

Empowering people -Project Initiation Meeting under NREGA. Ganjam district

The NREGA guidelines lay much stress on public awareness (Chapter 2.4, Page 7) and also in maintaining proper transparency in execution, to have quality products. The provisions in Para 10.7 made it clear to form local level committees like Vigilance & Monitoring Committee & Beneficiary Committees.

Multimedia communications were made; even through Kalajatha & out-reach models using local languages. In almost all villages the provision of the Act were discussed in Palli Sabhas/Gram Sabhas. Still then, it is found that major section of the primary stake holders remain un-aware about the working systems/the wage rates/ working hours & work site facilities etc.

Hence in order to effectively reach out to the jobseekers and make them aware of provisions of NREGA, a project initiation meeting (PIM) is conducted in the village/ worksite on the first day of starting of a project as envisaged in 11.2.2 of the guidelines chart I point no 7.

Convening the Meeting

- (1) The PO of Panchayat Samiti or the Executive Officer of GP who execute the project, initiate action to call for such meetings in the beneficiary village. Most often the meetings are conducted in the worksite itself on the first day of starting of a project.
- (2) Wide publicity through beat of drums, announcements through loud speakers are made in the beneficiary villages before holding the meeting. All the primary stake holders are invited to attend such meeting

Action Points

- (a) New project is started under NREGS as per guidelines based on demand. However because many of the jobseekers are not aware of the provisions of NREGS, they might not have applied. Hence this meeting is used to explain the provisions of NREGA and this in turn makes them aware of their rights and demand for job. Thus one of the main objectives of PIM is to explain the provision of NREGS and motivate job seekers to demand for job.
- (b) Registration of jobseekers, who have not registered are done instantly, obtaining an application from such beneficiary.
- (c) Importance of job card is explained and availability of job cards with beneficiary is checked. Handing over of job cards to other persons if any are also caught red handed in such meetings.
- (d) The nature of the work to be done in the project & the wage rates, which they may get, are discussed. Time rate for seven hours/piecemeal rates/ expected out-turn in a days work are illustrated to beneficiaries.
- (e) Sample pits are excavated at work site to show and explain output based payment in earthworks.
- (f) Worksite facilities like providing drinking water/ first aid/ crèche for children & their watch-ward etc. / work sheds/ other social benefits are also discussed.
- (g) Payment system through banks is explained. In many places Bankers attend the meeting to open no frill account then & there.
- (h) Wage Payment dates are also declared in the meeting. They are motivated to receive their payments, after entering the no. of days worked & the amount paid to them in their respective job cards.

- (i) Village Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committees are formed in the said meeting and their role is explained.
- (j) The provisions of Social Audit and complaint redressal mechanism explained to the jobseekers
- (k) Transparency pillar giving the project details is constructed and leaflets explaining various components of the project are distributed to the jobseekers.
- (l) Future project plans/ availability of other works in the private sector particularly in Agriculture sector/ Lean periods of works/ future job requirements are also discussed in the meetings, which provide scope for the job seeker to prepare his plan to avail continuous jobs.
- (m) Photographic/ Video documentation of the meeting is done and kept in case records. Further the proceeding of the meeting along with signature of the participants is also kept in case record as an important document.

Advantages

- Job seekers are made aware of their rights under NREGA. This empowers the job seekers effectively and they are able to demand for work and also work site facilities. In villages of Ganjam district demand for work has increased three to four times after this initiative.
- Components of the project are explained to primary stake holders so this helps in achieving maximum transparency in implementation of the project.
- Provides a single window platform for people near their villages in the work sites to learn about NREGA, that particular project, demand for job, apply for job card, open bank accounts, forming of monitoring committees, grievance redressal, plan for future wage employment etc.

- As the PIM is conducted on the first day of work, in the work site, there is enthusiasm amongst job seekers to learn. Actual job seekers only turn up in the work sites and this also helps in giving proper focus to their apprehensions and queries

V.Karthikeya Pandian

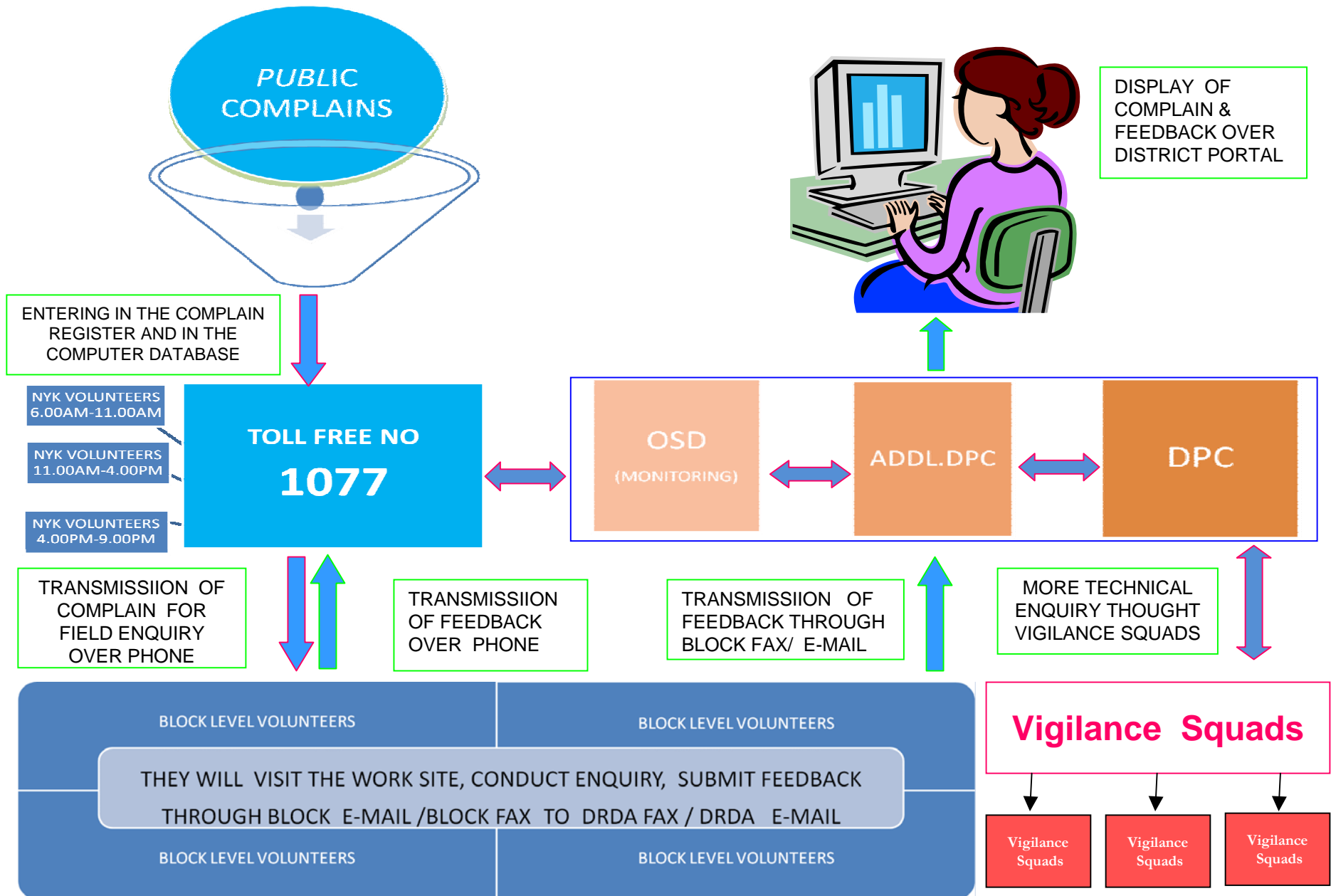
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NREGA HELP LINE IN GANJAM



Toll free help line – Ganjam District

One of the important requirements for implementing NREGA in letter and spirit is an effective grievance redressal mechanism. Towards this objective Ganjam district administration has started a toll free help line for receiving complaints on NREGA.

How it works

- Districts have a four digit toll free number **1077** for receiving information during natural calamities and disasters. This number is also being used to collect complaints on NREGA.
- The entire process has been out sourced to Nehru Yuva Kendra. NYK volunteers man the help line and they also provide man power for the quick response teams located in every block to enquire in to complaints.
- NYK volunteers have been trained adequately on NREGA and also on manning the help line documentation etc.
- The help line functions from 6.00 am to 8.00 pm and we are in the process of making it round the clock
- When a complaint is received, the details are entered and a reference number is given to the complainant. Based on the nature of complaint it is passed on to the QRT for enquiry or to the supervisory officer. The complainant using the reference number can ask for details of action taken after 48 hrs.
- A daily report on complaints along with action taken is given to the DPC every evening. A simple soft ware has been developed locally for effective documentation of complaints and monitoring.

- Adequate publicity about the toll free number has been made through news papers and also through wall writings in work sites, GP offices, Block offices and prominent places like banks.

Advantages

- People don't have to come all the way to district head quarters or block to lodge their complaints. They can make a call from their village and lodge their complaints.
- Because it is toll free there is no problem of people spending money to make a call and lodge their complaints.
- Four digit toll free number is easy to remember and also to dial
- The entire process of manning the help line and preliminary enquiry has been out sourced to an independent agency (NYK). This adds credibility to the entire process.
- With the help of reference number the complainant can track his complaint and get details of action taken.
- Some complaints may require immediate action for eg. Use of labour displacing machines etc. in these cases the QRT of that block area can rush to the spot and enquire in to it immediately.
- There is fear amongst implementing agencies about this toll free help line and this is helping in effective implementation of the provisions of the act.
- The toll free help line has become so popular now people are also using the same lodging complaints about drinking water, and PDS related problems. This has helped in visibility for the toll free help line which will also make people use the same during natural calamities and disasters.

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NREGS-QUICK RESPONSE VOLUNTER AT CONTROL ROOM, DRDA OFFICE,
CHATRAPUR, GANJAM

Sl. No.	Name of the Volunteer	Phone No.	Timing of Duty
1	Namita Nahak	9937356395	6AM to 12AM
2	Smitanjali Satapathy	06811-263470	-do-
3	Sanjaya Kumar Behera	9937358302	12PM to 4PM
4	Giris Kumar Satapathy	9861585377	-do-
5	Rama Chandra Padhiary	9337710241	4PM to 8PM
6	Arun Kumar Satapathy, Coordinator.	9861234438	-do-

BLICK WISE LIST NREGS QUICK RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS FOR BERHAMPUR
SUB-DIVISION.

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	Address	Phone No.
1	Sanakhemundi	Gopal Kurshna Mallik. At/Po- Madan Dakua	9437751434 06814-249230 9437875790
2	Digapahandi	Prasant Kumar Padhi Pradesh Kumar Patra	9861745689
3	Patrapur	Pradip Kumar Padhi At/Po- Patrapur Tirupati Mahankuda At/Po- Patrapur	9437659980 9437592645
4	Chikiti	Bighneswari Panda At/Po- Chikiti Bhagaban Pradhan At/Po- Chikiti	937381665 9937718156
5	Rangeilunda	Khetra Mandal At/Po- Panchama Srinivas Rao At/Po- Gopalpur	9777124977 9338819507
6	Kukudakhandi	Prasanta Patnaik Ranjan Pradhan	9777124538 9437812594

BLICK WISE LIST NREGS QUICK RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS FOR
BHANJANAGAR SUB-DIVISION.

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	Address	Phone No.
1	Aska	Harihara Padhi At/Po- Aska Soraj Das	9861279094
2	Bhanjanagar	Swarnalata Brahma Galeri Bhanjanagar	9438148944
3	Sorada	Suresh Chandra Bisoyi Mamta Padhi	9437886785 9938987116
4	Seragada	Manoranjan Pattanayak	9861364471

		Siddharth Sahu At/Po- Takarada	9437325866
5	Dharakote	K.Tuna Dora At/Po- Dharakot Manoj Dora	9777088517 9437816162
6	Belaguntha	Surendra Nath Das At/Po- Gobara Bobardhan Behera At/Po- Ambapua	9437662169 9937413124
7	J.N.Prasad	Miss Rajalaxmi Dakua Loknath Pradhan	9238555852
8	Buguda	Gagana Bihari Patra Bhagaban Jena	9777031846

BLICK WISE LIST NREGS QUICK RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS FOR CHATRAPUR
SUB-DIVISION.

Sl. No.	Name of the Block	Address	Phone No.
1	Hinjilicut	Babula Bahala At/Po- Relaba Pitabas Biswal Sasan Ambagam	9437721727 9337691726
2	Purusottampur	Pravasini Mahapatra Gokul Chandra Dash	9937048663 1680-236161 9437258757
3	Polosara	Dilip Kumar Pradhan Aruna Kumar Panigrahi	9337262198 9861597993
4	K.S.Nagar	Rama Chandra Sahu Santosh Pollai	9861462460 993715807
5	Beguniapada	Prasant Kumar Padhi Hemant Kumar Pollai	9438237434 9861343813
6	Khallikote	Sanjaya Kumar Behera Jogendra Sahu	9437838386
7	Chatrapur	B.Madhab Maheswar Pradhan	9861215702
8	Ganjam	Srinivas padhiary Purna Chandra Behera	06811-22541 06811-254681