

CHAPTER – 9

CONVERGENCE

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9.1 *Convergence of MGNREGS with other programmes*

As per paragraph 14.1 and 14.2 of the Operational Guidelines, 2008 convergence of MGNREGS funds with funds from other sources for the creation of durable assets is permissible. However, it was to be ensured that MGNREGS funds did not substitute for resources from other sectors or schemes. Social Sector programmes such as literacy and health missions can be converged with this Scheme to extend the benefits of these programmes to MGNREGS workers. State Government issued directions to DPCs in November 2009¹ for convergence of other schemes with MGNREGS.

We noticed that in the test checked districts only construction of Bharat Nirman Rajeev Gandhi Sewa Kendra (BNRGSK) scheme was taken up for construction under convergence with MGNREGS. No other social sector programmes such as literacy and health missions were converged with MGNREGS.

9.1.1 *Construction of Bharat Nirman Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra (BNRGSK)*

MoRD, GoI has expanded the scope of works under schedule 1 Para 1(g) to include construction of BNRGSK at the GP and Block level to strengthen the infrastructure at the Gram Panchayat and the Programme Office level. The objective of this scheme was to enable an efficient implementation of MGNREGA and for operationalisation of Information, Communication and Training (ICT) facilities to support GPs and block offices as well as public access to information and online transactions related to the development process. For the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) districts, the material component was to be met from BRGF and the labour component from MGNREGS. In case the material resource support from BRGF was inadequate, the same could be incurred under MGNREGS, provided the material component did not exceed 40 *per cent* at the district level.

The following deficiencies in construction of *Seva Kendras* were noticed:

- While scrutinising the information furnished by the DPCs we noticed that in the six test checked districts, against the targeted 920² building only 98 BNRGSK buildings were completed as of March 2012 which was merely 11 *per cent* of the target. Thus, the infrastructure for smooth functioning of PRI both at Panchayat and programme officer level could not be created till March 2012 despite availability of sufficient fund.
- In Ranchi district, to construct 18 numbers of BNRGSK buildings in 18 blocks, Administrative Approval for ₹ 4.45 crore was accorded by DPC (July 2010) without defining the share of cost on labour and material components, to be met from MGNREGS and BRGF. However, in the

¹ Letter No. 8295 dated 23 November 2009

² 380 and 540 for 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

technical sanction, the ratio of labour and material component was fixed as 20:80 (₹ 89,06,400 for labour ₹ 3,56,25,600 for material component).

A sum of ₹ 2.68 crore was diverted from MGNREGS fund for incurring expenditure on material component where as the material component was to be met from BRGF funds

We observed that ₹ 3.35 crore was spent in 18 blocks of Ranchi district entirely from MGNREGS to construct 18 BNRGSK without allocating cost of construction between MGNREGS and BRGF. We further noticed that sufficient funds (₹ 12.47 crore and ₹ 11.05 crore at the close of 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively) were available under BRGF. Out of this, a sum of ₹ 2.68³ crore was diverted from MGNREGS fund for incurring expenditure on material component. The expenditure on material components should have been met from BRGF but the expenditure was incurred on material by diverting fund from MGNREGS which was irregular as Ranchi was covered by BRGF and cost of material was made from BRGF.

Further, during joint physical verification (June 2012) of the newly constructed BNRGSK building in Kanke block of Ranchi district with BPOs and Panchayat Sevak of Arsandey Panchayat, we observed that an office of the Sub-Registrar, Urban Area 3, Kanke, Ranchi was functioning at the Kendra. This defeated the objective of the scheme to provide space to rural people to facilitate effective and efficient implementation of MGNREGS.



Photographs showing BNRGSK building running as Office of the Sub Registrar, Urban Area, Kanke, Ranchi

³ Total expenditure from MGNREGS fund ₹ 335.36 lakh x 80 per cent of material component = ₹ 268.28 lakh or say ₹ 2.68 crore.

9.2 Conclusion

Only one scheme, construction of BNRGSK building, was converged under MGNREGS. The completion of construction of BNRGSK buildings in the test checked districts was only 11 *per cent* of the target for construction. Schemes from other sectors/programmes such as literacy and health missions were not converged with MGNREGS though provided under the Guidelines.

9.3 Recommendation

- Social sector programmes such as literacy and health missions may be converged with MGNREGS to extend the benefits of these programmes to its beneficiaries.