

No. K.11015/1/2010-MGNREGA-I
Government of India
Ministry of Rural development
Department of Rural Development
(Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Division)

Krishi Bhawan , New Delhi,
Dated/6 August, 2011

To,

All State Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of Rural Development

Subject: Payment of wages to MGNREGA workers through the post offices – steps to be taken by State Governments for ensuring timely payments.

Sir/Madam

As you are aware, under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, disbursement of daily wages is to be made on a weekly basis or in any case not later than a fortnight after the date on which such works was done. Mahatma Gandhi NREGA also provides that the payment of wages shall be made through the individual or joint saving accounts of the workers in the banks or post offices opened in accordance with the directions of the Central Government. In case the payment of wages is not made within the period specified under the scheme, the labourers shall be entitled to receive compensation as per the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

In this connection, it is informed that Ministry has been continuously following up with Ministry of Finance, Department of Posts, action required to be taken for meeting requirements of the provision of the Act. In a meeting recently held with Department of Posts, Department of Posts has requested for State Governments' assistance to mitigate some problem that the Post Offices are faced with, in their effort to ensure the timely payments.

The major issues/bottlenecks highlighted by Department of Posts are (1) gap between release of cheque & actual availability of fund with post offices (2) law & order situations in disturbed areas and (3) lack of coordination between State RD Department & post Offices.

Department of Post has suggested the following remedial measures to be taken by State Governments in this regard:

1. A balance amount to the tune of average monthly payments made to MGNREGA workers may be maintained with Head Post Office at the District HQ to overcome the problem of gap between release of cheque & actual availability of fund with post offices.
2. In cases where Post Offices find it difficult to arrange transport and approach District Administration for the same, necessary support may be provided by the District Administration for transporting the money.
3. In disturbed areas or where law & order situations warrants so, necessary security cover may be provided to Post Offices while transporting the money.

All the State Governments are, therefore, advised to provide the necessary assistance to Post Offices and issue suitable instructions to the concerned officials under intimation to this Ministry.

Yours faithfully,


(D. K. Jain)

CC, Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Issued on 16 Aug 2011

Copy : Dr. Y.P. Rai, DDG (RB & Plg), Department of Posts, Dak Bhawan, New Delhi for information and necessary action, please.