

M-11015/03/2020-RE-III(371554)
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development

SAE Programme

KrishiBhawan, New Delhi
Date: 15th July, 2020

693

To

The Director,
Social Audit Units of
All States/UTs

Subject: - Guidelines to conduct concurrent social audit by Social Audit Units under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA during Covid-19 pandemic - regarding

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the Guidelines to conduct concurrent social audit by Social Audit Units under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA during Covid-19 pandemic for information and appropriate action.

Yours faithfully,



(S.N. Mishra)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel:23782560

Copy to: Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary/Commissioner (In charge of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA) of all States/UTs.

Copy for information to:

1. PPS to Secretary(RD)
2. PPS to Joint Secretary(RE)
3. PA to Director(DJ)

BR
15/7/2020

SOCIAL AUDIT

**Guidelines to Concurrent Social Audit Under Mahatma
Gandhi NREGA during Covid-19 Pandemic**

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1. Social Audit in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005

Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act gives the Gram Sabha the right to Social Audit of all works and expenditures. This includes facilitation of the social audit through independent Social Audit Units (SAUs), complete access to all records - online and offline, and pro-active disclosure through wall writings.

Section 17 of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, 2005 mandates the Gram Sabha to conduct Social Audits of works undertaken under the Scheme. Section 17 of the Act envisages that:

“(1) The Gram Sabha shall monitor the execution of works within the Gram Panchayat.

(2) The Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the Scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat.

(3) The Gram Panchayat shall make available all relevant documents including the muster rolls, bills, vouchers, measurement books, copies of sanction orders and other connected book of account and papers to the Gram Sabha for the purpose of conducting Social Audit.”

1.1 Current Scenario

The current Covid-19 pandemic situation has affected conduction of social audits at field level. In order to curb the spread of the virus and efficient implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, Secretary, Department Rural Development has written a letter vide DO No. J-1160/4/2019-RE-VI(366816) dated 15th April 2020 to all States and UTs(Annexure-I). The letter clearly mentions the strict implementation of social distancing norms and wearing of

face mask/protective face cover while carrying out Mahatma Gandhi NREGS works.

2. Concurrent Social Audit

2.1 Paragraph 25(b) of the Schedule I of the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, 2020 envisages that *concurrent social audit shall be done for all works every month. For this purpose, Programme Officer shall made available free of cost, details of works done, and expenditure made during the past one month to the Bharat Nirman Volunteers, village social auditors, self-help groups, youth organizations and such other village level organizations for verification and report deviations, if any.*

Considering the present pandemic scenario, Social Audit Unit (SAU) is directed to conduct Concurrent Social Audit under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS.

2.1 Steps to be followed by the SAUs while carrying out Concurrent Social Audit under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS:

1. Concurrent social audit may be done for all works every month by the Social Audit Unit.
2. The SAU should prepare the calendar for conducting concurrent audits and submit the same to this Ministry. A copy of the calendar shall be circulated to all the District Programme Coordinators for making necessary arrangements for the social audit.
3. For the purpose of conducting concurrent audits, Resource Person from Social Audit Unit (SAU) will inspect all records of works done and expenditure made in the Gram Panchayat on a fixed day of the week. Copies of records, where needed, will be provided by the Programme Officer.

4. The concurrent audit may confine to adjoining villages.
5. Resource Person from SAU may visit each active worksite. Resource Person will be paid as per the norms during the concurrent audit.
6. The Resource Person from SAU shall conduct a concurrent social audit of all active works of the Gram Panchayat and will monitor whether due norms are being complied with at the worksite in terms of processes, and records to be maintained.
7. The Resource Person will also monitor whether worker entitlements are being provided as per the Act.
8. The Resource Person from SAU shall sign its report and submit the same to the Programme Officer.

2.3 Protocols to be strictly adhered to while carrying out Concurrent Social Audit:

1. Social distancing norms prescribed by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India while conducting concurrent audits and engaging with the community.
2. **While conducting Concurrent Social Audit, the guidelines, Advisory as issued by various concerned departments/ Authority related to safety amid COVID-19 pandemic must be followed in letter and spirit.**
3. **The advisory/direction issued by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India or State Panchayati Raj Department for any activity in a panchayat must be adhered.**
4. Concurrent social audit activities should be conducted as per the rules and regulations issued by the respective State Governments. **Under no**

circumstances should the audits violate the rules set by the States for pandemic situation.

2.3 Reporting

SAUs should report the findings of the concurrent social audit in similar way as they report in regular social audits.

Annexure-I

राजेश भुशान, सचिव
जीए
RAJESH BHUSHAN, IAS
SECRETARY



राज्य सचिव
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DO No J.110604/2019-RE-VI (e-366816)

April 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues

Subject Implementation of MGNREGS with respect to the consolidated guidelines of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for containing spread of Covid-19 dated 15.4.2020

Reference DO No.A-60022/03/22020-E II, March 27.3.2020 of Secretary, Department of Rural Development.

Please refer to the detailed advice to States/UTs provided by the aforesaid DO letter of the undersigned on 27th March, 2020 regarding implementation of Rural Development Programmes.

Ministry of Home Affairs vide letter dated 15.4.2020 has indicated selected additional activities that will be allowed with effect from April 20, 2020. However, these additional activities will be operationalised by States/Union Territories (UTs)/District Administrations based on strict compliance to the existing MHA guidelines of lockdown measures. It has been reiterated by MHA that before operating these relaxations, States/UTs/District Administrations shall ensure that all preparatory arrangements with regard to social distancing as also other sectoral requirements are in place.

In this context, the following guidelines in respect of MGNREGS works, only in those areas/Districts which are outside the Containment Zones are prescribed. **It is reiterated, once again, that these guidelines will not apply in Containment Zones as demarcated by States/UTs/District Administrations.** It is also reiterated that if any new area is included in the category of Containment Zone, the MGNREGS activities allowed in that area till the time of its categorisation as a Containment Zone, will be immediately suspended.

1. MGNREGS works are allowed with strict implementation of social distancing and wearing of face mask/protective face cover (separate communication regarding use of protective face cover) have been issued vide this office letter F.No.J-110604/2019-RE-VI (e-366816) dated 11.4.2020.
2. Priority must be given under MGNREGS to irrigation and water conservation works such as construction of feeder canals/distributor canals/minor canals/sub-minor canals/water courses for the community, construction of various kinds of check dams for individuals and community, construction of irrigation open wells for individuals/community, construction of various kind of gully-plugs for individuals and community, construction of farm ponds, mini percolation tanks for individuals and community, construction of recharge pits for individuals and community, construction of water absorption trench for individuals and community, etc., in addition to such irrigation and water conservation works as are permitted under 'Permissible Works List' of Schedule I of MGNREG Act, 2005.

Contd. ... /

3. Other Central and State sector schemes in irrigation and water conservation sectors may also be allowed to be implemented and suitably dovetailed with MGNREGS works.
4. All district and field level authorities must be sensitised to imperatives of maintaining social distancing, use of homemade protective face covers and repeated washing of hands with soap and water.

I sincerely hope that with your active support and collaboration we would be in a position to effectively implement MGNREGS in these challenging times.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,


(Rajesh Bhushan)

Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries in charge of RD and PR Departments in all States/UTs