ex-IAS), Salt lake , Kolkata 700098