

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



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भारत सरकार  
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110114  
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
KRISHI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI-110 114

D. O. No. 62.../VIP/OG/M(RD)  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Dear Shri Narendra Modi


As you are well aware, Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is the flagship rural development scheme with an outlay of Rs.40,000 crore and is being implemented through the States in a highly decentralized manner. Given the magnitude and the reach of MGNREGA, putting in place proper fiduciary controls and social accountability mechanisms is sine qua non to ensure that the benefits reach the targeted population fully.

Towards this end, Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the C&AG has issued the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Audit Scheme Rules, 2011. The rules provide for establishing an independent social audit mechanism in the States to conduct social audit in Gram Panchayats once in six months. The summary of the reports should be submitted by the State Government to C&AG, which will be one of the inputs for the C&AG's audit. The rules also envisage that the action taken report of the State Government on the social audit findings will be placed before the State Legislature.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, I had a meeting with the State Government officials to review the action taken to establish the social audit mechanism. During the review, it was noticed that the Gujarat Government is undertaking social audit through an NGO. Though this arrangement may be useful as an interim measure, it is advisable to establish an independent Society under the auspices of the State Rural Development Department to undertake the social audit in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. This will ensure continuity, consistency and reliability in the social audit process.

Moreover, the present social audit mechanism in Gujarat has been established before the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Audit Scheme Rules, 2011 were issued. The social audit mechanism should be in compliance with the said Rules. You may like to review the present system to ensure that it is in compliance with the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Audit Scheme Rules, 2011.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
  
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Narendra Modi  
Chief Minister  
Government of Gujarat