

File No.J-11017/39/2017-RE-VII
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Division

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 19th March, 2025

To

The Principal Secretary/Secretary/Commissioner
(In charge of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS)
Department of Rural Development
All States/UTs (Except Chandigarh & Delhi)

Subject: Reformation of NRM and agriculture & allied works in the MIS under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS

Reference: This Ministry's letter dated 26.10.2023 (attached)

Madam/Sir,

Vide Ref given above, the mapping of NRM and agriculture and allied works in the MIS was reformed from 01.04.2023 as per which 266 permissible works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS were categorised in a mutually exclusive manner into 58 Natural Resource Management (NRM), 150 agriculture and allied and 58 Rural Infrastructure works.

2. Also, as per the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, at least 60% of the works taken up in a district, in terms of cost, shall be for the creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water & trees and as per the joint guidelines on Mission Water Conservation (MWC), at least 65% of the total expenditure in a water-stressed block (MWC block) should be made on NRM related works.

3. Regarding the above provision in the guideline, many States have raised an issue that considering the mandate of at least 60% expenditure on agriculture and allied works as per Schedule I of the NREG Act, it becomes difficult to achieve the expenditure of at least 65% on NRM works in the water-stressed blocks, with the given mutually exclusive mapping of works under NRM and agriculture and allied activities.

4. Given above, the matter has been considered and it has been decided to revert to the previous categorisation of NRM and Agriculture and allied works wef. 01.04.2025.

The revised categorization of works under NRM and agriculture and allied activities wef. 01.04.2025 will be as follows:

	Number of works permissible wef 01.04.2025	
NRM	182	List at Annexure A
Agriculture and allied activities	166	List at Annexure B

5. Also, the relevant provision in para 6.1.10 in the Annual Master Circular has been modified as follows:

"The DPC/ Collector will further ensure that the planning for works is such that **at least 65 % of expenditure under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS is on NRM works in FY 2024-25, in the identified 1456 water stressed blocks under Mission Water Conservation (MWC) rural Blocks of the country.** The MIS is enabled to monitor the performance in these blocks"

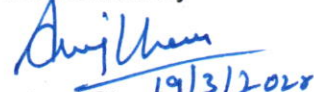
6. Also, it is pertinent to mention that through targeted interventions in NRM and agriculture-related activities, MGNREGS has had a notable impact, with the number of water-stressed blocks declining significantly from 2,264 to 1,456. Since FY 2017-18 till FY 2023-24, concerted efforts have led to the removal of 1,519 blocks of 199 districts across 18 states from the water-stressed list. Presently, with the inclusion of 711 new blocks, 1,456 blocks are identified as water stressed necessitating a continued focus on leveraging MGNREGS works to further advance sustainable water management across the nation. The updated list of MWC Rural Blocks may be accessed from Report R6.21 in NREGASoft.

7. The States/UTs are requested to ensure that the existing mandate and provisions in the Mahatma Gandhi NREG Act, at least 60% of the works taken up in a district, in terms of cost, shall be for the creation of productive assets directly linked to agriculture and allied activities through development of land, water & trees and as per the joint guidelines on Mission Water Conservation (MWC), at least 65% of the total expenditure in a water-stressed block (MWC block) should be made on NRM related works.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Encl : as above

Yours Sincerely


Anuj Chadha 19/3/2024

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India