



ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) – Effective monitoring and implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme – Provision of Closed User Group facilities to all Deputy Block Development Officers (Dy BDOs) on the Administrative side and Overseers on the Technical side i.e., 9297 numbers of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department – Orders issued.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department

G.O. (Ms) No. 15

Dated: 04.02.2015

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms)No.90, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department, dated 24.07.2013
2. G.O.(Ms)No.103, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department, dated 20.08.2014
3. DRD & PR Letter No.65353/14/TU3 dated 06.12.2014

ORDER:

In the Government order first read above, orders have been issued, among others, permitting the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj to provide uninterrupted Closed User Group (CUG) services to all the Officers of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department at a cost of Rs.55 Lakhs for one year.

2. In the Government order second read above, orders have been issued permitting the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (i/c) to extend the Closed User Group (CUG) facilities to the 3,912 Deputy Block Development Officers and 2602 Union Overseers after following the due procedures and rules framed under the Tamil Nadu Tender Transparency Act (TTA) 1998 and Rules 2000.

3. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, in the letter third read above, has stated that the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, is executing various developmental schemes in the rural areas, which require continuous monitoring and communication at the Block, District and State levels. Hence, it was necessary to create a network of the district and state level officers for smooth and better implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and other schemes and the Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Rural Development had announced during the budget demand on 09.04.2012 to provide mobile connectivity through Closed User Group (CUG) for all the officers in the cadre of Additional Director, Joint Director, Executive Engineer, Assistant Executive Engineer, Assistant Director, Block Development Officer and Assistant Engineer.

4. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has also stated that based on the announcement of the Hon'ble Minister, orders were issued in G.O (Ms) No.90, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department, dated 24.07.2013. Accordingly, tenders were invited for Closed User Group connectivity, as per the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules, 2000. M/s Aircel, Puduchery, was the Lowest bidder at Rs.165/- user / month and the work order was awarded.

5. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has further stated that for the provision of Closed User Group services, a customized plan was developed based on the likely usage pattern of the officers at various levels. The salient features of the Closed User Group services are as follows:

- (a) Totally Closed User Group services are provided to 2,783 officers at the State, District and Block levels.
- (b) The rate approved is Rs.165/- user/month.
- (c) The rate covers unlimited among the Closed User Group members and 45,000 seconds free talk time per month per user outside Closed User Group to all local mobiles within Tamil Nadu with per second pulse rate, over and above which one paise per second (1p/sec) will be charged.
- (d) 500 free local SMS per month per user to any mobile within Tamil Nadu, over and above which fifty paise will be charged per SMS.
- (e) Voice calls to be reckoned at per second pulse rate.

6. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has also stated that as per the tender conditions, Rate contract is to be extended for further of one year period over the initial one year period, without increase in the rates. The extension is to be done based on the satisfactory performance of the service provider and will be decided by the Commissioner of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj based on the recommendations of the committee consisting of Additional Director of Rural Development, Superintending Engineer (RD) and Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer. Hence, after completion of one year period, since the performance of M/s Aircel, Puduchery was found to be satisfactory, the rate contract was extended upto 28.2.2015.

7. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has also stated that during the budget presentation for the year 2013-14, the Hon'ble Minister (Municipal Administration and Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons) announced that in order to monitor the effective implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, "Closed User Group (CUG) facility will be provided to 3,912 Deputy Block Development Officers and 2,602 Overseers". The Government have issued necessary orders in G.O.(Ms) No.103, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (CGS.1) Department, dated 20.8.2014, wherein, Government ordered *permitting the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj to extend the Closed User Group facility to the 3,912 Deputy Block Development Officers and 2,602 Overseers after following the due procedures and rules framed under the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act 1998, and Rules 2000.*

8. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has further stated that the purpose of having a Closed User Group facility is to provide unlimited voice call access to the officers, for a pre-defined and fixed cost without incurring individual call charges. If separate tenders are called for providing Closed User Group facilities for Deputy Block Development Officers and Overseers and in case a new service provider is shortlisted, then there will be two parallel Closed User Group services and the ultimate benefit of having a common Closed User Group facility would be defeated. Further, it will neither be feasible nor compatible to interlink separate Closed User Group services.

9. Considering the above, the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has requested the Government to issue necessary orders under section 16 (b) of Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 provides as follows:

16. Provisions of this Act not to apply in certain cases:

(b) available from a single source only from a supplier or cases in which a particular supplier or contractor has exclusive rights in respect of the goods or services or construction and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists or where the procuring entity having procured goods, equipment, technology from a supplier or contractor determines that additional supplies must be procured from that specific supplier or contractor for reasons of standardisation and compatibility with the existing goods, equipment or technology:

Provided that a committee of three experts consisting one technical representative of the procuring entity, one technical representative of a State or Central Government Organisation dealing with similar procurement and one representative from a reputed Academic or Research Institution or Non- commercial Institution having expertise in such line, declares it as single source procurement;

10. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has added that the following factors may also be considered:

- The provision of Closed User Group facility to Deputy Block Development Officers and Overseers is an extension of the existing facility, already being provided by a contractor and procuring additional supplies from the same contractor will enable standardization and ensure compatibility.
- The present plan under Closed User Group is an exclusive and customized one to suit the requirements of the department officials.
- The rate finalized for voice calls under the plan is a very competitive one when compared to current market rates.
- The performance of M/s Aircel was found to be satisfactory in terms of network coverage in rural areas, connectivity, response to customer queries etc., The feedback received from the districts has been positive. The report received from the districts has also been consolidated and is available for perusal.

- M/s Aircel is among the leading Global System for Mobile Communication service providers in the state with the highest customer base, which is a fair indication of the level of service.
- In case of extension of Closed User Group facility to Deputy Block Development Officers and Overseers with the same service provider, the present rate may be re-negotiated in favour of the Government.
- Moreover, in future this provision might get extended to other cadre of staff, should the Government decides to do so and it will only be prudent to have an exemption under section 16(b) of Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act 1998.

11. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has furnished the expenditure details as follows:

Total No. of user	: 9297
Present rental	: Rs.165/- /person/month
Recurring amount per month	: 9297xRs.165/- = Rs. 15,34,005/- = Rs. 15.34 Lakhs
Recurring amount per annum	: Rs. 15.34 lakhs x 12 months = Rs. 1.84 Crore

The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has also stated that this amount is proposed to be met out from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Administrative funds.

12. The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj has therefore requested the Government to issue necessary orders for providing Closed User Group facility to all 9,297 nos i.e., upto the level of Deputy Block Development Officers on the Administrative side and upto the level of overseers on the Technical side with the financial implication mentioned at para 11 above, based on the provisions under section 16(b) of Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998, for which the committee of experts is to be formed and other necessary procedures to be followed up in this case of single source procurement.

13. The Government, after careful examination of the proposal of the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, permit the Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj to provide Closed User Group facility to all 9,297 nos i.e., upto the level of Deputy Block Development Officers on the Administrative side and upto the level of overseers on the Technical side with the financial implication mentioned at para 11 above, based on the provisions under section 16 (b) of Tamil Nadu Transparency in

Tenders Act, 1998, for which the committee of experts is to be formed and other necessary procedures to be followed up in this case of single source procurement.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Director of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai – 15.

All District Collectors (except Chennai)

(Through the DRD & PR, Chennai – 15),

All Project Directors, District Rural Development Agencies

(Through the DRD & PR, Chennai – 15),

The Accountant General, Chennai – 6/18/35.

Copy to:

The Secretary,

Ministry of Rural Development,

Government of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi – 110 001.

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister (Municipal Administration, Rural Development, Law, Courts and Prisons), Chennai – 9.

Finance (RD) Department, Chennai – 9.

The Senior Private Secretary to the Secretary to Government, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Chennai – 9.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (OP.II) Department, Chennai – 9.

National Informatics Centre, Chennai – 9.

//Forwarded by order//

SECTION OFFICER