

2.47 National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Tamil Nadu in 10 districts - Sanction of one Block Development Officer per District at DRDA at the District level

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS I) Department

G.O. (Ms) No. 174

Dated : 15.10.2007

Read :

1. G.O. (Ms) No.153, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department, dated 20.10.06.
2. G.O.(Ms) No.115, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department, dated 02.07.07.
3. Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development, NREGA Division Lr.No.28012/3/05-06,dated 30.3.07.
4. Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj D.O.Lr.No.30081/07/ TNREGS -2, dated 07.08.07.

ORDER

In the Government order first read above, 180 posts of Computer Assistants and 180 posts of Technical Assistants (two posts of Computer Assistants and two posts of Technical Assistants for each of the 90 blocks) and 383 posts of Technical Assistants at the rate of one for every 10 Village Panchayats were sanctioned for effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for six NREGS districts viz., Cuddalore, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Nagapattinam, Dindigul and Sivagangai. (Phase-I Districts). In the Government order second read above, 102 posts of Computer Assistants and 102 posts of Technical Assistants (two posts of Computer Assistants and two posts of Technical Assistants for each of the 51 blocks) and 161 posts of Technical Assistants at the rate of one for every ten Village Panchayats have been sanctioned for effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for four NREGS districts viz., Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tirunelveli and Karur. (Phase-II Districts). Both Computer Assistants and Technical Assistants have been sanctioned a consolidated pay of Rs.4000/- per month.

2. The Government of India in their letter third read above, have enhanced the level of administrative expenses permissible under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from 2% to 4% of the total cost of expenditure. While enhancing the level of administrative expenses, Government of India have stated that the enhancement is done with a view to enable States to augment human resources, develop capacity for critical activities like IEC, training, planning, MIS supervision and Social Audit, the processes mandated in the Act and the outcomes envisaged are attained. The Government of India have suggested additional staffing dedicated to National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in key functional areas of the scheme at Gram Panchayat / Block / District level.

3. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in his letter fourth read above has stated that the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has replaced the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana scheme in the districts concerned and is a much bigger and complex scheme in view of its following features:

1. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme entails a much higher financial allocation as compared to Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana . Whereas in Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana Scheme, the six NREGS-Phase-I districts got an allocation of Rs.83.93 crores in 2005-06, under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, as per the labour budget projection, the allocation for 2007-08 is expected to be Rs.614.59 crores. Thus the allocation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is nearly 7-8 times higher than that of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana Scheme.

2. IMPORTANT G.Os

2. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme requires payment to the workers on a weekly basis as compared to other schemes that may require payments staggered only month-wise.
3. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme implementation involves carrying out of various mandatory items which are not there in other schemes. If the mandatory items stipulated are not carried out, there are legal challenges that are bound to come up in the implementation of the scheme.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Central Council has taken up Social Audit of the scheme in Villupuram on 01.08.2007 and given its findings to the State Government. Amongst the observations given by the Council, the following two 'areas of concern' have been indicated:

1. Shortage of Staff at all levels.
2. Poor worksite management (supervision, measurement etc.)

4. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has further stated that in general, based on the experience gained in the implementation of the scheme, it has been observed that there is a shortage of staff at all levels in the implementation of the scheme. In view of the above fact and also based on the observations of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Central Council, it is essential to strengthen the existing staff pattern in Block, District Rural Development Agency and Directorate level to overcome the shortcomings pointed out and difficulties experienced in the field. The expenditure for the same can be met from administrative expenses permissible. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has submitted the proposals to Government for sanction of certain additional posts at Block, District Rural Development Agency and Directorate level for effective implementation of Tamil Nadu Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

5. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has stated that at present, the Technical Assistants have to cover ten villages on a daily basis and the field level conditions require the presence of Technical Assistant in each and every work on a daily basis to exactly earmark the area of work required. The feed back from the districts indicate that the Technical Assistants find it difficult to cover all the 10 villages in a single day. So the number of villages within the purview of each Technical Assistant may be reduced from 10 to 8 in order to enable better and effective supervision of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme works. Accordingly, for a total of 5,432 Village Panchayats, the additional number of Technical Assistants that will be required is 136.

6. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has further stated that the Technical Assistants visit the villages allocated to them, making self-transport arrangements. The consolidated salary of Rs.4,000/- per month is meagre in view of the fact that a Technical Assistant spends on his travel expenses too out of his consolidated salary itself. If the consolidated salary of Technical Assistants is increased to Rs 5,000/- per month, the increase of Rs.1000/- will take care of their fuel expenditure which will also enable them to visit the worksites more often and "Poor Worksite Management" as pointed out by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Central Council will be overcome.

7. The Government after careful examination of the proposal of the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj have decided to sanction the following posts to the 10 NREGS districts viz., Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Tirunelveli and Karur districts.

1) Sanction of staff at Block level:

Sl.No.	Category of staff at the Block level and the average entitlement due per person	Additional annual expenditure (Rs. in lakhs) per block
1	Deputy Block Development Officer @ Rs.15,258/- p.m	1.83
2.	One Assistant @ Rs.12,383/- p.m	1.49
Total		3.32

Total annual expenditure for 141 Blocks will be Rs.3.32 lakhs x141= Rs.4,68,12,000/-

Sl.No.	Category of staff at the Block level and the average entitlement due per person	Additional annual expenditure (Rs. in lakhs) per block
1	One Superintendent in the level of Block Development Officer @ Rs.17,916/- p.m.	2.15
2	One Assistant @ Rs.12,383/- p.m.	1.49
3	One Computer Assistant @ Rs. 4,000/- p.m.	0.48
Total		4.12

Total annual expenditure for 10 districts

will be Rs.4.12 lakhs x 10 districts = Rs.41.20 lakhs

3) Sanction the creation of 136 posts of Technical Assistants so as to have each Technical Assistant cover 8 Village Panchayats instead of existing 10 Village Panchayats. Selection of Technical Assistants and Computer Assistants shall be made as per the conditions already ordered.

4) Salary of Technical Assistants is increased from Rs.4000/- to Rs.5000/- per month to take care of the fuel expenditure involved in visiting the worksites with a condition that no request for revision would be entertained for atleast next three years.

5) The above posts shall be continued only upto the existence of scheme or the necessity of the posts ceases whichever is earlier.

8. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is directed to take immediate action for placement of the personnel sanctioned in para 7 above.

9. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its UO No. 65743/RD/07, dated. 10.10.2007 and UO.No.67891/CMPC/07, dated 12.10.2007.

(By order of the Governor)

K.ASHOK VARDHAN SHETTY
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT