

**Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) held in Hall 2-3, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi at 10:30 A.M. onwards on 05.12.2018.**

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The Second meeting of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was held at 10.30 AM onwards on 5.12.2018 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Amarjit Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Details of the participants of the meeting are given in the Annexure.

2. Welcoming the participants, Dr. Bala Prasad, Additional Secretary, MoPR recapitulated briefly the background regarding operationalization of the scheme of RGSA. He observed that after the Scheme was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24.4.2018, a Framework for Implementation of the Scheme was formulated and shared with the Panchayati Raj Departments of the States/UTs and concerned stakeholders for facilitating the implementation of the Scheme in an effective and efficient manner.

3. Secretary (PR) and Chairman of the Committee welcomed the CEC members and explained the significance of the PPC launched during the current financial year for formulating the GPDP for 2019-20. He informed the Committee members regarding the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in providing guidance and the inputs related to methodology of formulation of the GPDP for 2019-20 under the PPC. He observed that the Ministry has undertaken comprehensive efforts to assist the States in the formulation of GPDP by the Gram Panchayats / Gram Sabhas etc. and that the Panchayati Raj Departments of the States must utilize the same for achieving the desired results.

4. Thereafter, a presentation was made by Shri Varinder Seth, Sr. Technical Director, NIC on restructured PlanPlus. He informed that the PlanPlus has been restructured to support need based planning rather than scheme based planning. It provides for evidence based inputs for identifying the needs, convergence of funds, convergence of different departments and their works. He stated that socio-economic data of Panchayats were provided for GPDP preparation and sectoral gaps in development were identified in the restructured PlanPlus, on the basis of Mission Antyodaya survey, which was expanded to all Gram Panchayats during People's Plan Campaign. The desegregated data for all Gram Panchayats has been pre-populated in PlanPlus in respect of all MoRD schemes and FFC grants, and the State must upload the data relating to other schemes. User IDs for all GPs, has been created to enable Gram Panchayats to formulate and upload their plans on PlanPlus.

5. Elaborating on the above, Secretary (PR) and Chairman of CEC stated that the intention was that GPs should do local level planning as per the priorities identified by them during the special Gram Sabha. He stated that all Central Ministries had already been requested to disaggregate scheme-wise funds allocated at Gram Panchayat level for activities to be performed by them with respect to each scheme. The frontline functionaries of line departments have also been advised to present the work done in the GP area during the present year and the proposed works to be undertaken during the

next year i.e 2019-20. He emphasized that the Panchayati Raj Departments of all States/UTs must make efforts to ensure that each GP is informed by March 2019 as to how much funds are available for each sector for the year 2019-20. This will result in focused intervention by all stakeholders and will also empower the Pradhans of the respective GPs to follow up to complete the activities assigned to the GP for 2019-20 by vigorously pursuing the matter with authorities and stakeholders.

6. The Chairman stressed that the training of members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) should mandatorily be undertaken along with Elected Representatives and other stakeholders. This will lead to transparency in the planning process and make the functioning of GPs more accountable. He observed that though the PRI-SHG convergence may at times result in difference of opinion between them, but the outcomes and achievements made will be in larger public interest. It was with this objective, that the restructured scheme of RGSA has a strong focus on PRI-SHG convergence. He pointed out that the States must ensure that the assets created under FFC grants are geo-tagged. He exhorted the Secretaries of the Panchayati Raj Departments to personally look into the above issues to ensure that 100% geo-tagging of assets created under FFC grants is undertaken.

7. Thereafter, Dr. Sanjeeb Kumar Patjoshi, (Joint Secretary, Governance Division) gave a brief presentation on the Ministry's endeavor on e-Financial Management System (e-FMS). The importance of having such a robust system in place was emphasized particularly in view of the large amount of funds being devolved under the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC). He also informed that it was mandatory for geo-tagging of assets created from FFC funds, for effective and efficient monitoring by using mActionSoft (*mobile application developed for capturing Geo-tagged photographs*). States were requested to expedite the geo-tagging of assets.

8. States were also briefed on the adoption of PFMS for the purpose of making real time payments to beneficiaries/vendors viz. for works under FFC. States were informed regarding the completion of technical integration between PRIASoft-PFMS as well as the success of the testing carried out in States viz. Odisha and Uttarakhand. States were requested to ensure that they fulfil the pre-requisites for smooth operation of PRIASoft/PFMS and to expedite the process. The pre-requisites as under were reiterated:

- a) Mapping/Registration of all Gram Panchayats (with LGD codes) with bank details, as agencies on PFMS. As GPs are LGD code compliant, the adoption of PFMS has been streamlined.
- b) Registration of GPs on PFMS portal with valid IFSC code and bank accounts in banks compatible with PFMS system for purpose of payments (30 bank list suggested by PFMS enclosed in Annexure-IV)
- c) Digital Signature Certificates (DSCs) dongles to be provided to the Sarpanch & Panchayat Secretary with maker and checker facilities with login facility on PFMS.
- d) Closure of account books of Gram Panchayats for the year 2017-18 in order to come online for the purpose of real time payments. In case of States coming

on-board afresh, they need to ensure that the Opening Balance for FY 2018-19 is updated.

- e) Mapping/registration of vendors/service providers in PFMS with bank details by GPs.

9. Thereafter, in response to the request of the Chairman soliciting the observations / suggestions of the Members/participants. Shri Basant, Member of the CEC appreciated the initiatives taken by Ministry for holistic development of villages and promoting transparency through various interventions and launching of PPC. He stated that the State Governments were doing their best to implement the campaigns, schemes etc. successfully under the guidance of the Central Government. However, this performance will become more fruitful if the non-official organizations are also associated with the Gram Panchayats etc. He observed that the Bhagidari with such organizations has yielded appreciable results. Further, he emphasized the need of public information board / wall painting in respect of gaps identified or assets created and geo-tagged etc., which will generate awareness among the common man and even non-residential villagers about the activities of the Gram Panchayat. He also suggested that the expert / non-governmental organizations etc. may be considered for association in the CB&T of the stakeholders of Panchayats.

10. To the above suggestions, the Chairman clarified that with the sole intention of involving the community in the planning exercise and improving the performance of Gram Panchayats and making them more accountable, the community based organizations have been given prominent role through RGSA and PPC. As regards, the issue of CB&T, the Chairman informed that the provision of involving NGOs by States in CB&T of stakeholders of Panchayats has already been embedded in the scheme of RGSA. Besides, the representative of NIRDPR, Hyderabad present in the meeting was advised that their Institute may, in consultation with SIRDs of States, update the training modules relating to basic orientation training and domain specific training in respect of 29 transferred subjects so as to equip the PRIs in performance of their mandated duties.

11. The Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department, Haryana pointed out that due to certain factors they had not been able to complete the task relating to geo-tagging of assets etc. within the timelines prescribed. He requested that they may be given time of two more months to complete their processes under the same. The Chairman agreed to the request and observed that the States must ensure to institutionalize the prescribed process and social audit of their programmes / schemes. He observed that the State may utilize the services of the pool of certified Internal Auditors available for Social Audit and Internal Audit in respect of Rural Development programmes. He further observed that the state may also utilize the Audit Certificate Training Programme being conducted by NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

12. Thereafter, Sh. K. S. Sethi, Joint Secretary, MoPR made a presentation on RGSA. The Presentation covered the background of formulation of this scheme, its components, salient features of the scheme, thrust on PRI – SHG convergence, GPDP etc and other aspects, implementation of the scheme as per the contents of the Framework for Implementation of RGSA. In his presentation on PPC, he elaborated on its features and process, role of facilitators and front line workers and Gram Sabhas, Portal on PPC and

achievements uploaded thereon, thematic workshops for PPC etc. He requested the States to complete the activities approved in their AAPs under RGSA for the current financial year by the year end and it should be ensured that no unutilized fund is remaining at the close of the financial year. He pointed out that the Ministry proposes to convene the meeting of CEC to approve the AAPs of States for next year in the beginning of the financial year itself so as to give the States sufficient time for execution of approved activities. He also broadly briefed the CEC about following focus areas of the scheme -

- The scheme is broadly aligned for achieving the SDGs with main thrust on Panchayats identified under 117 Aspirational Districts and Mission Antyodaya.
- Training programmes for PRIs following phased saturation approach with focus to ensure general orientation of newly Elected Representatives within six months and refresher training to be ensured within 2 years.
- Impetus to SHG-PRI partnership to increase effectiveness of Rural local Governments
- Administrative and technical support to PRIs for technical manpower at block level as per the Sumit Bose Committee recommendations
- Greater thrust for e-enablement of Panchayats for e-governance to enhance efficiency and transparency.
- Provision for additional room in GP Buildings for co-location of CSCs for citizen centric services.
- States were also directed for timely utilization of the released amount under the various components. Slow progress may affect further releases.

13. It was further informed to the committee that appraisal of certain components as proposed by states/UTs in their respective Annual Action Plan viz. Panchayat Bhawan, Administrative & Technical support to Gram Panchayat, e-enablement (computer support to Gram Panchayat), PLC had been made on the basis of gaps in respect of these components of States vis a vis overall allocation of funds of respective components during the current year. It was also informed that in view of limited funds available for the activity relating to handholding support under the scheme, support is being provided to North East States only.

14. With regard to the proposal for support for construction of new SPRC/DPRC, since infrastructure support for SIRDs etc was already available under the concerned schemes of MoRD and also in view of the fact that only already previously approved, continuing activities of infrastructure support for SPRC/DPRC was envisaged under the scheme, therefore, for support for new construction for SPRC/DPRC, the States may approach MoRD for the same and access funds from the respective scheme.

Thereafter, CEC took up the following Agenda for consideration, and decisions taken with respect to them have been described in succeeding sections:

#### **Agenda No. 1 : Confirmation of the minutes of first meeting of CEC**

JS (KSS) informed that the minutes of the first meeting of CEC held on 12.10.2018 had been circulated to the Members of the CEC and other participants and sought the ratification of the same by the Committee. In this matter, Shri Basant, Member of CEC observed that in the first meeting of CEC he had requested that the training materials and modules as developed by Ministry/NIRDPR, Hyderabad etc. may be got translated in different languages so that the different States may appropriately use them as per their

requirement. Besides, he had also pointed out that for imparting the requisite training to the concerned stakeholders of different States / UTs, efforts may be made so that the same is imparted by the Master trainers / Resource persons who are proficient and trained in the language of the respective State / UT. It was decided that his suggestions would be taken as part of this CEC meeting and the Committee ratified the minutes of the first meeting of CEC.

### **Agenda No. 2 : Action taken on the decisions of CEC taken in its first meeting**

The CEC perused the action taken details and noted the same.

### **Agenda No. 3 : Incentivization of Panchayats**

Dr. Sanjeeb Kumar Patjoshi, Joint Secretary, e-Governance Division gave a brief presentation on the Incentivization of Panchayats scheme, highlighting the overview of the scheme, award money released to States/UTs during the current financial year, Utilization Certificates (UCs) pending with the States/UTs and status of nominations received under the various categories for Panchayat Awards-2019. All the concerned States/UTs were requested to expedite the submission of pending UCs for the award money released under the scheme.

Further, the revised Guidelines for GPDP Award, as finalized by the National Screening Committee for Panchayat Awards, were placed before the Committee for approval. The CEC considered and approved the said Guidelines (as per the agenda) during the meeting.

### **Agenda No. 4: Achievements made under People's Plan Campaign for Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) – 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas'**

Joint Secretary (KSS) informed that in the first meeting of CEC, the Committee was informed regarding the launching of People's Plan Campaign – 'Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas' by Ministry of Panchayati Raj during 2.10.2018 to 31.12.2018 with the inter alia objective of formulation of the holistic and evidence based Gram Panchayat Development Plan. Thereafter, he informed the Committee about the interventions made under the People's Plan Campaign and the achievements made till 05.12.2018 which was also brought out in his presentation made before the Committee.

The Committee appreciated the interventions and noted the achievements.

### **Agenda No. 5 : Orientation Programs on Integration of Water Resources and Agricultural Development in GPDP for all SIRD faculty – proposal submitted by National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE)**

Dr. B. Renuka Rani, Member of Faculty, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, which is an autonomous organization under Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare on issues related to watershed management and agriculture extension programmes, made a presentation on their proposal of Orientation Programs on Integration of Water Resources and Agricultural Development in GPDP for SIRD faculty

from all States. It was submitted by her that the Gram Panchayats had been mandated for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) for economic development and social justice. The GPDP planning process has to be comprehensive and based on participatory process which involved full convergence with schemes of all related Central Ministries/ Line Departments. Referring to the launch of PPC by this Ministry, she submitted that since GPDP was bringing holistic approach for operative convergence platform for all sector activities, there was urgent requirement of integration of water resources and agricultural development in the GPDP. To this end, based on iterative discussions held with MoPR, MANAGE proposes to conduct orientation programmes on Integration of Water Resources and Agricultural Development in GPDP for all SIRD faculty. It was informed by her that each training programme will be for five days in which minimum of 25 participants will undergo training. Financial implication for 8 training programmes of 200 participants will be to the tune of Rs. 29.50 Lakh (including 18% GST). It was confirmed by MANAGE during the meeting that the rates submitted for the proposal are approved rates of MANAGE and all training programs are being held as per these rates only. Further MANAGE is also not charging any costs for the venue, faculty or Institutional charges in this proposal.

After discussion the CEC approved the proposal of MANAGE.

#### **Agenda No. 6 : Annual Action Plan of States proposal**

Thereafter, the CEC took up for consideration of the Annual Action Plan of 11 States and 3 UTs namely A&N Islands, Bihar, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Punjab, Odisha and Uttarakhand. States were informed that the proposals relating to three components namely Distance Learning Facility through SATCOM or IP based technology etc.; Project based support for economic development and income enhancement and Support for Innovations will be examined by three respective Committees, which had already been constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bala Prasad, Additional Secretary. The CEC after consideration of the proposals of States / UTs approved. State-wise details as below: