

## Minutes of the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of Social Audit Unit, JSLPS

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

**Venue:** The Office of the Principal Secretary, RDD, GOJ

### **Participants:**

1. Shri N. N. Sinha, Principal Secretary, RDD, GOJ
2. Shri Paritosh Upadhyay, CEO, JSLPS
3. Shri Sidhharth Tripathy, MGNREGA Commissioner, GOJ
4. Md Parweej Alam, Sr DAG
5. Prof. Ramesh Sharan, Ranchi University
6. Shri James Herenj, Convenor, NREGA Watch, Jharkhand
7. Shri Gurjeet Singh, State Coordinator, Social Audit Unit, Jharkhand

### **Other Persons Present**

1. Shri. Robert Anthony, Social audit Specialist, Social audit Unit, Jharkhand
2. Shri. Jay Kumar Verma, Social audit Specialist, Social audit Unit, Jharkhand
3. Shri. Shiv Kumar Singh, Social audit Specialist, Social audit Unit, Jharkhand
4. Shri. Ujjwal Pahunkar, Consultant

### **Agenda of the Meeting**

1. Compliance of the last steering committee meeting
2. Status of current activities under SAU/JSLPS
3. Calendar and Budget for the year 2017-18
4. HR policy of SAU
5. Any other as per the direction of chairperson

The State Coordinator of Social Audit Unit shared the agenda of the meeting and Chairperson informed that due to some urgent meeting scheduled today, only important matters would be discussed

**Agenda No:1 : Compliance of last meeting minutes**

By permission of Chair, the compliance report of the last steering committee meeting 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2016 was placed in the meeting by the state Coordinator SAU.

S.No	Approved Position (No. of posts)	Compliance
5	Computer Operator cum Clerk (2) Proposal to merge one post and recruit one accountant from existing pool of waitlisted candidates in other projects of JSLPS	<b>Process of recruitment ongoing ,not joined</b>
6	Driver (1) Not needed now ,Proposal for recruitment of a peon for office purpose instead of driver	<b>Agency contacted, not joined yet</b>
7	Office Assistant (2)	<b>Process of recruitment ongoing ,not joined</b>
8	District Resource Person(24)  Recruitment process for remaining DRPs to be initiated	<b>14 Selected and 13 joined and placed with additional charges of the district</b>  11 DRPs post advertised and applications are being shortlisted for holding written exam

<p><b>Compliance on AGENDA NO. 1(b): Empanelment of Block Resource Persons (BRPs) and Village Resource Persons (VRPs) with SAU and their engagement for the year 2016-2017</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total 267 BRPs has been empanelled as per approval by CEO, JSLPS</li> </ul> <p><u>Training of BRPs:</u> First batch for one month certificate course of empanelled BRPs has been started from 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, at State Institute for Rural Development, and in total 7 batches they will be training before positioning them as a actual BRPs. [detailed training calendar in annex-1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regarding empanelment of VRPs, total 3074 application has been received and data entry of all the application has been completed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>197 BRPs have been trained for 30 days course in five batches through SIRD/TISS/NIRD initiatives</b></p> <p><b>858 VRPs have been trained for three days, who were selected through advertisement or hand picked during the process of social audit through CSO support</b></p>
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	<p><b>Compliance on AGENDA NO. 2 of last Meeting:Approval of Annual Action Plan for the financial year 2016-2017</b></p> <p><b>Agenda-2 Status of current activities under SAU/JSLPS</b></p> <p><b>A. Recruitment for State and district positions</b></p> <p>State Coordinator SAU/JSLPS informed about the current status as mentioned in Compliance report and based on that ,following decisions were taken.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Post of Social Development Specialist at State level as specified by MORD in Special Financial Assistance guidelines will not be advertised now.But Based on need ,Consultants can be hired as per JSLPS norms.</li></ol> <p><b>B. Empanelment of VRPs</b></p> <p>1 The list of 3074 candidates who have applied for VRPs was placed and it was agreed to have any of the following criteria to prepare final list of selected literate candidates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Either MGNREGA Job Card holder or</li><li>- SHG member or</li><li>- Experience of working in NRLM</li></ul>	<p><b>530 panchayats have been covered</b></p> <p><b>One Consultant hired for short term assessment of 3 months</b></p> <p><b>Social Development Specialist can be recruited along with Documentation Agency</b></p> <p><b>Approved</b></p> <p><b>VRPs will also be hired on the recommendations of DRPs who have spotted talent during the process of Pilots and ongoing audits</b></p>

**Agenda-2 Status of current activities under SAU/JSLPS**

**A. Recruitment for State and district positions**

The State Coordinator SAU/JSLPS informed about the current status as mentioned in Compliance report and based on that, following decisions was taken;

- 1. HR cell, JSLPS will be requested to speed up the process of recruitment of remaining DRPs and office staff needed

**B. Empanelment of BRPs**

The State coordinator informed that more BRPs would be needed in future to take up other schemes social audit and he suggested that VRPs who have conducted atleast 5 GPs audit should be elevated to this post. A list of such VRPs recommended by DRPs was presented in the meeting.

The Principal Secretary suggested to have a process of written and oral exam for empanelling such VRPs and a committee to undertake such process, and it was decided that;

- 1. A committee headed by CEO, JSLPS with Steering committee member Mr. James Herenj ,State Resource group member Mr. Byomkesh Lal and Prof. Anil Yadav SIRD would be constituted to undertake this task which would be facilitated by State Social Audit Expert (Capacity Building ) Mr. Robert Anthony from SAU.

**C. Selection of VRPs**

The State coordinator suggested that selection of VRPs for FFC audits needs to be done and it was decided that;

- 1. VRPs would be selected from amongst the vulnerable groups/SHGs/and from existing lot of Swayamsewaks who have been selected by Panchayati Raj Department by DRPs as per need but they would have to be trained before sending them for audits

**D .Status of Social audits conducted and Test audits**

The state coordinator informed and presented a list of Panchayats where audits and hearing could not take place due to various reasons (Annex2). Prof. Ramesh Sharan suggested to put reasons of the cancellation in the chart to exactly know the situation. Based on this it was decided that;

- 1. Social audits /public hearings would have to be conducted at any cost and district would be informed to provide security and create enabling environment.
- 2. Test audits would be conducted in atleast 5% of the GPs and the selection of GPs would be based on
  - a. From where the report of collusion have been received
  - b. Random sampling covering areas of different BRPs and VRPs
- 3. BRPs and VRPs of other regions would be sent for test audits under the guidance of state Resource group members

**Agenda-3 Calendar and Budget for the year 2017-18**

**A. Notification of Calendar for Audit of MGNREGA schemes of year 2017-18**



The state coordinator presented the annual calendar for approval .He informed that 6 phases with three rounds each has been selected for social audits. In each round 84 GPs would be audited in each region. He informed that

- a. Total 1500 Panchayats randomly selected all over the state (Panchayats in Ranchi district not audited of the last calendar will be covered by training batches for remaining certificates course in this financial year).
- b. Five Panchayats of Basia block of Gumla district, as requested by PRADAN for SHG led Social Audit model which was proposed to be added for pilots in the month of January, 2017 but could not be held would be taken up in this financial year.

**Decision taken:**

1. Annual calendar was approved.
2. Commissioner- MGNREGA, requested to conduct special social audit of wells in Kasmar block of Bokaro district as early as possible from where report of gross irregularity has been received through different sources. It was decided that the special audits would be conducted immediately and State Coordinator would prepare calendar and budget for approval by CEO, JSLPS.

**B. Annual Budget for SAU**

- a. Annual budget for social audit was presented as in Annex 3. The state coordinator informed that the daily honorarium along with food allowance to BRPs with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 have been proposed to Rs. 600/- as compare to existing rate of Rs. 500/- per day and subsequent increase in VRPs honorarium along with food allowance is proposed to be Rs. 500/- from existing Rs. 450/-. He also presented that for twenty one day round in each phase, two days of report preparation for VRPs and four day of preparation for block hearing would be added to BRPs work days. He also proposed that travel cost within a panchayat and boarding support be added to the payment of BRPs and VRPs and paid as a package

**Decisions Taken:**

1. Principal Secretary (RD) suggested that discussion on annual budget will need more time ,so it was decided that CEO JSLPS, FM SRC and SAU team members can have a discussion later looking at the existing financial norms at all levels of JSLPS and put it on file for approval.

**Agenda -4: Social audit of other schemes along with MGNREGA in current Financial Year**

The State Coordinator informed that social audit of IAY has been conducted in Palamu and Godda and of ICDS in Palamu and Sahebganj along with MGNREGA .He also informed that Pilot of FFC fund social audit would be carried out in Namkum block in April and 1500 GPs would be covered in the current year.

**Decisions taken:**

1. The Principal Secretary, RDD suggested to conduct social audit of IAY and ICDS schemes also, along with MGNREGA schemes this year too. State Coordinator was given responsibility to share

the reports of the social audit conducted with the departments and negotiate for extension along with demand for fund.

2. It was decided to submit a formal proposal to PR division of the RRD for approval of calendar and Budget for FFC fund social audits. It was decided that expenditures on this can now be carried out with existing funds and later adjusted with the funds made available by them.

#### **Agenda -5 HR policy of SAU**

The State coordinator shared the draft HR policy and grievance redressal mechanism for SAU and expressed the need for some extra provisions to be added to the existing JSLPS HR policy in the light of the challenges of social audit in the field. All members also agreed on the concerns and felt the need of such policy looking at the nature of work of SAU. He also reiterated that as per Standard audit Protocols recommended by C&AG task force. One GRO at state level also needs to be named to look after cases of collusion, misbehavior, corruption and other related issue which may occur during social audit

#### **Decisions Taken:**

1. The Principal Secretary, RD suggested to discuss this in detail in the presence of CEO JSLPS next day so that each point can be discussed at length and HR policy could be framed.

#### **Agenda -6 Engagement with CSO and CBOs**

##### **A. Selection of District Social audit monitors**

The State Coordinator informed that as per decision undertaken in the last steering committee, applications from eminent social activists, ex. ombudsman and CSO heads working in the field has been sought on mail to act as Social audit monitors. He proposed to evolve a procedure for their empanelment which is respectful looking at the seniority and experience of these persons. TOR for the same was also presented. (Attached in Annexure 4)

#### **Decisions Taken:**

1. The Principal Secretary, RD, suggested that a committee need to be formed with CEO-JSLPS, Prof. Ramesh Sharan and Senior DAG Parwej Alam as members who will assist him in conducting a discussion session with the applicants to empanel them as Social audit monitors. Senior DAG Parwej Alam requested to send an official request to PAG to seek permission for him to be part of this Panel.
2. The ToR needs to be finalised in consultation with the HR team, JSLPS.

**B. Selection of CSO/CBOs for support in MGNREGA**

The State Coordinator informed that through paper advertisement applications from CSOs and CBOs have been invited to support social audit process in the field.

**Decisions taken:**

1. It was decided that the above mentioned committee would also be responsible for Selection of CSOs/CBOs. The state coordinator would prepare a Comprehensive chart highlighting the experience and field presence of CSOs and CBOs and present it to the committee. The ToR need to be finalise after consultation with the HR team, JSLPS.

**Agenda -6 Advisory for actions for issues arising out of social audit findings**

Social audit consultant Ujjwal presented a draft advisory for recommended actions on erring MGNREGA functionaries and PRI members for irregularities which may arise during social audit.

**Decisions Taken:**

1. The Principal Secretary, RD and all members appreciated the efforts and MGNREGA comm. was requested to finalise it with the support of Planning cell and SAU.

**Agenda -7 Others**

- A. James Herenj presented a unique case of material procurement issue related to Bariyatu and Herhenj block of Latehar district where payments have been made to IRCTC, Bajaj LIC, Sunlife, Clear Trip and Auto sweep for materials and these agencies are not at all involved in MGNREGA.

**Decision Taken**

1. Principal Secretary directed MGNREGA Commissioner to lodge a FIR against concerned officials and ensure that fake agencies are not paid like this.
- B. Robert Anthony informed that SIRD on the request of SAU have agreed to train 26 batches for social audits and have included that in their training calendar/budget.

**Decision Taken**

1. It was decided that SHGs,MNREGA wage seeker forums and VMCs would be trained in these batches. The travel cost would be born by SAU from training head.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Chairperson.

2-6  
17/6/17

(N N Sinha)

ACS, RD,GoJ