

Nagendra Nath Sinha
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development



Ajay Kumar
Defence Secretary
Government of India
Department of Defence

DO # J-11017/06/2021-RE-VII (e377101)

July 26, 2022

Subject: Revised joint advisory on convergence of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS and Border Roads Organization (BRO)

Dear colleagues,

1. **Background:** BRO constructs roads in border areas mostly keeping the defence and strategic considerations of the nation. Most border areas are rural and the infrastructures including road works are also taken up under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in these areas. To optimize the national outcomes, there is ample opportunity to have an effective synergy and convergence between these two Schemes without diluting their own goals and objectives.

2. As per para 4(1) of the Schedule – I of the Act, following rural connectivity works are permitted under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS–

Para 4(1),(IV),(ii) - "Providing all-weather rural road connectivity to unconnected villages and to connect identified rural production centres to the existing pucca road network; and construction of pucca internal roads or streets including side drains and culverts within a village" and

Para 4(1),(IV),(viii) - "Maintenance of rural public assets created under the Act including maintenance of tunnel and bridges constructed by the Border Roads Organization" (vide notification dated 7th July 2022)

This convergence shall be implemented as per the following guidelines:

- a. All these works will be carried out only in rural areas.
- b. For rural connectivity convergence works under the Scheme, BRO will be the Programme implementing agency (PIA).
- c. The unskilled labour component will be made from Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The topup to the workers may be paid separately by BRO.

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- d. The cost of material upto 2/3 of total wage cost per work could be borne under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- e. No direct fund releases would be made to BRO. Separate bills for materials booked for Mahatma Gandhi NREGS would need to be prepared by the BRO following the procedure.
- f. All processes and non-negotiable conditions of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA would apply (i.e. approval of projects/ works from Gram Sabha for works wherein GP is PIA and PIAs from District Panchayat/Intermediate Panchayat for which BRO is PIA, execution of work through job card holders only within the limits of the Block, non-engagement of contractors and labour displacement machines, maintenance of labour material ratio 60:40 at the District level, social audit, transparency and accountability etc.).
- g. No contractor's workers will be allowed for part of works where expenditure is booked under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- h. The technical officials of BRO would prepare technical designs, drawings/estimates and give layout of the convergent rural connectivity works under the Scheme and will ensure/ monitor quality of works.
- i. Quality standards for the rural roads under the Scheme are to be maintained and relevant IRC codes/PMGSY Guidelines to be followed. In case of higher specifications of roads specified by BRO and for activities not permitted under the Scheme but required for completion of road, BRO will utilize its own funds.
- j. The administrative sanction of all these works will be issued by the respective District Programme Coordinator (DPC), Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Technical Sanction will be issued by the competent authority of BRO.
- k. Maintenance work of Tunnel & Bridges of Border Road Organization (BRO) is permissible under the Scheme. However, construction of tunnels and bridges work of BRO is not permissible under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

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4. District Administration and BRO officials concerned shall have joint meeting, to operationalize the above convergence.
5. At the State level, the monitoring of the convergence works should be done by State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) for convergence, headed by the Chief Secretary of the State.
6. At the District level, the monitoring of the convergence works should be done by District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) for convergence, headed by the Collector/DPC.
7. The advisory of even number dated 12.11.2021 has been superseded by this advisory.



[Nagendra Nath Sinha]
Secretary,
Government of India
Department of Rural Development



[Ajay Kumar]
Defence Secretary,
Government of India
Department of Defence

To

The Chief Secretaries/Advisors to Administrators in States/UTs

Copy to:

The Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/Commissioners (in charge of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Rural Development Department, All States/UTs.