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Ministry of Rural Development
Dept. of Rural Development
Government of India
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110114

D.O. No. J-11060/04/2017-MGNREGA (VI) (355552)

Dear Sir Singh,

Date: 01.06.2017

Sub: Progress Mahatma Gandhi NREGA programme for Punjab

You must be aware that, the Ministry monitors key indicators of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA programme regularly to ensure effective implementation at all levels. The Empowered Committee (EC) meetings held during the month of March, 2017 discussed the performance of the state in the FY 2016-17 and approved the Labour Budget for the FY 2017-18.

Keeping in view the discussions held during the Empowered Committee meetings and commitments made thereof by your State, I would like to draw your attention to the following points and seek your cooperation in expeditiously addressing the programme priorities;

1. Delay in Payment of Wages:

Timely payment of wages is one of the thrust areas for the programme in the current financial year. In this regard, a VC was held on 28th March 2017, wherein, it was advised, to the states that, the 2nd FTO should be pushed within 8 days of closure of the Muster Roll. I request you to ensure urgent compliance of the T+8 timeline.

2. Payment of Delay Compensation:

As per the MIS, the total payable delay compensation for your state is reported to be ₹0.8 lakh, out of which nil has been paid. The remaining ₹0.47 lakh is currently due for verification. I would urge you to complete the verification of these delayed cases and ensure their payment from the available funds (subject to recovery from the concerned functionary/ institution responsible for causing the delay).

I would also like to mention that, for your state Delay Compensation Rule has still not been notified. I request you to take necessary steps to issue notification of the Delay Compensation Rule at the earliest.

3. Setting up independent Social Audit Unit and conducting Social Audit:

A manual for training of Village Resource Persons (VRP) on Social Audit has been shared with all the states. These trainings in addition to State Resource Persons (SRPs) and District Resource Persons (DRPs) shall be taken up on priority. Additionally, Auditing Standards have been notified by the Ministry for conducting social audits and these standards shall be adhered to for conducting quality social audits. I request you to kindly ensure compliance of all of the conducting social audits as per the guidelines.

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4. **Expediting Aadhaar seeding and ABP conversion:**
It is essential to seed Aadhaar number of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA workers with their bank accounts for payment of wages, with the consent of the respective worker. As per the MIS report, 769482 of beneficiaries' bank account have been seeded while, 762011 of Aadhaar seeded bank accounts have been converted to ABPS. In this regard, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has also been shared vide letter dated 14th March 2017, highlighting the process flow of Aadhaar seeding. I hope that, the SOP will be made useful in expediting the seeding and conversion process.
5. **Completion of Incomplete Works:**
The number of works which were started in FY 2015-16, but are still incomplete in your state is reported to be 5599. It is desirable to hold a review of the progress in completion of works and ensure completion of works, started in FY 2015-16 or before as per the timelines mentioned in the minutes of the Labor Budget meeting for FY 2017-18.
6. **Job Card to all Landless Manual Casual Labour (MCL) HH as per SECC-2011:**
Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC-2011) has identified 707741 households, in your state, who dependent on Manual Casual Labour (MCL) for their livelihood. As per the MIS, 370657 (52 %) households have been surveyed in your state, of which 2735 households have expressed willingness to work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.
7. **Job Card verification and updation in a campaign mode:**
Job Card is the primary identity of a worker to seek work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The state government has to ensure, that all the Job Cards are complete and verified before being issued. As per the MIS, 1260249 Job Cards have been issued for your state, out of which 1211561 (96.14 %) have been verified.
8. **Taking up Works under Mission Water Conservation:**
As you might be aware that, the Ministry has been focusing on 2264 water stressed blocks. Out of these, 113 blocks belong to your state. For the FY 2017-18, 65% of the total expenditure shall be spent on Natural Resource Management (NRM) works. I request you to ensure that NRM works bear, a minimum of 65% of the total expenditure.
9. **Achieving Monthly Targets of Geo-MGNREGA:**
It gives me immense pleasure to express that all the states have contributed to the success of Geo-MGNREGA. All the assets created under the programme have to be geo-tagged mandatorily within one month of its completion. For your state, the total completed assets for FY 2017-18, are reported to be 82224, out of which 59999 have been geo-tagged. For the month of June 2017, 3501 number of works are set as target for your state. I request you to kindly ensure geo-tagging of all the completed assets, as well as achievement of the targets.
10. **Progress of Farm Ponds:** As per the MIS the total number of farm ponds targeted for your state is reported as 1581, of which 1742 number of farm ponds have been completed. Farm ponds is another important productive asset to be created under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. I request you to ensure achievement of construction of farm ponds as committed during the EC meeting.

11. Appointment of Ombudsman and formulation of Grievance Redressal Rules:

Section 30, Schedule I of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, mandates the states to appoint an Ombudsman for each district for receiving grievances, details of which have been shared vide a letter dated 10th March 2017. I request you to ensure that the current vacancies are filled up at the earliest.

As per Section 19 of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, it is mandatory to formulate Grievance Redressal Rules to determine appropriate grievance redressal mechanism and procedure for disposal of complaints. The status of grievances pending on Central Public Grievance Redress and Monitor System (CPGRAMS) may also be attended on urgent basis. Currently, as on date, 13 number of grievances are pending in your state.

I would urge you to take up the above mentioned issues on urgent basis and revert the status of progress to the Ministry.

12. Convening of SEGC meeting:

State Employment Guarantee Council (SEGC) is the statutory body at the State to review the programmatic issues related to Mahatma Gandhi NREGA implementation. SEGC is mandated to have bi-annual meetings. I request you to share the notification of the SEGC constitution along with the minutes of the last SEGC meeting with the Ministry, at the earliest.

13. Suggestive Framework for Citizen Information Boards and Wall Writings:


Citizen Information Boards and Wall Writings are an integral part of 'Janata Information System' for mandatory proactive disclosure of basic information to all common people and stakeholders. The Ministry has come up with a suggestive framework on Citizen Information Board and Wall Writings, vide letter dated 07.04.2017. You are requested to adopt the Framework with necessary customization (if need be) in your state.

14. Submission of Research Studies:

With a view to ensure scientific assessment of the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in States/ UTs, the Ministry had approved the States to commission research studies for the same. The 1st draft of these studies were to be submitted by 31st March 2017. However, the Ministry has not received it from your states. I request you to submit the status of the progress on these research studies to the Ministry.

In view of the above facts, I would therefore urge you to issue necessary instructions to the concerned officials for timely achievement of the commitments made in the EC meetings. The performance on the key indicators as enlisted above are being reviewed at regular intervals. Satisfactory progress in all these indicators is an essential pre-requisite for further release of funds. An early response on the progress on above issues shall be highly appreciated. I assure you of full support in this endeavor to your State.

Warm regards,
Yours sincerely,


(Aparajita Sarangi)

Shri Dipinder Singh
Secretary
Department of Rural Development
Government of Punjab
Chandigarh