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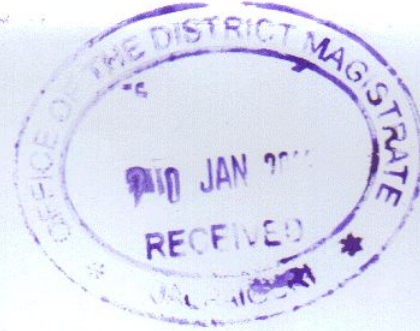
Government of West Bengal
Department of Panchayats & Rural Development
Joint Administrative Building
Block: HC, Plot No. 7
Salt Lake City, Sector-III
Kolkata- 700 106

Memo No. 165-RD/O/NREGA/18M-13/08

Dated: 10.01.2014

From: Indranil Mukhopadhyay
Deputy Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal

To: Dr. Avtar Singh Sahota
Senior Economic Advisor
Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Government of India
Sardar Patel Bhawan
New Delhi- 110 001



Sub: Nomination for Best Gram Panchayat for MGNREGA National Award, 2014

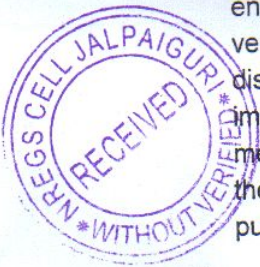
Ref.: Letter no. J-11011/44/2013-Media dated 22 October, 2013 and 6 January, 2013

Sir,

Kindly find attached the detailed documents and necessary papers in annexures containing proposals received from four Districts of West Bengal in respect of seven Gram Panchayats for the Best Gram Panchayat for MGNREGA National Award, 2014.

The District of Jalpaiguri has submitted a proposal in respect of the Award for Best Gram Panchayat for Dalsingpara Gram Panchayat under Kalchini Block. The Gram Panchayat has undertaken several notable initiatives in implementation of MGNREGA in the financial year 2012-13. Some of the initiatives which worth mention are introduction of Audit of Scheme Rules, 2011, breakthrough in Social Audit, massive IEC initiatives taken up by the Gram Panchayat, planning in execution of work, monitoring, record keeping at the Gram Panchayat etc. The District, as a unit of operation has introduced massive transparency and accountability measures within the system of implementation. The Gram Panchayat as mentioned (Dalsingpara) could ensure provision of key role for the stakeholders in the form of monitoring as enshrined in the Act. The meetings of the Gram Sabhas (public assembly) acted as very useful platforms where details of the projects implemented were shared, discussed and scrutinized. Active participation of the stakeholders at every stage of implementation marked the success of the task. Field visits were taken up by the members of the group forming the team, subsequently; the reports were compiled on the basis of the field visits. The report was afterwards shared with the people through public hearing. The positive impact the scheme has introduced is the following:

- The issue of transparency and accountability has taken a front seat in implementation of the programme,



R. Bose
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- Public hearing at a common place where there is unhindered access of all the stakeholders of the programme has brought back the sense of commitment for the members; largely been responsible for reducing gaps in implementation,
- The role of the implementers, PIAs have been to facilitate a free and fair process of audit by the society

The feedback in the form of delay in registration of households, delay in distribution of Job Cards, non-receipt of dated receipts for demand for work, late payment of wages, absence of worksite facilities etc. throw light to the important corners of the programme where interventions can be planned. We strongly recommend conferring the Award for excellence in MGNREGA implementation to Dalsinghpara Gram Panchayat of Jalpaiguri District.

The second proposal is of the Burdwan District. The District has brought in positive changes in the livelihood of the rural poor through sustainable employment generation and good governance in the MGNREGA administration. In terms of total person day generation, expenditure and engagement of job-card holding families in MGNREGA implementation, the district's performance has been outstanding. The District could record an expenditure to the tune of Rs. 464.92 Crore, generated person-days to the tune of 2.37 Crore, provided employment of 100 days to 40,182 households in the financial year 2012-13. The District has nominated two of its Gram Panchayats, viz., Eruar and Bhatar as the best performing Gram Panchayats within the District, both these Gram Panchayats fall within the administrative jurisdiction of Bhatar Block. The proposal in relation to the same may kindly be perused.

The third proposal is from Bankura District which has also been able to maintain extremely steady performance across the years. Three Gram Panchayats, viz., Salda, Lego and Supur have been nominated by the District for the award. They fall within the administrative jurisdiction of Joypur, Kotulpur and Khatra Blocks respectively. In Salda Gram Panchayat, emphasis has been put on generation of person-days with an eye to enhance the participation of women-folk in the work. In Lego, there has been a thrust on creation of sustainable and durable assets; while in Supur, special initiatives have been observed in creation of Orchards in 8 Hectares of land involving 85 households including SHGs. A short documentary film prepared by the Department highlighting this unique initiative will be separately sent to the Ministry for wider dissemination and replication of the outstanding achievement in other areas of the country. This particular initiative has not only created tremendous potential for sustainable rural development, but has also widened the possibilities of an enhanced livelihood opportunity for the respective rural households. We strongly recommend these three Gram Panchayats for the award.

It may further be stated here that the initiative of the District in all the Gram Panchayats with special emphasis on IEC, introduction of toll free help line in the District, extensive campaign in local language call for special mention. In the convergence platform with the NBA the District recorded rural sanitation works to look up. Other Departments viz., Forests, Sericulture, Irrigation, Horticulture etc. have worked in the desired manner to make the convergent initiative a successful one. With increased person-days generation, greater area of land could be brought under forest cover and a substantial outcome could be achieved for the Job Card holders who worked in their own degraded land. The District also recorded progress in


developing an Eco Tourism park at Susunia located at the Susunia hillock which was accomplished by dovetailing MGNREGS fund with BRGF. A total number of 5 Acres of land could be developed under the project.

The last proposal is from North Purulia. The District has nominated Kumra Gram Panchayat under the administrative jurisdiction of Bundwan Block for the award. It is a remote Gram Panchayat in the Jungle Mahal area. The hamlets within the Gram Panchayat are scattered. The impact that Mahatma Gandhi NREGA have brought in the Gram Panchayat has been immense. Notable positive changes are the following:

- a. Strong Gram Sabha meetings could be organized at the Gram Panchayats with active participation of the wage-seekers
- b. SHGs could be involved in the process of planning, execution and monitoring of the works which helped in creation of better quality of assets during implementation of the programme
- c. Demand capture and registration of the wage-seekers could be organized at the Gram Sansad level which created positive impact on generation of awareness among the rural mass

We strongly recommend the above proposals for award of Best Gram Panchayat for MGNREGA National Award, 2014 from the State Government. The hard copies of the proposal will be reaching the Ministry very early. I would request you to kindly consider the nominations.

Yours faithfully,



(Indranil Mukhopadhyay) 10.01.2014

Encl.: As per list mentioned.

Memo No. 165-1(4)-RD/ONREGA/18M-13/08

Dated: 10.01.2014

Copy forwarded for favour of information to the District Magistrate and District Programme Coordinator, Jalpaiguri / Burdwan / Bankura / Purulia Districts.


(Indranil Mukhopadhyay) 10.01.2014

List of documents submitted by the State Government in the Nomination for Best Gram Panchayat for MGNREGA National Award, 2014:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Name of the Gram Block	Name of the Gram Panchayat (s)	Remarks
1.	Jalpaiguri	Kalchini	Dalsingpara	Nominated by the State Government
2.	Burdwan	Bhatar	i) Bhatar ii) Eruar	-Do-
3.	Bankura	Joypur	i) Salda	-Do-
		Kotulpur	ii) Lego	-Do-
		Khatra	iii) Supur	-Do-
4.	Purulia	Bundwan	Kumra	-Do-

1. Hard copies of the District specific filled in proposal format will be sent to the Ministry through Speed Post separately
2. Relevant soft copies together with Power point presentations / photographs and short films on different projects