

**No J-14028/03/2017-RE-I (354664)**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**Ministry of Rural Development**  
**Department of Rural Development**

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110114  
Dated 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017

To

The Principal Secretary (In-charge of MGNREGA)  
Department of Rural Development,  
Government of Punjab,  
Vikas Bhawan, S.A.S. Nagar  
Chandigarh -160062.,

Sub: **Labour Budget of Punjab under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for the FY 2017-18-reg.**

Sir,

This is in reference to the meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 16.03.2017 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development to discuss and scrutinize Labour Budget Estimates under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the FY 2017-18 submitted by the State of Punjab.

2. A copy of the approved minutes of the meeting of the Empowered Committee is enclosed for kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above.



(R.R. Meena)

Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Tele-fax: 23382406

Copy to :

1. PPS to Secretary (RD), Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi.
2. PPS to As & FA (RD), Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi.
3. PP to JS (RE), Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi.
4. Shri Ashutosh Gupta, Consultant

**Minutes of the Empowered Committee meeting on Mahatma Gandhi NREGA  
Labour Budget (LB) for Punjab for FY 2017-18.  
Date: 16.03.2017**

A meeting of the Empowered Committee for the State of Punjab for the Financial Year 2017-18 was held on 16.03.2017 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi. The State Government of Punjab was represented by Hardayal Singh Chatha, Deputy Director (EP). The list of other participants is given in **Annexure-I**

2. After going through the State presentation and due discussions on various aspects of MGNREGA implementation in Punjab, the Committee had the following observations:

- i. **Commitments of the State with regard to Focus Areas:** The targets taken up by the State as noted by the Ministry, are as under for FY 2017-18:

#	Type of Work	Spill Over of FY 16-17, if any	Commitments for FY 17-18	Total
1	Farm Ponds (No.)	-	-	-
2	Vermi/ NADEP Composting (No.)	101	399	500
3	AWC (No.)	205	95	300
4	Road Side Plantation (in Km)	--	803 km	803 km
5	IHHL	-	30865	30865 plus all PMAY House during FY 2017-18 should be covered for IHHL under MGNREGA

The state will upload district-wise targets in NREGASoft by 31.03.2017 and ensure its achievement in a planned manner.

- ii. **Completion of Incomplete Works:** The status of completion of works in Punjab was observed to be as follows:-

Financial Year	No. of Works taken-up	Works Completed	
		Numbers	Percentage

Till FY 2014-15	8635	7917	92%
Till FY 2015-16	17510	10404	59%
Till FY 2016-17 (as on date)	20090	2226	11%

As on date, 7106 works or 41% are incomplete out of the works taken up since inception till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016. It is advised that all works taken up till 31.03.2016 should be completed by 30.06.2017. The State will also examine reasons for large number of incomplete works and make efforts for completing all incomplete works (7460) as on 31.03.2017 by 30.09.2017 without fail.

- iii. **Delay in Payment of Wages:** In FY 2016-17 (so far) 46 % of wage payments have got delayed. This is a matter of concern for the Ministry. The state needs to chalk out its strategy for minimizing the delay in payments. The strategy, so chalked out, will be shared with the Ministry latest within 15 days of the LB meeting. If the situation of delay payment does not improve considerably, it may adversely impact the release of funds in future.
- iv. **GeoMGNREGA:** Every asset that gets completed in FY 2017-18 has to be mandatorily geo-tagged. As on 15.03.2017, Punjab has generated 51200 no of Asset Ids against 76040 number of works completed since inception of the programme. 42343 number of assets have been accepted and geotagged. There are also 2702 number of registered MSEs without any geotags. State has agreed to ensure that registration of MSEs for all locations is completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and all locations with nil geotag start geotagging by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.
- v. **Natural Resource Management (NRM) Works:** Out of total works, 19000 number of works (48.74%) have been taken up as NRM works (both community & individual) in FY 2016-17.  
The State has conducted workshop as per the Mission Water (MWC) Framework shared on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2016. There are 113 blocks (10194 GPs) that have been identified as MWC blocks in Punjab. At least 65% of the expenditure in these blocks should be on NRM related works in FY 2017-18 and the NRM component of the LB should be part of District Irrigation Plan (DIP). The LB proposal is in order on these counts. The State needs to revisit the works to be taken up under NRM and make them part of DIP in these Blocks by 31.03.2017.
- vi. **Creation of Individual Assets:** In order to strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor, it is desirable to put adequate emphasis on creation of more individual assets

for vulnerable rural households. An analysis of the performance of the number of individual assets being created reveals that, out of the total works, 156 number of works (0.4 % of the total works) have been taken up on private lands in FY 2016-17 (as on 15.03.2017). The State is expected to take up more works under individual category and get them completed on time.

- vii. **Construction of roads in accordance with the standard specifications:** A considerable percentage of expenditure is made on construction of roads every year. The Ministry vide its letter no. P-17026/I/2015-RC(342023) dated 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 has standardised its specifications for all non-PMGSY roads to be taken up under MGNREGA programme. In FY 2017-18, the standard specifications as laid down in the advisory will be strictly adhered to by the state.
- viii. **Job Card (JC) Verification/ Updation:** JC verification and updation exercise in the state of Punjab has led to verification/ updation of 78.06% of active and 76.05% all JC holders. However, there are still 292082 Job Cards (including 160402 active Job Cards) which need to be verified and updated. The state will complete this exercise by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. State is also expected to random check JC to ensure consistency of field and MIS data.
- ix. **Adoption of Seven Register in the Gram Panchayat:** Out of the 13028 GPs in the state of Punjab , 11486 number of GPs have adopted Asset Register and 11530 have adopted all the seven Registers. This good governance initiative should be completed by 30.06.2017. State should randomly check the maintenance these registers at the GPs to ensure proper maintenance.
- x. **Aadhaar Seeding:** In the state of Punjab, 949178 number (99.3%) of active workers have their Aadhaar numbers seeded into MGNREGA Soft. Also 678118 number (71% ) of active workers have been converted into Aadhaar Based Payment System (ABPS) . The state should endeavour to bring every MGNREGA worker into ABPS fold. The Ministry letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2017 by Secretary, RD to State Chief Secretaries to expedite ABP conversion, may be referred to. A joint letter from Joint Secretary, MGNREGA & Joint Secretary, DFS for convening meetings with SLBC and State Chiefs of all banks has also been issued to expedite the process. The consent details shall be submitted to LDMs by the DPCs to expedite ABPS conversion of the remaining workers.
- xi. **SECC data and deprived households:** The state of Punjab has 778245 number of deprived households as per the SECC data. Out of these, 707741 are landless households dependent upon manual casual labour. Special drive to survey these deprived households and link them to MGNREGA has resulted into registration of 709 number of households,



who were willing for Job Cards as on 15.03.2017 in FY 2016-17. The state should make special endeavours to complete the survey at the earliest as well as issue job cards to all willing households dependent upon manual casual labour by 30.06.2017.

- xii. Social Audit:** The State has established the independent Social Audit Unit (SAU). Staffing of SAU status is as under:-

Director		SRPs		DRPs	
Sanctioned	Engaged	Sanctioned	Hired	Sanctioned	Hired
01	01	04	03	11	0

The state should complete the engaging and placement of all staffs by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2017. State will impart training to all the resource persons at all level including the 800 village resource persons identified for social audit by 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 and details should be shared with the Ministry.

- xiii. Framing of Grievance Redressal Rules and appointment of Ombudsman**

The State has not framed Grievance Redressal Rules. The Rules are required to be framed latest by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and the same will have to be implemented in true letter and spirit. Besides, there are four positions of Ombudsmen are vacant. Steps will be taken to fill up all the vacant seats with fresh engagement of Ombudsman latest by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

- xiv. e-FMS Universalisation:** The payment of wages to the workers and material under MGNREGA are already 100% being made at present through e-FMS mode in the State. State should focus on shifting to electronic transfer of funds for all types of expenditure viz. wages, material and admin. State will work out a time bound strategy for implementation of 100% e-FMS for all types of expenditure at all locations of the State w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017.

- xv. Bare Foot Technicians (BFTs) training and deployment:** The State has identified 90 number of persons for BFT training and training is going on. The State should finalise a deployment policy for the recruited BFTs and share a copy of the same with the Ministry by 30.04.2017.

- xvi. Project LIFE-MGNREGA implementation**  
The target for FY 2017-18, component wise are as follows:-

Skilling for Wages	149
Skilling for Self Employment	29
Livelihood upgradation	0

The targets include spill-over of FY 16-17.

**xvii. Status of compliance of audit observations of C&AG**

Out of 11 paras viz. 2.1, 2.3.1-2, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2, 3.2.1, 3.3-8, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 The state will submit the compliance with respect to pending paras by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017.

**xviii. Constitution of State Employment Guarantee Council (SEGC) and status of meetings**

The state has constituted SEGC and conducted one meeting in the current FY 2016-17 on 20.5.2016. Regular meetings may be conducted and minutes be shared with the Ministry within 15 days of the meeting.

**xix. Deployment and training of Technical personnel:** The status of technical personnel deployment is as under:-

DESIGNATION	NUMBERS	COVERAGE AREA (no. of GPs : technical personnel)
Technical Assistant	147	One at every block
Junior Engineer	200	One at every block
Assistant Engineer	125	One at every block
Executive Engineer	19	At District level

State should ensure that adequate technical personnels are deployed at all levels.

**xx. Capacity building of Technical personnels- DTRT & BTRT Trainings**

State should finalize the Training Calendar and share it with the Ministry by 31.03.2017 and complete the training of 2454 officials as part of District/Block Technical Resource Teams on SAMARTHYA Technical Training Manual (MGNREGA) latest by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. State should also ensure that SAMARTHYA Technical Training Manual (MGNREGA) is translated into regional languages and uploaded on their website (with a link to NREGA soft) before the start of training.

3. The Empowered Committee agreed to the Labour Budget of **180 lakh Person days (PDs)** for FY 2017-18 for the State of Punjab. However, the state may always come up with a proposal for the revision of the LB, at any point of time of the year, if the performance of the state exceeds the agreed to LB.

4. The State Government should furnish month-wise and District-wise Person days projection as per agreed to LB to the Ministry latest by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. While doing so, the NRM component of LB in blocks identified under Mission Water Conservation should adhere to the guidelines. The uploading of this information in the MIS is an essential pre-condition for the release of funds in FY 2017-18.

5. **Issues pertaining to Livelihood and Convergence:** Efforts should be made to improve the livelihood resource base of the poor by appropriately converging MGNREGA with other RD programmes like Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana – NRLM (DAY-NRLM), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojna – Grameen (PMAY-G) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

Aparajita Singh  
16/3

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 16.03.2017 FOR FINALISING LABOUR BUDGET FOR THE STATE OF  
Punjab FOR FY 2016-17.**

**MoRD Officials**

1. Shri Amarjeet Sinha, Secretary (RD)
2. Sri Nagesh Singh, Additional Secretary (RD)
3. Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Joint Secretary (MGNREGA)
4. Shri Ajay Kumar Sumbly, Deputy Secretary (MGNREGA)
5. Shri Ram Raj Meena, Under Secretary (MGNREGA)
6. Shri Retish Saxena, Consultant
7. Shri Ashutosh, Consultant

**State Officials**

1. Shri Hardayal Singh Chatha, Deputy Director (EP)
2. Shri Amardeep singh Bains, Deputy Director
3. Shri Vikas Kattal, State Nodal Officer MGNREGA