

Top Priority Matter

F.No. J-11060/4/2019-RE-VI(e-366816)
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
(Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Division)

Krishi Bhawan
New Delhi-110001
Dated:11.4.2020.

To
Addl. Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary/Commissioner/Director
(in- Charge) Mahatma Gandhi NREGS
All States/UTs (Except Delhi /Chandigarh)

Subject: Provision of Mask under Administrative expenses of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA – redg.

Madam/Sir

Undersigned is directed to convey that the proposals received(oral/written) on the subject by this Ministry have been examined as per the extant provisions regarding permissible activities under Administrative expenditure with reference to Operational Guidelines 2013 on the scheme , as mandated by Mahatma Gandhi NREGA 2005.

2. As you are aware country is passing through a challenging time due to COVID 19 pandemic . Concerned agencies , including Ministry of Health and Family Welfare , Government of India , have issued Guidelines on health safety of every citizen and related precautions to be taken by everyone .

3. Accordingly, Ministry of Rural Development , Government of India(vide its letter no. DO No. A-60022/03/2020-E-II dated March 27 ,2020) has advised the state that focus of MGNREGS may be on individual oriented works which directly benefit SC,ST and women headed households as well as small and marginal farmers and other poor household. However ,close consultation and guidance of the State as well as district authorities would be necessary to ensure that lockdown conditions are not violated and norms of social distancing are scrupulously followed.

4 States have requested that to maintain health safety of the beneficiaries during COVID 19 pandemic phase , mask may provided to the beneficiaries during course of his/her employment on MGNREGA works.

5. It is pertinent to mention that office of Principal scientific Adviser to Government of India, on 30 March 2020, has issued a "**manual on homemade mask**". A copy of this manual is enclosed herewith for reference.

6. In the light of above , competent authority has decided to advise States/UTs to provide wider *publicity* to the "**manual on Homemade mask**" and beneficiaries on the work under the scheme may be advised to use homemade mask at worksite and home .

Accordingly , the proposals on the subject are treated as disposed off and action on the mask provision may be taken.

This issues with the approval of secretary.

Yours faithfully

(Pranvi Kalia)
Director

