

No.J-11011/14/2007-NREGA
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110001
Dated : 11th March, 2008

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject:- Constitution of Expert Group for review of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

In pursuance to the recommendation of the Central Employment Guarantee Council made in its meeting held on 6th February 2008, it is decided to constitute an Expert Group to examine issues in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act that require clarification or revision in the light of the experience gained in course of implementation of the Act and to reconcile apparent differences between the Act and the Operational Guidelines.

2. Expert Group shall comprise the following Members :

- | | | | |
|-------|---|---|-------------|
| (i) | Secretary,
Ministry of Rural Department
Department of Rural Development | - | Chairperson |
| (ii) | Special Secretary & Financial Advisor
Ministry of Rural Development | - | Member |
| (iii) | Shri Pradeep Bhargava
Additional Chief Secretary
Government of Madhya Pradesh | - | Member |
| (iv) | Shri Ram Lubhaya
Principal Secretary
Department of Rural Development
Government of Rajasthan | - | Member |
| (v) | Shri K Raju
Principal Secretary
Department of Rural Development
Government of Andhra Pradesh | - | Member |
| (vi) | Representative of Ministry of Law
and Justice | - | Member |
| (vii) | Representative of Ministry of Labour
and Employment | - | Member |

(viii)	Representative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj	-	Member
(ix)	Shri Jean Dreze, Member Central Employment Guarantee Council	-	Member
(x)	Ms. Aruna Roy, Member Central Employment Guarantee Council	-	Member
(xi)	Joint Secretary (NREGA) Ministry of Rural Development Department of Rural Development	-	Member-Convenor

3. A copy of the Terms of Reference for the aforesaid Expert Group is at annexure.
4. The Expert Group may also co-opt such members as it may consider necessary.
5. The Expert Group will hold meetings with such frequency as it may require.
6. The Expert Group may interact with State Governments and other stakeholders to examine all the issues.
7. Requisite support to the Expert Group will be provided by Ministry of Rural Development.
8. The expenditure on TA/DA of the Members in connection with meeting of the Expert Group will be borne by the parent Ministry/Department/Organisation. However, TA/DA expenditure in respect of non-official Members will be borne by the Ministry of Rural Development as per the rules and regulations of TA/DA applicable to Grade I officer of Government of India.
9. The Expert Group will submit its report containing recommendations and plan of action for appropriate modifications in the Act by end of April 2008.
10. The concerned Ministries will nominate an officer preferably not below the level of Joint Secretary as a Member of the Expert Group under intimation to Joint Secretary (NREGA), Ministry of Rural Development.
11. This has the approval of Secretary (RD).

(Amita Sharma)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India
Tele: 23385027

To,

1. Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment
3. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj
4. Shri Jean Dreze, Member, Central Government Employment Council.
5. Ms. Aruna Roy, Member, Central Government Employment Council.

Copy to:

1. Chief Secretaries to Government of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
2. Shri Pradeep Bhargava, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
3. Shri Ram Lubhaya, Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
4. Shri K Raju, Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
5. Cabinet Secretariat
6. PS to MRD
7. PPS to Secretary (RD)
8. PPS to Special Secretary & FA(RD)
9. PS to JS(S)

Terms of Reference for Expert Group on NREG Act

1 Background

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act commenced in 200 Districts of the country on 2nd February 2006. It was extended to additional 130 Districts from 1.4.07. From 1.4.08 the Act will be brought into force in the remaining rural Districts of the country.

The Act provides guarantee of employment to all rural households who volunteer to do unskilled manual work in the rural areas. It is implemented through the Schemes formulated by the State Governments. Central Government provides 90% of the funds and balance 10% is contributed by the State Governments. This constitutes an important flagship programme of the Government. In course of the implementation of the Act, the State Governments and the Central Council have drawn attention to a variety of impediments that affect the proper implementation of the Act. Certain provisions of the Act such as the definition of the household, and the categories of work permitted under the Act particularly those for the benefit of individual families, have given rise to difficulties in the implementation of the Act in a fair and reasonable manner. The National Guidelines prepared in 2006 to facilitate drafting of the State Schemes under the Act has been said to have provisions that are apparently not in conformity with the Act. Having regard to the aforesaid facts, the Central Council in its meeting on 6.2.08 decided to constitute an Expert Group to study important issues pertaining to the NREG Act in order to make it effective in achieving the primary objective of providing guarantee of employment to rural households.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 To critically evaluate the provisions of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the light of the experience gained in the implementation of the Act since its commencement on 2nd February 2006 and suggest modifications in the Act with a view to achieve its object;
- 2.2 To examine issues in the Act that warrants clarification or revision in the Act; and
- 2.3 To examine differences, if any, between the Act and the Guidelines and suggest the manner of reconciliation between the two.