

CHAPTER-I

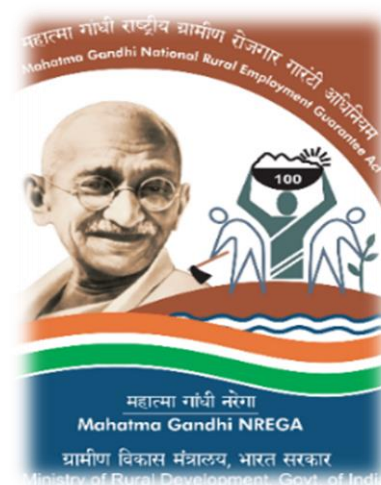
INTRODUCTION

1.1 The goals of the MGNREGS

The Government of India (GoI) notified (September 2005) the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 and subsequently renamed (October 2009) the same as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The mandate of the MGNREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

The goals of the MGNREGS are to provide:

- Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities;
- Livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation;
- Drought-proofing and flood management in rural India;
- Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation;
- Strengthening decentralized, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihood initiatives;
- Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance.



Government of Chhattisgarh notified (March 2006) the Scheme, Chhattisgarh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)¹ as required under the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The MGNREGS was notified in 11 districts in the first phase and then extended to additional four districts (April 2007) and all the remaining districts were covered from April 2008 onwards.

The Government of Chhattisgarh (GoCG) decided (2013) to provide additional 50 days guaranteed wage employment from own resources.

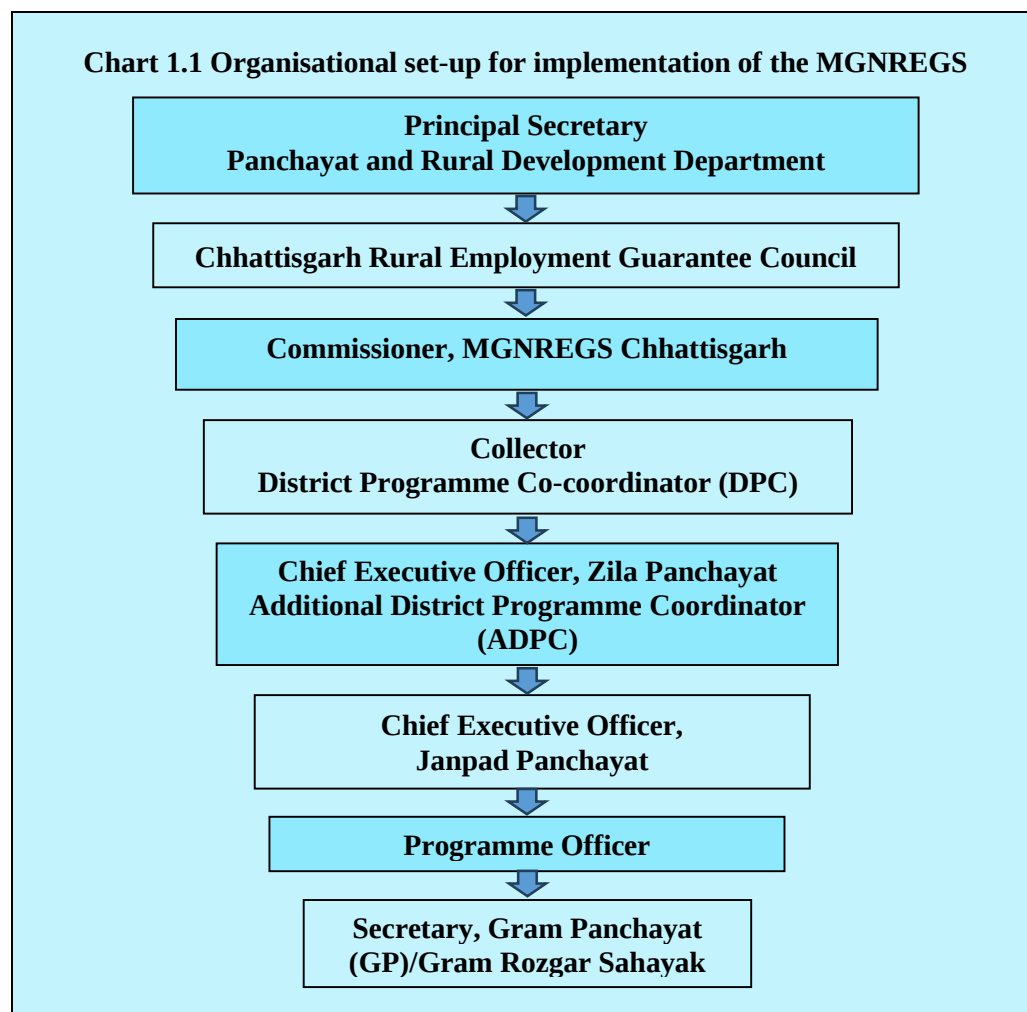
1.2 Organisational set-up

At the state level Panchayat and Rural Development Department (PRDD), Chhattisgarh is the nodal Department for implementing the MGNREGS. A Chhattisgarh Rural Employment Guarantee Council (CGREGC) was constituted under the MGNREGA, 2005 and registered (May 2011) as society.

¹ The Chhattisgarh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is widely known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in state.

It is the Apex body for successful implementation and continuous monitoring and supervision of the scheme in Chhattisgarh.

The organisational set-up for implementation of the MGNREGS is depicted in **Chart 1.1**.



1.3 Roles and responsibilities of designated officers in MGNREGS

The institutional mechanism put in place by the GoCG for the implementation of MGNREGS and the roles and responsibilities of officials at different levels are summarised in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Roles and responsibilities at different levels

Level	Designated Officers	Roles and Responsibilities
State Level	Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department	Provides guidance and support to the State Programme Co-ordinator (Commissioner), monitors and co-ordinates with the relevant departments and delegates the necessary financial and administrative powers to the District Programme Co-coordinator and Programme Officer.
	Chhattisgarh Rural Employment Guarantee Council	The Council is responsible for advising the State Government on the successful implementation of the scheme, supervising and monitoring its execution, preparing an annual report to be presented by the State Government to the Legislative Assembly.
	Commissioner, MGNREGS, Chhattisgarh	Coordination with District Programme Coordinators, review and monitors of the scheme and organises trainings.
District Level	District Collector designated as District Programme Coordinator (DPC)	Overall co-ordination and implementation of the scheme at the district level.
	CEO, Zila Panchayat (ZP), designated as Additional DPC.	Assists the DPC in implementation of the scheme.
Block/ Janpad Level	Chief Executive Officer, Janpad Panchyat (JP).	Designated as controller of scheme at JP level.
	Programme Officer (PO)	Responsible for matching demand with work and ensures effective implementation of the scheme at JP; coordinates with the DPC.
Gram Panchayat (GP) Level	Panchayat Secretary	Receiving applications for Job Cards and demand for employment, maintaining muster roll, ensuring timely payment of wages and maintenance of assets.
	<i>Gram Rozgar Sahayak (GRS)</i>	Assisting the Panchayat Secretary to maintain the records and supervises the works executed.