

No. J-11011/2/2007-NREGA
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
(Department of Rural Development)

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated : November 21, 2007

To :

Principal Secretary/Secretary
Rural Development Department
Government of _____

SUBJECT: Schedule of Rates on works under NREGA

Sir/Madam

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is under implementation in 330 districts of the country and has been notified in the remaining districts of the country w.e.f. 1.4.2008. The Central Government bears 100% of the unskilled wages and 75% of the material cost. With the universalization of NREGA in the country, issues pertaining to wage rates become critical. Recent reviews of the programme and field feedback have highlighted a set of issues relating to wage payment to NREGA workers. Some States have formulated SoRs exclusively for NREGA. The formulation of SORs exclusive to NREGA in certain States constitutes an anomaly that needs to be removed.

2. These issues have been discussed in detail with State Secretaries for Rural Development in several rounds of meetings in the past few months. Representatives of the Ministry of Labour have also participated in these discussions. These issues were also discussed in the light of legal provisions.

3. Based on the discussions and decisions taken in the meetings, it is clarified that SoRs of various executing agencies for similar nature of activities and out puts in the same area must be same. Since SORs would have horizontal application across the departments/ agencies, they should be notified by the competent authority of the State.

4. States are directed to take immediate action as indicated above. Action initiated in this regard may be reported to the Ministry within fifteen days.

5. This directive is being issued under Section 27(1) of NREGA for strict compliance by all State Governments.

Yours faithfully,

(Amita Sharma)