

Payment of wages - Crediting of un-disbursed wages to the bank accounts of the workers absent on the day of payment - Procedures prescribed.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT RAJ (CGS-1) DEPARTMENT

G.O. Ms.No.47

Dated: 24.3.2008.

Read:

Director of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj
Lr.No.85539/2007/ NREGS dated 19.2.2008.

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ORDER:

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 envisages payment of wages on a weekly or fortnightly basis either by cash or through bank or post office accounts.

2. In Tamil Nadu, at present weekly payments are being made to the labourers in cash (except where the beneficiaries demand otherwise) by the Panchayat President in the presence of a Committee constituted to ensure full transparency.

3. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in his letter read above has stated that while wages due to the workers under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are to be paid in cash every week, it is seen that in some cases when the beneficiaries are not available in the village on the day of payment of wages, the un-disbursed money is kept with the Panchayat President or the Panchayat Assistant for many days. Keeping the un-disbursed amount with the Village Panchayat President or the Panchayat Assistant is likely to lead to financial irregularities. With a view to avoid the scope of irregularities, the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has suggested prescribing certain procedures on making payments to the workers under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme who did not receive wages on the wage payment day.

4. The Government after careful examination of the proposal of the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has decided to accept the proposal and prescribes the following procedures on payment of wages to the workers who did not receive the wages on the wage payment day.

- (i) There is no change in the procedure of payment of wages in cash in the presence of Payment Committee members. The wages due to the workers should be disbursed on the same day of drawal.
- (ii) However, if any amount due to the workers remains un-disbursed on the day of disbursement, it should be remitted to the Savings Bank Account of the workers concerned within the next working day, so that the workers can draw the amount from the Bank accounts at their convenience.
- (iii) On no account should the un-disbursed amount remain with the Village Panchayat President or Panchayat Assistant for more than 24 hours beyond the payment date.

- (iv) For this purpose all the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme job card holders should be asked to open a Savings Bank Account with a Nationalised Bank/Scheduled Bank situated within the village or, if not within the village, in the nearest village possible.
- (v) The Bank Accounts of all the workers shall be opened before 15.4.2008. The Bank Accounts shall be either:
 - a. in the name of individual registered card holders, or
 - b. an 'Either Or' account (joint account) of a household which could be operated by any of the signatories (registered card holders)

The Job Card holders will have the choice to decide on which of the above category of Bank Account they desire to open. The existing bank accounts of the head of the household opened earlier, if any, will not suffice for this purpose. Hence either new accounts will have to be opened or the earlier opened account will have to be suitably modified as given above.

- (vi) The Bank Account number (along with the name of the bank) of each worker should be available with the Village Panchayat and it should be incorporated in the Village Panchayat National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Register No.1 (Application for Registration and Job Card Issue Register) beneath the Job Card number for the worker.
- (vii) The workers should be apprised about the remittance of un-disbursed amount to their Bank Accounts, if the amount due to them as wages is not received by them on the specified date.
- (viii) The District Collectors should communicate these instructions to all the Block Development Officers (Village Panchayats) and Village Panchayat Presidents.
- (ix) Due publicity of this procedure should also be made by way of press releases so that all the workers are aware of this.

5. The Government also orders that the Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, in consultation with the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj shall modify the procedures mentioned at para 4 above suitably in future in case of exigencies.

(By Order of the Governor)

K. ASHOK VARDHAN CHETTY
Special Commissioner & Secretary to
Government.