

No. J-11011/1/2008-NREGA
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
NREGA Division

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated 8th April, 2008

To

All Members of the Executive Committee

SUB : Third meeting of the Executive Committee

I am directed to inform you that the third meeting of the Executive Committee constituted in accordance with Rule 9 of the Central Employment Guarantee Council Rules, 2006 will be held on **29th April, 2008 at 10.00 A.M.** Union Secretary (RD) and ex-officio President of the Executive Committee will preside. The meeting will be held in 'Unnati', Conference Room No. 51, Krishi Bhavan.

You are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting. Agenda notes will follow.

Yours faithfully

(**Krishna Kumar**)
Director (NREGA)
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Agenda Items for the 3rd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Central Employment Guarantee Council to be held on 29.4.2008

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting:

The last meeting of the Executive Committee was held on 5.2.08 and the minutes were circulated on 21.2.08. No comments have been received from any Hon'ble Member of the Committee. 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 Committee.

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, 1,20,28,994 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 President of the Committee

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING THE
SECOND MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL
EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE COUNCIL HELD ON 05.2.2008**

S.No.	Decisions Taken	Action Taken Report
1.	Para 7.2(iii) on social audit contained in the minutes of the First Executive Committee Meeting may be modified	Para 7.2 (iii) has been revised and has been circulated to all members of the EC vide letter dated 31.3.08 . Copy of the letter is enclosed.
2.	Studies conducted by the professional institutions should be completed by March end. State Governments may be requested to expedite preparation of reports by rendering cooperation to the professional institutions	<p>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 preliminary findings are as under:</p> <p>(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</p>

		States of Bihar and Jharkhand have been submitted.
3.	Convergence with programme of National Literacy Mission	A Task Force has been setup in the MoRD under the chairmanship of Secretary (RD).
4.	Efforts may be intensified for generation of awareness in the rural community by use of local cultural resources, like folk songs	This is under formulation
5.	An Expert Group may be set up to examine issues in the Act that require clarification or revision in the light of the experience gained in course of implementation of the Act, and to reconcile difference between the Act and the Guidelines	To address the legal issues under NREGA, the Ministry has set up a High level Expert Group in which a representative of Ministry of Law is a member. First meeting of the Expert Group was held on 8.4.2008. Definition of 'Household' was considered in this meeting. A reference to Ministry of Law is now being made on the issue.
6.	A professional study may be conducted on the issue of SORs in order to arrive at a fair and reasonable system of assessment of works under NREGA taking into account diverse factors such as age-sex-health profile of workers, type of work and geomorphological condition that impinge on the productivity of the workers	Three institutes namely National Productivity Council (NPC), V.V. Giri National Labour Institute and NCAER were identified by the Ministry for the purpose. NPC and VVNGLI have shown interest and preliminary discussions have been held with the representatives of these institutes on their initial proposals on 7.4.08. They have now submitted their revised proposals.
7.	Census of work under NREGA may be conducted by independent agencies	Proposal is under formulation.
8.	Clear norms may be set up for taking up work on individual land	The Ministry has set up an Expert Group for review of NREGA. Issue of work on individual lands was examined in the meeting of the Expert Group held on 8.4.2008. Notification is under process.
9.	Simplified model social audit rules may be prepared	Draft rules have been prepared.
10.	The Guidelines may be revised keeping in view the suggestions received from various quarters	Suggestions had been received from Dr. Jean Dreze in this regard. These have been examined and incorporated in the revised Operational Guidelines for NREGA.
11.	Central Council may consider the issue of identity cards to Members of the Council	Issue of providing identity cards to the members of Central Council was approved in the meeting of Central Council held on 6.2.08. Ministry of Home Affairs has been consulted in this regard. Letters along with blank forms have been sent on 3.4.2008 to all non-official members of the Central Council and they have been requested to return filled in forms along with their Photographs for taking up the matter further with Home Ministry.