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Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Land Resources

11th Block, 6th floor, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Dated: 11.02.2016

Office Memorandum

Subject: Minutes of the first meeting of the National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU) of Neeranchal via Video Conferencing in the Department of Land Resources.

The undersigned is directed to forward a copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU) of Neeranchal held on 28th January, 2016, under the chairpersonship of the Joint Secretary (WM), Department of Land Resources for information and necessary action. The minutes are also available on the website of the Department.

The minutes of the first meeting of NPIU of Neeranchal is enclosed.

(Amit Kumar)
Director (WM)
Tel No. 24362569

Distribution:
1. Dr. B. Rajendra, Joint Secretary (PP), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
2. Shri R. Rath, Additional Commissioner, RFS Division, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
3. Shri B.V.N. Rao, Assistant Commissioner, RFS Division, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
4. PPS to Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, DoLR, Ministry of Rural Development
5. The Chairman/Principal Secretary/Chief Executive Officer SLNA of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana

Copy to:
1. PPS to Secretary(LR)/PPS to AS(LR)/PPS to JS(WM), DoLR
2. DIGF(WM)/Director(WM)/DC(WD)/PSA,NIC(Watershed Division), DoLR
MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT (NPIU) OF NEERANCHAL HELD ON 28.01.2016 AT NIRMAN BHAWAN, DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES, NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU) of Neeranchal was held on 28.01.2016 under the chairpersonship of the Joint Secretary (WM), Department of Land Resources at NBO Building, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi. The CEOs and other officials of the partner States participated in the meeting via Video Conferencing. The list of participants is at Annexure-I.

2. At the outset, the members of NPIU and the participants from the States were welcomed. A brief overview of the meeting was set out by Director (WM).

3. During the address by the JS(WM) and Project Director Neeranchal, the participants were informed that the loan agreement on Neeranchal has been signed between the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and the World Bank on 14.01.2016. The participants were also informed in brief about the decisions taken by the Project Empowered Committee (PEC) in its meeting held on 22.12.2015. As per one of the decisions taken by the PEC in the meeting, it has been decided that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DoLR and the participating States should be signed for the implementation of Neeranchal. The MOU would bring out the targets to be achieved, action plan, commitments and expected norms on behalf of the participating States for the implementation of Neeranchal. The MOU would be a helpful method to ensure better accountability and a more robust monitoring mechanism in the implementation of the Project. During the discussion on this issues, States expressed their readiness for signing the MoU. It was decided that a draft of the MOU will be prepared by DoLR and shared with the States and after finalization of the draft, the same would be circulated to the State Government for signing.

3. The JS (WM) further informed that the States should now initiate actions for the implementation of the Project like developing the office facilities and office space, hiring of service providers for travel and tour management support, etc. It was emphasised that at the first instance the States must locate a suitable office space and provide all office equipment including furniture, equipment, stationary etc so that Neeranchal offices at the States can be started at the earliest.

4. Thereafter the provisions for staff under Neeranchal was discussed. It was suggested that the States must review the manpower requirement and initiate the process of hiring of the required staff. It was noted that the States should first hire the staff on the positions of experts
which are currently vacant in order to fill the gap and for the smooth functioning of project. The hiring of a procurement expert or consultant at the State level should be a priority as the procurements envisaged under the Project have to be taken up as per the agreed schedule to avoid implementation delays. For this, States should hire a procurement expert/consultant who is well versed with the procurement norms and guidelines of the World Bank as well as the Government. It was also suggested that a procurement consultancy or firm can also be engaged instead of an expert. States may refer to the list of qualified procurement experts of the World Bank while considering hiring of experts for the project. It was decided that a matrix for reviewing the gaps in the manpower required at the States level will be shared by DoLR.

6. The Cost Table for Neeranchal was discussed. The CEO of Orissa observed that the amount allocated for the experts may not be enough to appoint full time consultants. It was clarified by JS (WM) that the Cost tables are dynamic in nature and the tentative budget allocation can be revised as per requirement. It was also suggested that in every case a full time consultant may not be necessary; the States may hire a part time consultant as per requirement. Further this arrangement needs to be worked out as per the circumstances in each State. It was decided that all the documents related to Neeranchal shall be shared with the States via the website of DoLR.

7. The provisions of Budget for 2016-17 were explained. The JS (WM) mentioned that the sharing pattern of Centre and State is changed from 90:10 to 60:40 (Centre: State). Under Neeranchal GoI will give funds to the States for Component 3 as Grant-in-Aid. States will have to make provision for the State Share accordingly. The expenditure report has to be sent quarterly in the prescribed format for the reimbursement claim to be prepared by DoLR. The States may be provided with a small nominal amount during the current financial year ie. 2015-16. The developments in this regard shall be informed to the States in due course.

8. It was explained by JS(WM) that the next year ie. 2016-17 is basically for taking up the preparatory activities under the project. A number of agencies for example the Capacity Building Support Agency, Forward Linkages and Rural Livelihood Support Agency etc. would be hired at the DoLR level and the States will subsequently have to put in place similar agencies at their level. The details of the procurement of the consultancies are in the procurement plan, a copy of which will be shared with the States.

9. Some of the participants wanted that States should be communicated about the linkages of Neeranchal with PMKSY. On this mention, JS(WM) explained about how
Neeranchal will provide technical support to the watershed component of PMKSY and that some of the components like Capacity Building, Improved planning, IEC will help the PMKSY at macro level. Further any improvement and advancement achieved in watershed projects as a result of the interventions under Neeranchal will be reflected in PMKSY also. The Cost table and the Procurement manual of Neeranchal shall be shared with the States.

10. The JS, Department of Water Resources, River Development & and Ganga Rejuvenation informed that the trainings materials provided under Neeranchal should be also provided in the vernacular which was agreed to.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of Participants</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dr. B. Rajendra, Joint Secretary (WR)</td>
<td>Ministry of Water Resources, River Development &amp; Ganga Rejuvenation</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Shri B.V.N. Rao, Assistant Commissioner</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Shri M. Shivaprasad, Joint Commissioner</td>
<td>SLNA Andhra Pradesh &amp; SLNA Telangana</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Shri P.K. Dave, Joint Secretary &amp; CEO</td>
<td>SLNA Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Shri P.M. Singh, Monitoring Officer</td>
<td>SLNA Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Shri U.D Singh, CEO</td>
<td>SLNA Gujarat</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Shri Nitya Pasala, CEO</td>
<td>SLNA Jharkhand</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>SLNA Maharashtra</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Smt. Sujata R. Karthikeyn, Commissioner/ Director</td>
<td>SLNA Odisha</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Shri Anurag Bhardwaj, CEO</td>
<td>SLNA Rajasthan</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Shri Arun Surana, Additional Director</td>
<td>SLNA Rajasthan</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Smt Susheela Yadav, Deputy Director (GIS), PFC</td>
<td>SLNA Rajasthan</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Shri Vivek Dave, Joint Commissioner</td>
<td>SLNA Madhya Pradesh</td>
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