

Date: 24.08.2016

Dear Sir,

You are aware that the Ministry of Rural Development (vide L-11033/7/2015-RE-VII, Dated 5th Feb,2016) has communicated its Action Plan on Social Audit to the State and has been requesting to ensure the compliance of activities and timeline mentioned in the Action Plan. However no significant progress has been made so far in this regards. To ensure the effective implementation of Social Audit and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the State Government has to institutionalize the social audit process and ensure the following on immediate basis.

- i) To set up SAU as an independent registered society which is financially, functionally and administratively independent of implementation agency of the State.
- ii) To constitute the governing body in the prescribed manner. It is mandatory to have 3 representatives from Civil Society Organizations, Academic and Training Institutions, working in the state or outside, having long standing eminent citizens with long standing experience in working with issues related to transparency and public accountability. The State Government is requested to ensure the same.
- iii) To expedite the recruitment at State and District level. The Ministry has already released the fund for staffing in social audit unit. The State Government is requested to communicate the dates of recruitment and State level training which will be held as per TISS Curriculum.

2. I would also like to point out that the State shall refrain from nominating SIRD as the Social Audit Unit for the State, as this would affect the independence of the Social Audit Unit set up. Thus, the Ministry does not permit the appointment of SIRD as the Social Audit Unit of the State. The Ministry is firm in ensuring that Social Audit Units as envisaged in the Audit of Schemes Rules, 2011 are set up to roll out credible and independent social audits on the ground.

3. Since the Ministry has planned to start the training of the Master trainers from 6th of September, 2016 for all the States, it will be effective and relevant if SAU is completely institutionalized for the capacity building of the core staff. I request your assistance and cooperation in ensuring the same.

Yours sincerely,

(Aparajita Sarangi)

24/8/16

✓ FMS-I/79260/16
Shri Jitendra Nath Pegu,
Secretary (P& RD)

Govt. of Assam

Dispur.

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Copy to Commissioner (MGNREGA) (Dr. J.B. Ekka), Govt. of Assam, Dispur.

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