

PART –I

OBJECTIVE OF ‘THE MAHATMA GANDHI NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARENTEE ACT’

1. The objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment guarantee Act is to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

NREGA came into force on 7th September, 2005 and its implementation was notified in phased manner. In phase I, it was introduced in 200 most backward districts of the country on 2nd February 2006. 130 districts were further included under NREGS in phase II with effect from 1st April, 2007. The act was notified in the remaining 274 districts of India from 1st April, 2008. The act is now effective in the entire rural areas of the country covering 618 districts. The Act has recently been renamed as ‘The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act’ (MGNREGA) vide notification dated 31-12-2009.

The primary objective of the Act is augmenting wage employment. Its auxiliary objective is strengthening natural resource management through works that address causes of chronic poverty, like drought, and so encourage sustainable development.

Para – 1 of Schedule- I of the Act details list of permissible works in the order of priority. Sub Para (9) of the Para – 1 empowers the Central Government to notify any other work in consultation with the State Government. As per Para 2 of Schedule I of the Act, creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor shall be an important objective of the Scheme. In conformity with this, Ministry of Rural

Development has expended the scope of permissible work by incorporating construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra (BNRGSK).

1.1 Context

Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has expanded the scope of works under schedule1 Para 1(g) to include construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra (BNRGSK) at the Gram Panchayat (GP) and Block level vide notification no S.O.2877(E) dated 11.11.09. This has been prompted by the demands from several states to strengthen the infrastructure at the Gram Panchayat and the Programme Office level to enable an efficient implementation of MGNREGA and to provide space for greater and more transparent interactions with the citizens.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra (BNRGSK) are as follows:

- a) Provide space to facilitate the functioning of the MGNREGA office at the GP/Block levels,
- b) Function as a Knowledge Resource Centre to facilitate
 - i) Citizens access to information on MGNREGA and other Rural Development Programmes
 - ii) Provide space for facilitating dissemination of technologies and good practices for effecting convergence for durability and productivity enhancement of rural assets.
 - iii) Operation of ICT facilities both to support GP and block office of Programme Officer (PO) as well as public excess to information and online transaction related to development process.

1.3 Nature of Activities to be undertaken

The Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra (BNRGSK) may be used following activities:

- a. Providing space for citizens to exercise their rights under MGNREGA, specially,
 - i) Submit applications for job cards,
 - ii) Submit applications for work,
 - iii) Muster roll scrutiny
 - iv) Complaints
 - v) Use ICT facilities for scrutinizing their rights and entitlements under MGNREGA

A section of the building will be dedicated towards facilitating interactions with MGNREGA workers and local communities.

- b. Providing space for establishing a dedicated office for MGNREGS at the GP and block levels. At the GP level, a section of the building will house the GP Office wherever the GP does not have a building. Where there is adequate infrastructure for the GP, the BNRGSK will be constructed as a citizen-centric Knowledge Resource Centre. As far as possible, this will be structurally connected to the GP building, or near it, to facilitate proper management and control of the resources created for MGNREGA. At the block level, the Programme Officer's office will be located in the BNRGSK building at block level. As far as possible, this will also be structurally connected to the Block building, or near it, to facilitate proper management, coordination and control

of the resources created for MGNREGA. The buildings at both levels should serve the following purposes:

- i) Providing ample space for the functioning of dedicated personnel
- ii) Enabling meetings, assemblies, gram sabhas at GP level
- iii) Supporting ICT infrastructure for MIS
- iv) Maintaining office records,
- v) Grievance redressal.
- vi) Enabling social audits at GP level
- vii) Training and Capacity Building
- viii) Operationalising ICT based MGNREGS MIS.
- ix) Providing a single window for information on MGNREGS and other rural development programmes which would ensure transparency and accountability.

c. BNRGSK as a Knowledge Resource Centre will become the hub for:

- i. Facilitating convergence of all the schemes of rural development, as well as of convergence between RD schemes and other development programmes related to rural areas/communities.
- ii. Backward and forward linkages, which will be required for convergence for creating more productive and durable assets.
- iii. Collection and sharing of knowledge, awareness and information about other related schemes for the purpose of convergence.
- iv. Dissemination and use of new technology
- v. Capacity building and skill development

1.4 Designs

Structurally, the BNRGSK will reflect two fold objectives:

- a. Infrastructure support for locating the MGNREGA office at the GP and Block levels and strengthening their functioning through appropriate equipment including ICT
- b. Space for interactions with citizens/ local community/MGNREGA workers including enabling citizen access to ICT based information.

This space can also be used for training and resource support to MGNREGA workers, PRIs and beneficiaries of other programmes. These two spaces would be functionally distinct but be interconnected for coordinated use and space optimization. At the GP level, where there is adequate Gram Panchayat infrastructure, the knowledge resource centre section should be constructed and as far as possible, be built in a spatially contiguous area for coordinated resource management.

Proto-type designs the BNRGSK have been developed at the National level as given in this Manual. The prototype designs can be adapted to local conditions, subject to the basic functional spatial concept of the prototype design. The cost norms would be as per the State SoRs and there would be local design variations depending on the geo climatic conditions and the availability of construction material and skills. Designs and detailed manual has been prepared to provide guidance for the construction of BNRGSK. Broadly, the BNRGSK envisages the following structural elements:

- a. At the GP level, there will be a meeting hall to accommodate approximately 50 people, a room to accommodate the GP office requirements and another room for public interface and ICT services. The toilet will be located outside the building.

A stepped, low cost open amphitheatre is proposed near the BNRGSK building to be used for public functions, IEC, large assemblies. On a broad estimate the covered area for the BNRGSK is approximately 130 sq.metre (inclusive of toilet). The overall cost of the GP level BNRGSK should not exceed Rs.10.00 lakh under MGNREGS budget.

- b. At the Block level there will be a meeting hall to accommodate approximately between 80-100 persons, a room to accommodate the Programme Officer's office, another room for public interface and ICT services. The toilet will be located outside the building. The structure should allow future construction on the first floor. On a broad estimate the covered area for the BNRGSK is approximately 290 sq.metre (inclusive of toilet). The overall cost of the Block level BNRGSK should not exceed Rs.25.00 lakh under MGNREGS budget.

1.5 Conformity to MGNREGS processes in planning and execution

The construction of BNRGSK, in so far as it is funded under MGNREGA, will be subject to all MGNREGS processes, through job cardholders, and without the use of machinery and contractor. Muster rolls will be maintained for public scrutiny on site. Clear record should be maintained on the employment generated in the process of construction of BNRGSK. Material procurement will be through a transparent procurement process whose details will be placed on MGNREGA MIS. Wage Material ratio of 60:40 may be maintained at the district level.

