

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE(CEC) OF RASHTRIYA GRAM SWARAJ ABHIYAN (RGSA) FOR 2017 6 18, HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM OF LIC BUILDING, KASTURBA GANDHI MARG, NEW DELHI AT 11.30 A.M. ON 17.4.2017 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

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The meeting of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), was held at 11.30 A.M. on 17.4.2017 in Conference Room of LIC Building, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Besides the members of the CEC, representatives of the Panchayati Raj Departments of the States were also invited to the meeting. Details of the participants may kindly be seen at **Annexure I**.

2. Welcoming the participants in the meeting, the Chairman at the outset invited their attention to urgent action to be taken by all concerned in the celebration of the National Panchayat Day (NPD) which is going to be organised in Lucknow on 24.4.2017. Referring to the communications already having been exchanged amongst this Ministry, the concerned authorities in Lucknow and the Panchayati Raj Departments (PRDs) of States, he observed that the U.P. Government has informed that venue of the function is indoor, with limited seating capacity. He, therefore, advised the PRDs of the States to send a delegation of awardees to be conferred upon Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puruskars (PSPs) which should be of a moderate size. He also requested them to firm up the details in consultation with the designated Nodal Officer/Contact Officer in Lucknow and ensure that no problem/issue remains unresolved in this behalf and the programme proceeds without any inconvenience to the organisers in Government of U.P. or the participants. He also advised them to remain in touch with the Nodal /Contact person designated for this event in this Ministry.

3. The Central Executive Committee deliberated on agenda item based on proposal received in the Ministry to name the awards given on National Panchayati Raj Day, which were given merely as Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (PSP) and Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar (RGGSP). The Committee noted the contribution of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Nanaji Deshmukh to the upliftment of rural poor and decentralised polity in India.

4. Late Shri Deen Dayal Upadhyay was a noted philosopher, economist, sociologist, historian and political scientist. He conceived the political philosophy of Integral Humanism. He visualised for India a decentralised polity and self reliant economy with the village as the base. Padma Vibhushan Nanaji Deshmukh devoted his life to the upliftment of the rural poor. He established the Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya at Chitrakoot (UP) and worked tirelessly in the fields of rural education, agriculture, rural health and cottage industry to transform rural economy into a self-reliant and compassionate example for the world to follow.

The CEC approved to name the two Panchayat Awards:

1. Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar as 'Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktiran Puraskar' to all three levels of Panchayats.
2. Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar as 'Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar' to Gram Panchayats

5. The Chairman informed that this ministry is going to launch a YouTube Channel of MoPR on NPD, which would initially comprise of about 100 films, including success stories of PRIs, duration of each of which would be 2-3 minutes. Later more will be added in this channel. Observing that this Channel will be a regular feature for adding films and other information related to PRIs he requested the PRDs to ensure due publicity to this effort among all stakeholders including all district block and Gram Panchayat officials so that PRI-ERs and all officers may be encouraged to access the channel. Inventories of PRIs doing good work in multiple fields may be prepared by all States. Efforts be made by States to make short films on best practices processes like GPDP and government schemes so that there is a good repository of such films at the earliest. He also endorsed the observation of Shri Rajesh Tandon, President PRIA that many films prepared by many organizations on the theme of Panchayat Planning, water issues etc during last several years can also be made good use of. Chairman also asked PRDs to check up from their organizations working in various field in PRs to make available films to spread the message of Panchayati Raj.

6. Chairman stated that apart from the YouTube channel, Ministry has in the first instance compiled mobile numbers of Sarpanches from all states except a few that have not been received from the states. The Ministry would be pushing at regular intervals select films on good work in Panchayats and other subjects to the PRIs through instant messaging platforms like WhatsApp. While the Ministry has at its level prepared a large number of such groups, it has already requested all states to form such groups of PRIs-ERs at District, Block and Sub-block levels as per WhatsApp capacity limitations. He exhorted the states to form these groups quickly as these are an excellent medium to convey messages, information etc. The programme to share select videos with Sarpanches and State level officials would be launched on 24/04/2017. He also asked them to now compile mobile number of other elected representatives apart from Chairman of District & Block Panchayats and Gram Sarpanches so that instant messaging service could be started for them too. While the Ministry starts pushing short videos now, he also requested the States that they too should push them to their officials and PRI-ERs.

7. A cell was being created in the Ministry to cull out information on statewide information of downloads from the AVs pushed on mobile phones. He asked all States to compile information on mobile numbers of all PRI-ERs quickly and also ensure their updation at regular intervals.

8. He said the Ministry was also in process of making animation films towards this end but all States must chalk out a programme of production of short films as this was essential to enhance capacity building initiatives to cover the huge number of Panchayats in the country.

9. The Chairman informed that NIRD & PR, Hyderabad has been assigned the task by this Ministry for undertaking various thrust based initiatives on different aspects of capacity building and training of PRIs. The institute through SIRDs would create a pool of master trainers for the capacity building of PRIs. For this purpose an online capacity building course is also being started by NIRD & PR, Hyderabad which will lead to availability of a substantial pool of certified master trainers. He asked PRDs to effectively sensitise their interested and good Sarpanches/ Panches for undergoing this online six month duration course. He stated that the quality of master trainers was important, so as to build up quality trained personnel whose services can be utilized on the panel of trainers of PRIs. States shall have to sponsor ERs and Panchayat functionaries for this purpose. As per programme given by NIRD-PR, States must seek and identify candidates from among government functionaries and PRI-ERs (current & former) who would have opportunity to become Master Trainers and receive honorarium as per Guidelines once they have undergone this course and have become eligible to be Master-Trainers.

10. There would also be a provision for awarding of a certificate at the end of the course on basis of an examination to be conducted. But the accent should not be on the certificate but the opportunity to become to become Trainers and Master-Trainees.

11. All present agreed that there should be a fee charged for this to ensure that those recommended by States for the course also own it and were genuinely interested, as suggested by Sri Rajesh Tandon. This online training will also have some component of physical face to face training.

12. On the suggestion of Ms. Nirmala Buch, the Chairman reiterated that the rigorous follow up of the activities being undertaken under capacity building and training programme is a must. This is all the more necessary since the Government proposes to focus 50,000 Gram Panchayats to be made poverty free under Antyodaya Mission. Whereas, it would be incumbent on States to have Gram Panchayats of Antyodaya Mission to undergo the training as also of PRI-ERs in States where elections are held during a year would also be covered within six months of their being elected, it will also be necessary that within two years of the concerned ERs, elected representatives undergo refresher training also. For this purpose it will be imperative for SIRD to prepare an Annual Calendar of training activities. The PRDs while sending their Annual Plan must ensure that the details of this calendar for activities are incorporated in their plan.

13. The Chairman also informed that this Ministry is going to launch a Magazine with its online version which will be circulated to all the PRIs. It is necessary, therefore, that the postal details of the Panchayats are accurately provided and updated to this Ministry, so that

the magazines sent to the addresses are not received back in the Ministry undelivered. The online version of Magazine can also be accessed through the mobile app. He requested PRDs to propagate this magazine extensively. All PRI-ERs must be given adequate information about this.

14. The Chairman also observed that since initially the target is for overall capacity building and training of above mentioned 50,000 Gram Panchayats, there should be an effective team of Master Trainers who should provide quality training at district level. They should also be providing handholding support to the persons being trained. Shri Tandon also suggested that these master trainers may be encouraged to also work as part time volunteers to provide information to the trainees even after the training. This could be explained to them at the time of their selection.

15. Realizing the need of availability of good trainers at district level the Chairman suggested that the PRDs and their concerned authorities should try to identify the lecturers, professors etc. in colleges/ Institutions at district level for engaging them in the drive for capacity building and training. They can be nurtured as master trainers at district level. Services of NIRD & PR will also be available for this purpose. The intention should be to go for quality master trainers at district level. This will be a parallel stream of availability of master trainer in addition to existing resource pool of master trainers that will be available as part of regular activity of NIRD & PR, SIRD etc. The Chairman also endorsed the practice adopted by a State for engaging master trainers on the basis of MoU and could also be replicated by other States.

16. The Chairman highlighted the compliance of instruction relating to capturing the data relating to FFC award to GPs. In this connection he observed that this concern has been expressed at various forum and the PRD should not lose sight of the mandatory instructions on the subject. He emphasised the need to transfer the data to the dashboard, MIS of this Ministry and also the MIS, if any prepared by the State. Factual data and details are to be captured and transported to the MoPR dashboard. These details must include the amount of FFC award that is part of GPDP, status of expenditure, correct details of works done etc. He advised that, if not already started, the States may begin by reporting on dashboard, the details of eight broad activities. The utilization status must be reported. For this purpose the PRDs of State should also have a relook at their MIS and that of this Ministry.

17. The CEC also reviewed the physical and financial progress of the activities sanctioned to States/ UTs under RGPSA/ RGSA. Joint Secretary (CB) moderated the deliberations/ discussions related to the review. After in depth discussion, the States were advised to settle the issue of finalizing their utilization certificate and progress report, and sending the same to this Ministry.

18. Pending the final approval of the proposed new restructured scheme of Rashtriya Gram Sawaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) in due course, it was agreed that the activities that have been

indicated in Agenda No. 2, which were broadly sanctioned by the CEC for different States during the year 2016-17, may be allowed to be continued during the financial year 2017-18. This is based on the approval given by the M/o Finance that the funds for such activities can be drawn from the provision available during the current financial year i:e 2017-18. The CEC approved this proposal.

19. The proposal related to "Extension of Innovative Project -Strengthening of Gram Panchayat Organisations in Mulbagal Talulaø sanctioned under RGPSA" {Contained in agenda item no 4} was placed before CEC for consideration. It was observed that the state government has taken rather considerable time in implementing this innovative project which should have been accorded requisite priority since the proposal had emanated from the State government itself. However keeping in view the position that led to the delayed implementation of the project as explained by the representatives of the state governments, and at the suggestion of the Chairman, it was decided by the CEC that the extension may be given only for six months.

20. After the conclusion of the work relating to the consideration of agenda items by CEC, the officers of this Ministry made certain observations/ instructions for compliance by the PRD of the states, as follows-

1. The Chairman stressed the need to settle the issue of BRGF recovery at the earliest since this issue has been raised at various fora.
2. The states also submitted the data regarding: (i) whether the elections to the office of Sarpanch/ Pradhan are held in direct or in indirect way (ii) whether the elections to panchayat are contested on political lines or non political lines
3. Additional Secretary, MoPR requested the PRDs to inform on priority whether their Minister and Secretary will be attending the NPD function at Lucknow. This information must be conveyed to the Nodal Officer at Lucknow as well as Nodal officer of this Ministry.
4. Joint Secretary (CB) requested PRDs that they may send the UCs of amounts pending with them immediately. Subsequently, they can update their status as per position obtaining when they send their ANNUAL ACTION PLAN proposal, which must also incorporate the calendar of activities prepared by their SIRDs for training programmes and based on deliberations at the CEC.
5. States must take up SATCOM/terrestrial connectivity like video conferencing at least upto the Block level as has been done by Chhattisgrah.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
