

I/276183/2023

No.SMS-1/2023-24-RDD-MGNREGA- Water bodies - 12236-12361  
Government of Himachal Pradesh  
Rural Development Department

From

The Director-Cum-Commissioner (MGNREGA)  
Rural Development Department  
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-9

To

1. All the Deputy Commissioners-cum-District Programme Co-coordinators (MGNREGA), HP.
2. All the ADC-cum-Project Directors (MGNREGA), HP.
3. All the Deputy Directors-cum-Project Officers, DRDA, HP.
4. All the Block Development Officers-cum-Block Programme Officers (MGNREGA), HP

Dated Shimla-9 22 Nov 2023

Subject: -

Advisory on Repair & maintenance & Renovation of water bodies (Desilting ) work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of DO letter No.J-11017/1/2023-RE-VII dated 26.10.2023, received from the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India regarding advisory on Repair & maintenance & Renovation of water bodies (Desilting ) works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for further necessary action.

You are therefore, requested to follow the criteria as described by the Govt. of India while implementing the works related to Renovation of different canals, channels, ponds and Repair & maintenance of the same works.

The progress and achievements in this regard may be communicated to this department.

Yours faithfully,

Signed by  
Robin George

Addl. Director -cum- Addl. Commissioner (MGNREGA)  
Rural Development Department  
Himachal Pradesh Shimla-9

File NoJ-11017/1/2023- RE-VII  
Ministry of Rural Development  
Department of Rural Development  
Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Division

317  
30/10/23

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Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Date: 26.10.2023

To

The Principal Secretary/Secretary/Commissioner  
(In charge of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS)  
Rural Development Department  
All States/UTs(Except Delhi & Chandigarh)

Subject : Advisory on Repair & maintenance & Renovation of water bodies  
(Desilting) work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

Madam/Sir,

This is regarding the Desilting works being taken up in all States/UTs in different water bodies under the permissible work names such as Renovation of different canals, channels, ponds etc, and Repair & maintenance of the same works. As per Schedule I of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Section 4 (3), Para 4 (1), Renovation and Repair & maintenance of different water bodies are permissible activities.

It has been observed during the monitoring visits and enquiries made by the Central team (MoRD) to different States/UTs that, desilting works are being taken up most frequently in many States/UTs without any substantial outcome except generation of man-days.

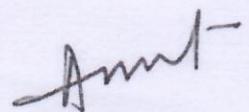
The core objective of the Scheme is to provide not less than one hundred days of unskilled manual work as a guaranteed employment in a financial year to every household in rural areas as per demand, **resulting in creation of productive assets of prescribed quality and durability.**

It is mentioned As mentioned in Para 7.4.10 & 7.12.3 of Annual Master Circular 2022-23, "7.4.10 Prioritising Works of Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), Extension, Renovation & Modernization (ERM) of old CAD&WM projects and Water Bodies: The growing gap between irrigation capacity created and irrigation capacity utilised is a major challenge facing surface irrigation systems. The major reason for this growing gap is the neglect of Command Area Development (CAD) works, especially On Farm Development (OFD) works like field channels, field drains, farm drains, etc. The works permissible under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA will entail **one-time rehabilitation of minors, sub- minors and field channels, including desilting, repair of minor cracks, land levelling, repairs of earthen embankments, bank raising and resurfacing canal base with clay, lining of canals, field drains and farm net. Regular O&M will not be a permissible activity under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.**"

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27-10-23  
26/10/23  
Super (MCA)

The following criteria should be followed while implementing the works related to Renovation of different canals, channels, ponds and Repair & maintenance of the same works

- The estimates and requirement of works which are highly technical in nature and involve high cost (more than Rs.20 lakh) such as strengthening of river embankment, desilting of river/canal, cascading of MI tanks, underground drainage, lining of canal etc., should be vetted by the irrigation / concerned competent department before being approved under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.
- Vetting of estimate designs by superior technical authority/ personnel shall be mandatory and preferably the concerned superior personnel should be from concerned line agency that generally executes such works.
- The proposal(s) of maintenance of irrigation channels of the GPs (after compilation at Block and District level) should be considered in consultation with the Irrigation Department.
- The works which is under the technical and manpower capacity of the Gram Panchayat should not be taken up.
- The minimum duration of any assets to be taken up for repair, maintenance, renovation or rehabilitation should be 5-10 years from the date of completion of the assets except for any special case of natural calamity or accidental damage to the asset (The proof of cause for early maintenance should be attached with the case file).
- The work which can be completed prior to rainy season should be taken up. Same work should not be carried out in patches as ongoing works for many years.
- The details of existing dimensions of pond, embankment, canals etc. must be provided with the proposed estimate for the works.
- The work should be taken up with proper design and sufficient layer wise compaction should be made to the earth work deposition in renovation of ponds & MI tank works.
- Grass turfing /bund protection/lining of water bodies & canals should be provided where ever applicable.
- Splitting of work should not be made for different reach of work in same running length of work. If desilting of a canal is to be carried out for 10 km, then its estimate will not be split into smaller parts.
- It should be strictly followed for non-repetition of work at the same site.
- Planning should be made to obstruct /block the silting in the water bodies and canal by providing suitable silt trap and level mechanism.
- The community/farmers should be empowered with technical knowhow for regular maintenance/cleaning of canals, channels with voluntary contribution.
- Desilting work should not be taken up for the sake of employment generation. The Gram panchayat should prefer for other works in diversified way.
- The technical officials at the District/Block/Gram Panchayat may be instructed to strictly adhere with the above prior to implementing the same at the Gram Panchayat level.



(Amit Kataria)  
Joint Secretary