

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 04.09.09 at 3:00 PM at SRD Chamber, New Delhi on creation of standard protocol for IT process under NREGA.

Participants:

- 1) Dr. B.K. Gairola, DG, NIC
- 2) Sri. S. R. Rao, Additional Secretary, Department of IT, GOI
- 3) Sri. Shankar Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department of IT, GOI
- 4) Smt. Amita Sharma, Joint Secretary (NREGA), Department of Rural Development, GOI
- 5) Sri. Niten Chandra, Director (NREGA),
- 6) Smt. Madhuri Sharma, Director (NIC), MoRD, GOI.
- 7) Mr. Anurag Gupta, Zero Mass.

Issues discussed:

The need for standard protocol and hardware for use in the implementation of NREGA was discussed.

DG (NIC) observed that there is a need to have standard protocol and standardize the hardware devices which can be used for making transaction through the web portal. He said that it is possible to make transactions through pseudo core banking system which would facilitate transfer of wages from government agencies to the workers. The pseudo core banking will act as an intermediate layer between the implementing agencies and the financial institutions. The financial institutions will make transactions and pay wages to the NREGA workers using the pseudo core banking system with which financial institutions will be networked.

Additional Secretary, Department of IT explained that with the latest advancements in the technology of communication system it is possible to do financial transaction with the involvement of financial institution, however such a thing has not been given the approval of regulatory authority due to which presently the use of such technology is not been made. He urged to reconsider the stipulation of payment of wages only through the Bank and Post Offices.

Sh. Anurag Gupta opined that standardization of the front end hardware should not be under taken as it is subject to constant improvements in technology. It is at this level innovation happen at a rapid pace that will be prevented if hardware is standardized. He said that the different banks to work with different kinds of software to carry out their internal transactions and standardization at that level cannot be contemplated. What can be done is standardization at the stage of developing protocols for managing between two separate systems.

This view was also endorsed by the Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary (Department of IT). Secretary, Rural Development verified that developing standards

is part of the domain of the Department of IT using their own internal resources. This was agreed too by the Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary (Department of IT).

In the light of the aforesaid discussion following decisions were taken:

1. Ministry of IT and NIC will develop using their internal resources IT standards to be used for various programmes including the NREGA.
2. All Standards developed must be technology and vendor neutral.