



## ABSTRACT

Schemes – State Schemes – Restoration of the original capacity of 21,609 Minor Irrigation Tanks and 3,894 Major Ooraries by dovetailing funds from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for four years – Sanction of funds and prescribing Guidelines – Approved - Orders - Issued.

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### **Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (SGS-3) Department**

**G.O.(1D) No.487**

Dated: 18.09.2012

Read:

From the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat  
Raj Letter Rc.No. 38063/2012/TU1 Dated: 24.08.2012

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### ORDER:

The Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development on the floor of the Legislative Assembly during the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department's Demand 2011-12, among others has announced that the Government is contemplating a Flagship Programme to rejuvenate all the Public Works Department tanks and tanks of Local Bodies, numbering 39,000 and comprehensive roadmap will be prepared immediately to capture the run off water to the full capacity of these tanks and the programme will commence from the current year.

2. The Hon'ble Minister for Finance among others has also made the following announcement in the budget speech for the year 2012-2013:-

*"This Government has an ambitious programme of rehabilitating all irrigation tanks to restore the original capacity. Out of 13,699 tanks under the control of the Public Works Department, 6,436 tanks have already been taken up under various programmes. The remaining 7,263 tanks will be taken up restoration under ongoing programmes. Similarly, 21,609 Minor Irrigation Tanks under the control of the Panchayat Unions and 3,884 other important water bodies will be restored and improved by dovetailing funds from various schemes like MGNREGS and NABARD loans in the next three years."*

3. The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in the letter read above has sent proposals along with Guidelines in this regard. The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has stated this Department has already taken up various steps on a system improving approach for augmenting the storage capacity of the water bodies in rural areas.

4. The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has also stated that totally there are 39,000 Irrigation tanks in the State, out of which 13,699 tanks are under the control of the Public Works Department and the remaining 25,503 consist of 21609 Minor Irrigation Tanks and 3894 Major Ooranies under the control of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department. In the case of Minor Irrigation Tanks, there are about 28,348 Sluices, and 21,609 Weirs and it is estimated that, an amount of Rs. 175.00 crores will be required for carrying out Repairs/ Reconstruction of these Sluices and Weirs. The total amount required for desilting the Minor Irrigation Tanks, Major Ooranies is about Rs.1434 crores.

5. The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has further stated that the Government's policy regarding MGNREGS works is to take up 100% labour component works without any material component. Hence, for execution of desilting works, MGNREGS funds could be used. Works requiring material component will be taken up using funds of the Panchayat and Panchayat Union General Funds / Rural Infrastructure Scheme and Other Schemes as per the respective scheme guidelines. The fund required for desilting will be met from MGNREGS and the Repairs / Reconstruction of Sluices and Weirs, consolidation of bunds and other masonry structures which require material component and skilled labourers will be carried out through Rural Infrastructure Scheme, General Funds of Panchayat Union and Village Panchayats etc., as per the scheme guidelines. In exceptional cases, where desilting requires machinery, it will be carried out through Rural Infrastructure Scheme, General Funds of Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats, on production of a certificate to that effect by the District Collector. In other words, desilting would be exclusively done under MGNREGS and other activities involving material component and skilled labour including case of desilting will be taken up using Panchayat Union / Panchayat General Funds/ Rural Infrastructure Scheme and other scheme funds following the guidelines of the respective schemes.

6. The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has requested the Government to issue necessary orders for restoration of 21,609 Minor Irrigation Tanks and 3,894 Major Ooranies by dovetailing funds from MGNREGS for the next four years. The details of Minor Irrigation Tanks and Major Water Bodies is as below:-

<b>Category</b>	<b>Details of Water Bodies</b>
<b>Minor Irrigation Tanks</b>	
a) Rainfed Tanks	18,479
b) System tanks	3,130
<b>Total No. of Minor Irrigation Tanks (a+b)</b>	<b>21,609</b>
<b>Major Ooranies</b>	<b>3,894</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,503</b>

The cost required for desilting and maintenance of Minor Irrigation Tanks and Ooranies in rural areas:-

<b>Details</b>	<b>Cost for 4 years</b>	<b>Cost per year</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Total Cost for desilting	Rs.1259.00 crores	Rs.315.00 crores	To be met from MGNREGS
Cost for repairs/ reconstruction of sluices and weirs	Rs.175.00 crores	Rs.44.00 crores	To be met from RIS, SFC etc.,
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>Rs.1434.00 crores</b>	<b>Rs.359.00 crores</b>	

7. The Government have examined the proposal of the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in detail and issue the following orders:-

- i. Permit the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj to utilize from the dovetailing funds from MGNREGS for works without material component, from Panchayat and Panchayat Union General Fund / Rural Infrastructure Scheme and Other Schemes as per the respective Scheme guidelines for material component and sourced from NABARD etc., for restoration of water in 21,609 Minor Irrigation Tanks and 3,894 Major Ooranies, totally 25,503 water bodies by desilting and repair / reconstruction at an estimated cost of Rs.1,434 crores for four years which works out to Rs.359 crores per year.
- ii. The detailed guidelines for the implementation of the Scheme are annexed to this order.

8. This order issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department vide its U.O. No.52054/Fin (RD)/2012-1 dated 18.9.2012.

(By Order of the Governor)

N.S. PALANIAPPAN,  
Principal Secretary to Government

**To**

The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai-15.  
.All District Collectors. (except Chennai)  
All Project Directors, District Rural Development Agencies  
(Thro' CRD&PR, Chennai-15)  
The Accountant General, Chennai-18/6/9.  
The Pay and Accounts Officer, Chennai-35.  
The Pay and Accounts Officer, Madurai.  
All District Treasury Officers

**Copy to:**

The Senior Personal Assistant to the Hon'ble Minister for  
Municipal Administration & Rural Development, Chennai-9.  
Finance (RD) / (FC-IV) Department, Chennai-9.  
The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS-I) / (PR-I) / (SGS-I)  
Department, Chennai-9

//Forwarded by Order//

*S. Venkatesh*  
Section Officer

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ANNEXURE to G.O.(1D) No.487, RD & PR (SGS-3) Department, dated 18.09.2012

GUIDELINES FOR RESTORATION OF MINOR IRRIGATION TANKS AND MAJOR OORANIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT

**Introduction:**

The Government has an ambitious programme of rehabilitating all irrigation tanks to restore them to the original capacity. There are totally 39,000 irrigation tanks in the state, out of which 13,699 tanks are under the control of the Public Works Department and the remaining 25503 consist of 21,609 Minor Irrigation Tanks and 3,894 major Ooranies under the control of Rural Development Department.

The Rural Development Department proposes for comprehensive rejuvenation of all the 25,503 water bodies in the next 4 years starting from 2012-13.

**Objective:**

This approach of a comprehensive rejuvenation of water bodies ensures that the following objectives will be fulfilled:

- All the traditional water bodies including minor irrigation tanks, major Ooranies will be restored to their original capacity
- To improve ground water level
- To prevent surplus run off and breaches in the water bodies
- To regulate and utilize the storage water for drinking water and agriculture purposes, thereby increasing the crop productivity and area irrigated.
- Improve soil and water conservation.

**Scope:**

The following types of works will be taken up:

- Jungle clearance and removal of shrubs and bushes.
- Desilting and deepening of minor irrigation tanks and Ooranies
- Strengthening of bunds
- Clearing and restoring the inlet and outlet channels to their original cross section
- Repairs/reconstruction of sluices, weirs, aprons, inlet and outlet arrangements

### **Funding:**

In Tamilnadu, the Government's policy regarding MGNREGS works is to take up 100% labour component works without any material component. Hence, for execution of desilting works, MGNREGS funds could be used. Works requiring material component will be taken up using funds of the Panchayat and Panchayat Union general funds/RIS and other schemes as per the respective scheme guidelines. The fund required for desilting will be met from MGNREGS and the Repairs/Reconstruction of Sluices and Weirs, consolidation of bunds and other masonry structures which require material component and skilled labourers will be carried out through Rural Infrastructure Scheme, General Funds of Panchayat Union and Village Panchayats etc., as per the scheme guidelines. In exceptional cases, where desilting requires machinery, it will be carried out through RIS, General Funds of Panchayat Unions and Village Panchayats, on production of a certificate to that effect by the District Collector.

In other words, desilting would be exclusively done under MGNREGS and other activities involving material component and skilled labour including case of desilting will be taken up using Panchayat Union / Panchayat General Funds / Rural Infrastructure Scheme and other scheme funds following the guidelines of the respective schemes. To clarify further, for a particular tank work, a separate estimate will be prepared for the desilting portion where the work is done by the Job card holders under MGNREGS and for the material component portion including usage of machinery and skilled labour a separate estimate will be prepared. Though these two activities are mutually exclusive as far as the execution of the work are concerned, but as far as the tank is concerned the objective is to ensure desilting of the tanks, inlet and outlet channels, strengthening and consolidation of bunds and bringing the tank to its original capacity.

The desilting, deepening works which are 100% labour intensive will be taken up through MGNREGS. However, based on need and necessity, other sources like NABARD etc., will also be utilized. The material component works will be covered through Rural Infrastructure Scheme, State Finance Commission etc.,

### **Mode of execution:**

The desilting, deepening component will be executed as per MGNREGS guidelines and the material component works shall be executed as per the Guidelines of the respective Schemes under which funds are made available for undertaking material component works.

### **Strengthening of Database:**

In furthering the creation of IRS maps, the department will create a database containing all the water bodies under its control which shall include hydraulic and technical data and this shall be done by engaging professional Institutes/consultants

which will be decided by calling for open tender as per Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000. If there are Government Organisations having this professional capacity, they can be hired directly as per rules which govern them namely ICAR, TNAU institutions etc.,

**Preparation of DPR:**

In order to have a scientific analysis of the kind of intervention required for each and every individual as well as network of water bodies, the department will engage professional consultants for the purpose of preparation of detailed and elaborate project reports. The process of identification of consultants shall be done as per standard procedures based on Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998. If there are Government Organisations having this professional capacity, they can be hired directly as per rules which govern them namely ICAR, TNAU institutions etc.

**Project evaluation:**

The department will engage reputed third party institutions/organizations for carrying out pre, mid-term and post evaluation studies.

The Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, is authorized to finalise the consultants for Strengthening of Database, preparation of DPR and for project evaluation after following the procedures laid down in Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 Act. The expenditure for this will be met from MGNREGS admin funds.

The Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is empowered to modify the guidelines whenever necessary in consultation with the Commissioner of Rural Development.

N.S. PALANIAPPAN,  
Principal Secretary to Government.

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Section Officer

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