

Government of West Bengal  
Department of Panchayats & Rural Development  
Joint Administrative Building  
Block: HC, Plot No: 7  
Salt Lake City, Sector-III  
Kolkata-700 106

Memo No. 3351 - P&RD / PAC (NREGA) / P / 18S – 04 / 05

Dated: 21 July, 2014

From: Dibyendu Sarkar  
Commissioner, MGNREGA

To: The District Magistrate and District Programme Coordinator, All Districts

Sub.: Follow up instructions on organization of Gram Rozgar Diwas

Ref.: This Office Number 1622 (22)-P&RD/PAC (NREGA)/P/18S-04/06 dated 31  
March 2013 read with the Ministry's Number J-11012/2012-MGNREGA dated 17  
October 2013

Madam / Sir,

Kindly refer the comprehensive guidelines on organization of Gram Rozgar Diwas (GRD) on the first Wednesdays of the Bengali months in every Gram Sansad of the State. The state guidelines also enclosed the Guidelines for Rozgar Diwas as circulated by the Ministry of Rural Development. I am confident that you are fully aware of the emphasis that the Ministry is giving to the institution of GRD for ensuring community participation in all the processes of implementation of MGNREGA including offering a forum to the villagers to register their demands for work on a regular basis. It has been stated in no uncertain terms that the platform of the GRD will be utilized for the following activities where there are public interface in MGNREGA:

1. Registration of demands of Job Cards
2. Registration of demands for work by the job card holders
3. Discussions on the rights and entitlements of the job seekers under the Act and the Scheme
4. Disclosure of information
5. Registration of grievances
6. Identifying households for IBS
7. Identifying works and its seasonality
8. Assessing the position of payment of wages and deliberation on pending wages, if any
9. Deliberations on the functioning of the financial institutions
10. Special initiatives for the vulnerable groups of wage seekers, i.e., people with disabilities (PWD), victims of human trafficking etc.

However, the major thrust of the GRD is on registering of demands, giving dated receipts against each demand and allocation of work as a follow up.

We have also indicated the organizational arrangements for the GRD where we proposed to involve the SHG Sub Clusters (Upa-Sanghas) at the Gram Sansad level in organization of the GRD. Since involvement of the SHG clusters in organization of the GRD and subsequent paper work might hamper their economic activities, in several meetings we have also proposed that the SHG Clusters may be compensated for the foregone wages for their members for involvement in this set of activities. For the purpose of uniformity it is clarified that the SHG Clusters should be paid wages at the rate applicable to semi-skilled workers under MGNREGS for two person-days for two days in a month. Expenditure for this should be met out of administrative expenses of MGNREGS.

In our letter we also spoke of the need and scope of documentation of the activities during the GRD. Data entry in the MGNREGA portal ([www.nrega.nic.in](http://www.nrega.nic.in)) may take some time since the required provision in the portal is yet to be made by the Ministry. However, recording of proceedings and sharing basic information with photographs with the Department is something, which should be done on a continuing basis. The Ministry circulated a simple format for reporting which contained the following:

District	Block	GP	Sansad	Date	No of persons attended	No. of new HH registered on GRD	No. of HH demanded employment	No. of dated receipts handed over	No. of grievances recorded	No. of grievances redressed	No. of officials (with designation) present during the GRD	Any other matter

Unfortunately, the reports are not coming from most of the Districts. Next GRD is supposed to be held on 23 July 2014 which must be reported.

In this connection, I would like to reiterate the fact that the Ministry is looking at the GRD as an effective forum for massive IEC activities to reach out to the villagers with detailed messages on the programme and the rights and entitlements of the people. This is also seen as a forum for registering grievances and its disposal. The Ministry suggested following set of IEC activities centering on the GRD:

- Press release by the District Magistrate before formal start of GRD in the District
- Formal inauguration at the District level
- Wall paintings. Banners, writing on notice boards at least seven days prior to the GRD

- Mobilization procession with placards, door to door visit involving CSOs / CBOs as well as student volunteers
- Painting / Slogan writing / extempore speech competitions at the school level with MGNREGA as theme
- Distribution of literature on MGNREGA in local language
- Media coverage by local stringers

Last but not the least, there should be a comprehensive report on GRD as organized in the District and the associated IEC activities every month. For every GRD, there should be a provision for taking still photographs (as explained in our letter under reference). We would require at least 20 photographs per District every month with appropriate captions.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Dibyendu Sarkar)

21.07.2014