

Sub: Proposal to place an upper limit of 20% on the construction of Rural Connectivity works under NREGS-SIKKIM

Section 5.1 (Permissible Works) of the operational guidelines 2006 of the NREGA, 2005 provides a list of eight permissible works that can be taken up as water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation/tree plantation), land development, flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas) and rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads.

As on March 2008, out of the 514 works taken up so far under this programme, 266 pertain to Rural Connectivity - C.C. Footpaths. Which amounts to more than 50% of the total works taken up. While the other important sectors which focus on income generation like water conservation (1%), drought proofing (3%), renovation of traditional water bodies (4%), provision of irrigation facility in private land (0%) and land development (3%) have received limited attention.

Andhra Pradesh (vide order No. G.O.Ms.No.27 Date: 28.01.2006 enclosed in Flag-A) has instructed that Roads can be taken up as last priority not exceeding 10% of the value of all types of works taken up. Similarly even hilly states like states like Kerala (vide order No.40184/JRY.2/04/CRD, Dated: 14.03.2006 enclosed in Flag-B) have made it mandatory that roads can be taken up as last priority not exceeding 10% value of all types of works taken up. Hence these states have taken preemptive action to ensure that income generation activities receive adequate attention after taking due approval of their respective state governments in 2006 itself.

Sikkim being a mountainous state, it is proposed that an upper limit be placed on the Rural Connectivity works at Block level not exceeding 20% of the value of all types of works taken up. This will ensure that other items of works related to income generation are also taken up.

Placed for favour of approval please.

Joint Secretary



**RURAL MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
GANGTOK**

No: 338/ RM&DD

Dated: 23 / 4 / 2008

To,

The DPCs
North, East, South, West

**Sub: Giving adequate emphasis to livelihoods related activities under the NREGS-SIKKIM:
Instructions reg.**

Sir / Madam,

Section 5.1 (Permissible Works) of the operational guidelines 2006 of the NREGA, 2005 provides a list of eight permissible works that can be taken up as (i) water conservation and water harvesting; (ii) drought proofing, including afforestation and tree plantation; (iii) irrigation canals, including micro and minor irrigation works; (iv) provision of irrigation facility to land owned by households belonging to the SC/ST, or to land of the beneficiaries of land reforms, or to land of the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana; (v) renovation of traditional water bodies, including de-silting of tanks; (vi) land development; (vii) flood-control and protection works, including drainage in waterlogged areas; (viii) rural connectivity to provide all-weather access, (ix) any other work that may be notified by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government.

As on March 2008, out of the 514 works taken up so far under this programme, 266 pertain to Rural Connectivity - C.C. Footpaths. Which amounts to more than 50% of the total works taken up. Consequently the other important sectors like water conservation (1%), drought proofing (3%), renovation of traditional water bodies (4%), provision of irrigation facility in private land (0%) and land development (3%) has suffered.

Andhra Pradesh (vide order No. G.O.Ms.No.27 Date: 28.01.2006) has instructed that Rural Connectivity can be taken up as last priority not exceeding 10% of the value of all types of works taken up. Similarly even hilly states like Kerala (vide order No.40184/JRY.2/04/CRD, Dated: 14.03.2006) have made it mandatory that Rural Connectivity can be taken up as last priority not exceeding 10% value of all types of works taken up. **The letter received from union secretary GOI (D.O. No. Secy(RD)/NREGA/08 Dated: 1st April, 08 in this regard is enclosed and it lays emphasis on livelihood related schemes to be taken up under NREGA.**

Sikkim being a mountainous state, with the approval of the state government **instructions are hereby given to limit the works pertaining to Rural Connectivity not exceeding 25% of the value of all types of works taken up at the block level.** This will ensure that other items of works related to livelihoods and income generation get equal opportunity and importance. For strict compliance please.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above

Joint Secretary / NREGA