

AGENDA FOR IMPROVEMENT

Arrangement for implementation of NREGA: -

Problems and suggestions-

- a. **Lack of specific component for SC & ST families living BPL:** -There is no specific provision for individual beneficiaries' scheme as envisaged under SGRY. 22.5% was earmarked under SGRY for individual beneficiaries belonging to SC & ST for families of BPL category. Minimum 33% must be earmarked for individual beneficiaries' schemes under NREGA for SC & ST families of BPL category.
- b. **Determination of wage rate on piece rate basis inconsonance with the actual physical capability of the labourers:** - In Jharkhand, payment is done @Rs.76.68 per 100 Cft, while in Rajasthan, it is Rs. 73.00 for 68 Cft. (for soft & normal soil) & other rates for other qualities of soil. (Detail (scanned copies) enclosed). Instead of having the different rates for different states, we should have the uniform formula @ Rs. 01.00 per Cft. So one labourer can get at least Rs. 60.00 for 60 Cft. (as per the NREGA guidelines).
- c. **Execution of work:** -Under the NREGA, the permission has been given for departmental work. The spirit was to get rid of the contractors. But in the field, it has been manipulated to serve the interest of the contractors or middlemen. In the name of departmental work, the agreement is signed with any govt. official and later on it is given to the agent/middleman for execution. So there should be provision to allot the work worth up to Rs.10 lakh to SHGs, Beneficiaries' Committees, Water User Societies, NGOs etc a and schemes worth more than Rs. 10 lakh to departments.
- d. **Social Audit:** - It has still not been institutionalized. Whatever we are doing is "Intellectual Audit". Capacity building at the local level is more important. Similarly, we must promote "Village Studies" by the students from local colleges. While making the team, we should mix the students from technical institutions with the students studying humanities.
- e. **People's Estimate** - Demystification of the technical detailed estimate. Apart from technical part, there must be simple estimate for layman to ensure transparency and accountability.
- f. **Regular review of the funds allotted:** -At the time of monthly/quarterly review or at the time of submission of proposal for release of next installment, the production of utilization certificate should be compulsory and utilization should be provided with agency wise bank reconciliation certificates to ensure the actual expenditure of

the amount. Scheme wise detail of physical and financial progress would certainly reflect the reality and outcome.

- g. **Insurance of labourers:** -Coverage of every labourer under “Janshree Beema Yojana” of LIC. 100/- premium/per annum from labourer and matching amount of 100/-p.a. from govt. Compensation of Rs. 50,000/- in case of death and permanent disability and Rs. 20,000/- in case of injury. It should be incorporated in the guidelines.
- h. **Acute shortages of Panchayat Sevaks**-There are total 384 (old + new) panchayats in Ranchi district. There are 278 Panchayat Sevaks working against 319 sanctioned posts of Panchayat Sevaks in Ranchi district. Even to receive Registration form, no independent person is available at every panchayat. Now, under the Panchayati Raj Act, Traditional Gram Pradhans have been notified and Gram Koshadyakshas have been selected by Gram Sabhas. In coming time, the services of these Gram Pradhans and Koshadyakshas will be taken for registration of labourers and distribution of Job Cards as well.
- i. **Shortage of basic infrastructures at Panchayat level:** -More than 50% panchayats are buildingless. Now we do not have the leeway to use the fund under NREGA for such purposes, which we had been using under SGRY. Now under the BRGF, the Panchayati Raj Ministry should be requested for permission of construction of panchayat buildings. Now the administrative expenses under NREGA can be negotiated up to 10%, then all panchayats can be equipped in proper way.
- j. **Selection of Gram Rozgar Sevaks:** -Due to non-availability of Gram Rozgar Sevaks, it cannot be thought of doing even the routine things in a proper way. More over, selection should be done at local (district) level and he or she should hail from the same panchayat, where he or she is going to work. It's more important to the naxal-affected states like Jharkhand, because we can provide employment opportunities to the local youth to wean them away from naxalism.
- k. **Acute shortage of technical hands-** To make regular payment, regular measurement at the work site is very crucial. The present strength of technical persons at the block/panchayat is very less. If the local youth who is technically qualified (accredited engineer) is engaged after providing him basic training and some exposures, he may be useful for not only regular measurement of the schemes, but he will be directly accountable to their fellow men and also he can be provided with an employment opportunity.

