

**Piloting Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (APREGS) - 2005
Parigi Mandal, Ranga Reddy District**

Formally grounding the works...

(March 4 - 9, 2006 – Report 5)

With the culmination of all the preparatory efforts for about two months, works under the Andhra Pradesh Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (APREGS) were grounded formally in three villages in Parigi mandal of Ranga Reddy district on Thursday, March 9, 2006. Three different types of works - bunding, mini percolation tank and farm pond were taken up in Roofkhanpet, Ibrahimpur and Syedmalkapur respectively. Planning is in progress in rest of the villages in the mandal to initiate the works



Details of the works grounded:

Name of the work	Name of the Village	Budget Estimation (Rs)	Wage seekers
Bunding	Roofkhanpet	87,207	40
Mini Percolation Tank	Ibrahimpur	21,979	35
Form Pond	Syedmalkapur	7,541	30



The process enacted in NREG and transcribed in to APREGS was followed meticulously for identifying the shelf of works based on the resource map and works were prioritized. Wage seekers who have enrolled for job cards were categorized into three levels; *fully dependent on wage labour, partly dependent on wage labour and occasionally dependent on wage labour*. Priority to assign the works was given to those who are fully dependent on wage labour.

The estimations for prioritized works were generated on February 27 on the basis of input data sheets. Software designed for the purpose has generated the

estimations. On the same day it was decided to testify a complete **work cycle** to testify certain process elements like; *formal announcement of works, providing applications for wage seekers, receiving applications from wage seekers and giving receipt, communicating the date of initiation of works, providing the statutory facilities at the works site (drinking water, medical kit and shade etc), formally starting the works, recording measurements, payments to the labour directly through the bank or post office into their individual accounts etc.*





It was also decided to test this work cycle in these three villages with the implementation of the identified works. Accordingly the works are initiated in the above three villages.

Approval of Estimations:

Estimations were generated, using the APREGS software as against the manual estimations done in earlier schemes. These estimations were approved at mandal level by the programme officer and sent to the district collector through DWMA, Ranga Reddy. District collector had given the administrative sanctions to the work, which was sent to the Mandal on March 7.

Issues in Estimates...

Manual Vs Computer

In the process of generating estimates for works identified and prioritized under EGS, a comparison was made between the manual estimates done by DWMA team and computer estimates by APREGS software and found differences. The estimations were compared in farm pond and bunding works.

Farm pond: When the estimates were done using the same measurements the computer generated estimate has shown the quantity of work as 65.75 cubic meters whereas the manual estimation has shown it as 61.25 cubic meters. However the quantity of work in silt trap was higher in manual estimation than in the computer-generated estimation.

Bunding: The cross section of the bunding provided by the software is higher than the regular practice followed in the bunding works in Ranga Reddy district. The difference is amounting to 0.3 cubic meters in the work estimated for five meters of bunding.

These differences may appear minimal in individual estimations but it would lead to a big gap between the estimations and implementation in terms of budgets if a mandal or district is taken as a unit.

How to recognise these people?

While making the estimations it was also found that the software was not able to recognise whether the beneficiary belongs to BC or OC. The only categories included in the software are SC, ST and Others. The others are categorised under small and marginal farmers which may lead to wrong data base in future.

The software also does not allow making a difference in individual names by adding father's name when more than one beneficiary has the same name. For example if two beneficiaries hold the same name, same acreage of land and same survey number it was not possible to add any additional attribute like S/O to the name. Though the survey numbers are sub-categorised they are not generally carried to the planning of the works and estimations thus giving scope of having resemblances of names in the same survey number.

On the same day the work start-up orders were generated on the guidance of DWMA team with telephonic support from TCS. The Mandal programme officer has immediately signed the letters addressed to Grampanchayat, Village Secretary and Village Organisation and forwarded them to the same. The work order had the details of work id, which was unique to each order, name of the work, total cost and wage days to be generated.



Formal announcement of works:

To formally announce the works in the village, meetings were organized with Village Organization, Group of Wage seekers and Gram Panchayat. Details were explained of the sanctioned estimations and the date of sanctioning works was announced in these meetings. The idea was to communicate the announcement of the works to these focused groups. Gram Panchayat passed a resolution announcing formally launching of the works.

Providing applications for wage seekers:

Meetings were organized in the three villages, with a group of wage seekers and Village Organization for explaining about the process of filling the application. Secretary and Field Assistant distributed the applications to the group of wage seekers. Most of the wage seekers filled their applications for work with the help of Field assistant and receipts were issued immediately to the concerned applicants. On the following day, communication was sent by the field assistant to all the applicants through letters intimating the date of the works. To facilitate the payments to the bank or post office, individual accounts were already for the wage labour in their villages. Accordingly 25 bank accounts were opened for wage seekers of Ibrahimpur at Golconda Gramena Branch, Gadisingapur. The wage laborers of Roofkhanpet and Syedmalkapur (around 80) have opened their accounts in post office payable at Parigi.

Amenities at work site



Drinking water and shade



Distributing First Aid Kit...

Initiation of the works :

In Ibrahimpur, Mandal Praja Parishad (MPP) president Srinivasa Reddy formally launched the works for the mini percolation tank. In Roofkhanpet, village sarpanch initiated the works. The presence of these public representatives gave much enthusiasm in initiating the villages. Narsimha Reddy, Project Director (DWMA), Ranga Reddy, visited two villages Roofkhanpet and Syedmalkapur, giving much needed enthusiasm to the field staff.

EGS Cell at Mandal Office: Mandal Prajaparishat President opened an EGS cell at Mandal Office on 9th March 06. Space was provided in the MDO office for this purpose to one Program Officer (not yet recruited), three Technical Assistants (two are working and one joined on



Openings EGS Cell

that day) and one Computer Operator (at present hired by DWMA).

PD-DWMA & President interacting with labourers



Friday is EGS Day for Parigi:

MPP and MDO have announced Friday as payment day for wage seekers. Field Assistant and Secretary would close muster roll and measurement book on every Wednesday. Technical Assistant and GS engineer would verify and MDO would release the amounts to the bank and post office directly in the name of wage seekers. Wage seekers could get money from the Bank/ post office on Friday itself and they will have some money in their hands as Saturday being a sandy day in Parigi

Paying through post offices and bank:

Payment mode is one of the key issues that keep EGS different from other schemes. The scheme envisages the payment of wages through post offices and banks (whichever is nearer) to the wage seekers aiming more transparency in the scheme and to plug the loopholes in the payments systems.

Branch Post Office, Parigi and Golconda Gramina bank (GGB) have agreed to open the accounts for wage seekers in 17 and 5 gram panchyats respectively.

Though all the accounts in post office would be opened in the Parigi Branch Office they have agreed to pay the wages through their sub post offices in the villages. Post office and the Bank have agreed to open the accounts with the minimum balance of Rs 50, Rs 10 respectively. The amounts for the opening balances are being paid by the programme officer (MDO), which would be deducted later on payment of the wages. The money will be deducted in the installments of Rs 10 in each payment. Though the post office did not insist on photographs, the bank insisted on the passport size photos of the individuals to open the accounts. Hence the MDO office had organised the photographers to take photos. The pilot team is coordinating the opening of the accounts.

Opening account in a Post Office



Individual accounts:

Though the job cards are given to the households the accounts are being opened on the individual names of the wage seekers. It was a decision taken in the pilot testing to ensure the payments to the real wage earners