

**Government of West Bengal,
Panchayats & Rural development Department
Joint Administrative Building
Block HC, Plot No.7, Sector-III, Salt Lake
Kolkata-106**

No.: 1859- RD/O/NREGA/18M-07/10 (Pt-1)

Date: 31/03/2017

To,

The Principal Secretary, GTA
The District Magistrate and District Programme Co-ordinator (All)
The Additional Executive Officer, Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad

**Sub: payment of wages within 15 days from the date of
closure of a muster roll**

Madam/Sir,

Kindly note that in relation to timely payment of wages to the wage seekers under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA the track record of West Bengal is far from satisfactory. In the current financial year only 24.74% of wages are paid within 15 days from the date of closure of muster rolls. This is exceptionally low in the all India perspective.

In all our interactions with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, in the last few years we had been insisting that the delay was due to lack of fund in the SEGF/e-FMS account. It is true that in the earlier regimes of PIA based payments and even of e-FMS routed payment of wages lack of fund was the most important stumbling block in regular payment of wages. However, since introduction of Ne-FMS for payment of wages, the situation has completely changed. In the Ne-FMS regime the delay on the part of the State is calculated on the basis of the delay in signing of FTOs by the second signatory. Since in the present system fund is not a constraining factor in getting the FTOs signed by both the signatories. There should not be any delay in the matter of completion of the formalities at the end of the PIAs. Any muster roll should invariably be pushed for payment through the Ne-FMS within 8th day of the last date of work entered in the Muster Roll.

While a more detailed set of instructions on reducing delay in payment of wages is under preparation and we should shortly share the same with you, you are requested to follow the following principles in reducing the delay in wage payment with effect from 1st April, 2017.

1. Every muster roll issued will be closely monitored on a daily basis. The supervisor will take daily attendance and measurement and will mark the job seeker as present or absent.

2. The GRS/STP/ NS will visit the worksite as frequently as possible and will check output in relation to attendance/measurement.
3. On the last date as entered in the muster roll, the specific muster roll will positively be closed with appropriate entries as to presence and absence of the job seekers as well as the quantum of output given.
4. The muster roll thus closed will immediately be handed over to the GRS/STP/NS latest by the next day of closure (T+1)
5. The GR/STP/NS, as applicable will visit the worksite and take final measurement within the third day after closure of the muster roll (T+3)
6. The muster roll will then be computerised by the VLE within next 48 hours (T+5)
7. When the VLE will computerise the muster roll the NS will do the final calculations in the measurement book and hand over the measurements to the VLE for data entry (T+5).
8. Once the measurement details are with the VLE, she/he will immediately enter the said into the MIS. This must be completed by the 6th day after closure of the muster roll (T+6)
9. The VLE will also generate the wage list on the same day (T+6) and finally within the next 2 days the fund transfer orders (FTO) will be signed by both the signatories (T+8).

All these steps are to be followed strictly as delay at any end will automatically result in delay in the entire process and the wages will not be paid on time attracting the provision of payment of compensation for delays. As you are aware, for every day of delay in payment after the fifteenth day from the date of closure of a muster roll, the State Government is supposed to compensate the wage seeker. The amount of compensation payable is automatically calculated in the system and paid outright from the available fund. However, finally every penny paid as compensation is recovered from the State Government. Naturally, as per provision of the central guidelines, this compensation amount is supposed to be recovered from the employee (regular/ contractual) or even the elected functionary responsible for such delay. In the final set of instructions, we will specify the amount of penalty to be deducted from the accounts of the erring officials/ office bearers. Pending that you may please impress upon all the associated people to strictly adhere to the time schedule so that the issue of payment of compensation and deduction of penal amount does not arise at all.

Please note that every muster roll issued in the months of April and May 2017 will have to be strictly and intensely monitored so that the incidence of delay in signing of FTOs after following all the processes is done away with.

Yours faithfully,

(Dibyendu Sarkar)


Commissioner, P&RD Department

21/5/17

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Date: 31/03/2017

Copy forwarded to Smt. Aparajita Sarangi for information.


(Dibyendu Sarkar)
Commissioner, P&RD Department

31/3/17