

Chapter - 12

Conclusions and Recommendations

12.1 Conclusions

Analysis of the data related to the Scheme showed that there has been significant decline in the number of households who demanded employment and persondays generated in the last two years. The number of households who demanded employment had declined from 36.26 lakh in 2009-10 to 16.64 lakh in 2011-12. During the same period the persondays generated declined from 20.04 crore to 7.00 crore. There was also a substantial decline in the proportion of works completed in 2011-12.

The District Perspective Plans were not prepared and the Annual Plans prepared by the Gram Panchayats were driven by the cost of works than the need to create durable assets. The labour budgets were not prepared on the basis of realistic estimates. The State Government had not drawn any Information, Education and Communication Plan. The Executive Council and Governing Council played a limited role in the release of funds and non-reconciliation of fund account resulted in weak financial management of the fund. No door to door survey was conducted to assess the actual requirement for employment.

There were irregularities in issue of job cards, payment of wages and failure to provide 100 days of employment to all the registered households. The scale of inadequacies in providing livelihood security could not be fully ascertained in view of the deficiencies in record maintenance. The basic records were either not maintained or partially maintained in the test-checked Gram Panchayats. In such a situation the legal guarantee of 100 days of employment on demand and other aspects of the implementation of the Scheme were not fully verifiable. It was also not possible to verify the integrity and reliability of the data uploaded in the Management Information System (MIS). Validation of MIS was also absent as there were huge variations in MIS reports. There were cases of delayed payment of wages for which no compensation was paid. Unemployment allowance was not paid in cases where work was not provided within 15 days from the date of demand for work.

Irregularities were also noticed in the works executed under the Scheme. There were instances of execution of inadmissible works and works not resulting in creation of durable assets. Lack of adequate number of staff and technical support at all levels hampered the effective implementation of the Scheme. The monitoring of the implementation of the Scheme and inspection of the works was not adequate. Shortfalls in Social Audits were also seen in the test-checked districts.

12.2 Recommendations

- There is a need to evolve an effective system of tracking fund movements between the Society (SEGF) and PRIs, and reconciliation should be carried out periodically.
- Surveys should be conducted periodically to identify the beneficiaries and encourage unskilled labourers to register themselves and avail of the Scheme benefits.
- Adequate number of staff with technical support should be provided at all levels for effective implementation of the Scheme.
- Information, Education and Communication activities should be stepped up for greater beneficiary awareness of all aspects of the Scheme.
- Record maintenance needs to be streamlined and monitored closely at all levels.
- Validation of Management information System at all levels should be ensured to avoid incorrect reporting.
- The State Government should ensure that the prescribed periodical inspections and Social Audits be conducted timely and action then taken expeditiously on the findings in these Reports to allow for transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Scheme.

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