



# **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS-SIKKIM)**

## **Annual Progress Report 2007-08**



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

## **Annual Progress Report for NREGS-SIKKIM for 2007-2008**

With the NREG Act being passed in September, 2005, the NREGS-Sikkim was implemented from 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2006 in North District and, from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007 in South and East districts of the state with the objective of providing 100 days of guaranteed unskilled wage employment to each rural household opting for it. The NREGS, a demand-driven scheme, has its focus on works relating to 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. The physical and financial progress of the programme as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008 includes issuing of 30,907 job cards; and of the 21,773 households who have demanded employment, 19,787 households have been provided employment. Under the scheme, of the 8.60 lakh person-days of employment generated, 3.16 lakh person-days were for women, 3.66 lakh person-days were ST and 0.61 lakh person-days were SC; and of 514 works taken up, 201 were completed and remaining were carried forward to 2008-09.

### **NREGS-SIKKIM PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS**

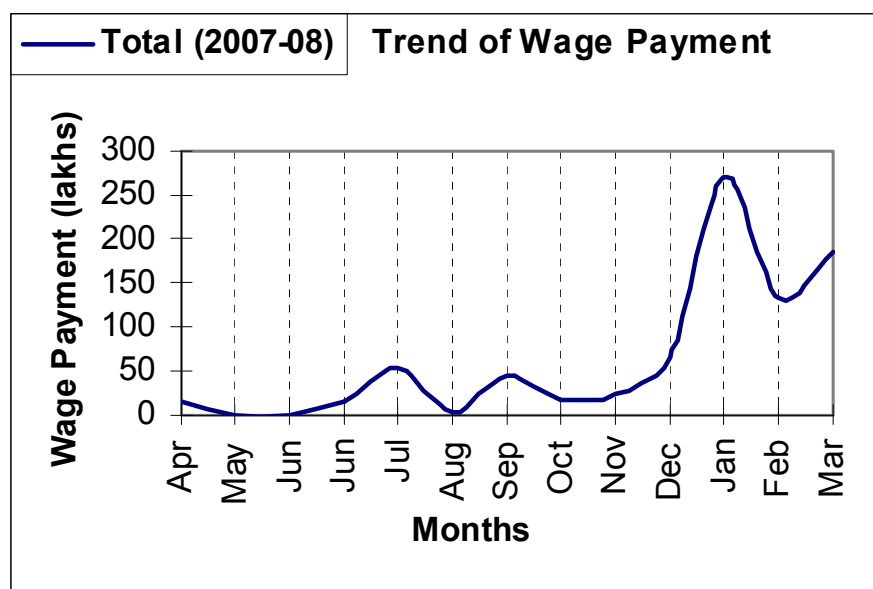
<b>Status</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>
No. of Districts under NREGA	<b>North</b>	<b>North, East and South</b>
No. of Blocks	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>
No. of GPUs	<b>23</b>	<b>110</b>
No. of Job cards Issued	<b>4,498</b>	<b>30,907</b>
No of Works Completed	<b>103</b>	<b>201</b>
Households provided employment	<b>4,107</b>	<b>19,787</b>
Total number of Persondays generated	<b>2,42,000</b>	<b>8,59,738</b>
Total Funds available (crore)	<b>4.56 crore</b>	<b>14.32 crore</b>
Total Expenditure (crore)	<b>2.75 crore</b>	<b>12.34 crore</b>

**OVERALL PERFORMANCE ON SELECT PARAMERTS DURING  
2007-08 AND TARGET FOR 2008-09**

Item	North	East	South	STATE	Target for 2008-09
Jobcard Coverage	47%	35%	44%	39%	> 60%
% of Employment demand met	97%	84%	97%	91%	100%
Average days of employment per HH	67	40	34	43	> 80
% of HH completed 100 days	34%	4%	3%	10%	> 50%
Women participation	55%	43%	36%	42%	> 33%
% of CC Footpaths	36%	56%	75%	52%	< 25%
Wage material ratio	51%	73%	88%	68%	> 60%

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Making labour work dignified in the villages (nearly 20,000 households participated)
- Opening of works near their place of residence and timely payment of wages and has been a major factor in attracting the people towards this scheme.
- The lean agricultural months from December to March have seen a high demand for wage employment



- This Scheme has played a big role in strengthening decentralization in the State. Sikkim is amongst the few states where 100% implementation is by the Gram Panchayats. The shelf

of works is decided in the gram sabha and the wage payments are disbursed by the Gram Panchayats.

- Women are playing an active role and in many work sites outnumber the men
- To enhance transparency, the progress of this scheme is regularly uploaded on the web and can be accessed online at <http://nrega.nic.in>. The process of automation of all the records of the scheme including jobcards, shelf of works, work allocation, material procurement and muster rolls in the NREGA-MIS is also underway at the block level.
- With the universalization of the scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008, West District will also get covered for which preparatory works are currently underway.

## **CONCERNS**

### **A) Appointment of fulltime dedicated manpower is needed**

The gram panchayat, block and district level officials are responsible for planning of works, registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing 100 per cent of the works, and monitoring the implementation of the Scheme. The implementation of NREGA involves a considerable organizational implementation burden at the level of the Gram Panchayat and Block and coordination and monitoring burden at the level of District. This involves registering families, issuing job cards, receiving applications for work, maintaining records, allocating employment, preparing estimates of shelf of works, monthly progress reporting, 100% monitoring of executed works, opening bank / post office accounts for wage earners, entering all data in MIS, conducting social audit and so on, aside from planning and executing the works. It will be very difficult for these tasks to be effectively discharged by the existing staff in addition to their existing responsibilities. Though the operational guidelines of this scheme envisage full time committed manpower to implement this programme, adequate funds for the deployment of this manpower at the village, block and district level has not been made available. Currently in the state the scheme is being managed by existing manpower at the district, block and village level. This has placed tremendous strain on the existing manpower, and appointment of dedicated, fulltime, contractual manpower is necessary to improve the performance of the scheme.

### **B) Fund flow from GOI is not smooth**

For Phase II districts of East and South Sikkim, the process of registration, issue of job cards, demand for employment and preparation of shelf of projects could be completed only by August, 2007. Immediately thereafter Panchayat election were declared and due to the ensuing model code of conduct scheme had to be kept in abeyance till November, 2007. The scheme started in full swing only in the month of December, 2007 and by January 2008 end these districts had utilized more than 88% of the fund available. Winter also being the lean season for agricultural activities and hence the corresponding high demand for wage employment. This has resulted in the lesser achievement so far as employment provided to households in 2007-08 is concerned due to non availability of fund.

### **C) Focus mostly on construction of CC footpaths (52% in 2007-08)**

Limited focus on livelihood related works (horticulture, irrigation, land development, drought proofing, water harvesting structures, plantations etc) maximum emphasis on CC Footpath in the work plans passed by Gram Sabhas. 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.

<b>Nature of Works taken up</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Rural Connectivity	88	77	101	<b>266</b>	52%
Flood Control and Protection	99	25	3	<b>127</b>	25%
Water Conservation and Water Harvesting	3	1	0	<b>4</b>	1%
Drought Proofing	2	12	0	<b>14</b>	3%
Micro Irrigation Works	36	11	3	<b>50</b>	10%
Provision of Irrigation Facility in Private Land	0	2	0	<b>2</b>	0%
Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies	0	6	12	<b>18</b>	4%
Land Development	12	2	2	<b>16</b>	3%
Any other activity approved by MoRD	2	1	14	<b>17</b>	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>514</b>	100%