

INITIATIVES IN TACKLING CHALLENGING WORK AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT IN IMPLEMENTING MGNREGA SCHEME IN SUKMA DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH-CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Sukma district awarded for “Initiatives in tackling challenging work and social environment” in implementing MGNREGA scheme for FY 2015-16 in the worst LWE affected extremely sensitive areas of the district. Sukma is a district where in 50 % area normal developmental activities are not undertaken by villagers due to pressure from naxalites. Arming with MGNREGA, district administration undertook exhaustive work survey in 135 GPs for labour budget preparation and disseminated information about possible works that can be undertaken.

Key words-

PRIs, Rural Development, MGNREGA,GPs, Inadequate devolution, Management, Utilization. Commission

Introduction-

Sukma is a district with 2.70 lakh population in 5898 sq.km area with population density of 45. It consists of 3 blocks,142 GPs and 391 villages dominated by 85% tribal population. With abundant 65% forest cover against state average of 44% forest and traditional agriculture based activities dominates economy of Sukma. Its performance in literacy(49.69%) and poor health indicators are one of the worst in the country due to conflict situation.

We can divide entire district of 142 GPs into following,

- ❖ **Sensitive** -Considerably safe only recently--42 GPs
- ❖ **Highly Sensitive**-Passive presence of naxals-37 GPs
- ❖ **Extremely Sensitive**-Active presence of naxals-62 GPs

The intensity of conflict can be understood by force deployment. Around 10 Bns of CRPF,1 Bn COBRA,3 Bn STF and district police force totaling 13000 armed personnel deployed in active antinaxal operation.

- ❖ Education Clusters - Porta Cabins -16 residential schools to accommodate school going children of more than 80 schools which were destroyed during LWE violence.
- ❖ Health -38 out of 84 Sub-centres and 3 out of 16 PHC are defunct.

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- ❖ PDS is centralized in interior areas- In Jagargunda, Chintalnar, Chintagupha, Bhejji, Maraiguda GPs over 36 shops shifted.
- ❖ MFP COLLECTION is lifeline in sukma. 60000 Tendu leaf collectors earns extra income through forest produces seasonably like Tenduptta , tamarind , mahuaa , kosha , harra , sal seed , tora etc and earns between Rs.5000 to Rs.15000.

Life in Konta block- A paradox

- ❖ Historically, Konta block is at the centre of Salwa Judum and its aftermath of violence, large scale displacement, internal and out migration was witnessed. During the Salwa Judum era, people displaced to the camps centered around NH 30, the major life line for the district passing through the south eastern extreme of the district.
- ❖ The Konta block is highly tribal populated with the dominant tribes being Muriya gonds who largely speak dorli, gondi and telugu languages. Many of the tribal people are relegated to the judum camps (to secure themselves from the naxals).The tribes here still follow primitive practices and are part of the violence cum poverty trap.
- ❖ Deprived of education, healthcare and other development benefits due to the escalated conflict due to heavy naxal presence. The intensity of conflict can be measure by the presence of over 80 security camps to counter the naxals in this block alone. Rehabilitation camps were opened and entire gram panchayat shifted to Dornapal, Jagargunda, chintalnar, chintagufa, Bhejji.

Bottlenecks for development-

Poor road network, mobile and internet connectivity and poor banking services are the biggest hurdles.

Poor road network-

NH 30 runs from Tongpal to Konta(145kms).Tongpal to Sukma -63km built by may 2015 only and Sukma to konta-23km laid till Aug-2017 out of 80km.60% of GPs have poor or no road connectivity. It has only 102.95km black topped road and 253.8km WBM road. Ensuring connectivity to only 25% GPs. NH,SH and PMGSY roads built by concerned agencies largely depends on extent of Road Opening Parties provided by security forces.

Unless otherwise these roads are built on warfoot basis by sanctioning all roads to local construction departments and private contractors in small stretches by relaxing standard norms, releasing funds on time to contractors, providing minimum 8-10 hour security at worksite fast pace development will not be possible.

Mobile and net connectivity-

In the era of 4G out of total 391 hamlets only in 19 places workable GPRS connection available. With the latest implementation of online MIS in almost all central and state schemes and for day to day monitoring and reporting poor connectivity became biggest obstacle. Flow of

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information from state to district to grassroot and vice versa is very important for effective implementation of any scheme. BSNL is the only service provider which has its limitation on number of broadband connection nodes. In addition to poor network coverage, frequent network disruptions for almost 10-15 days in a month leads to unpredictability.

Banking services-

Sukma has 14 branches situated in 8 locations to serve 2.7 lakh population. The farthest distance to bank from a GP is upto 110km in konta block. In all only tongpal to konta axis and sukma to gadiras axis has any branch at all. Under Jandhan yojana accounts opened for 54000 families. In schemes like NAOPS, MGNREGA, SBM, PMAY-G, labour, scholarship, MFP collection and other DBT schemes even after transferring money to beneficiary account, to withdraw 500 rupees pension one has to travel from 10km to 120 km by some vehicle or by walk where roads not available. Due to few branches total cash made available to branches is around Rs.90cr. Demonetization and its effects further deteriorated cash flow in the system.

Due to security concerns and RBI rules on cash transport money airlifted to sukma and konta. To strengthen as many bank branches as possible has to be opened with full staff setup. Staff crunch is so pathetic that to attend DLCC quarterly meeting few branch managers has to close branch for a day. This issue needs to be sorted out by RBI,SLBC and concerned bankers.

Inroads through MGNREGA-

Due to consistent efforts of district administration, with support of public representatives and villagers in 2015-16, 4136 number of works sanctioned & 2088 works got implemented covering 21644 households, 9.61 lakhs persondays provided, leading to total expenditure of Rs. 24.18 crores

For the first time ever MGNREGA works implemented in 11 GPs of extremely sensitive konta block (Jagargunda, Kunded, Milampalli, Tarlaguda, Chintalnar,Chintagufa, Tadmela, Punpalli, Bhejji ,Kistaram, and Golapalli) taking workable GPs tally from 91 (in 2014-15) to 102 in (2015-16) where 3371 households provided with 41915 persondays employment at the expenditure of Rs.69.10 lakhs. First time 11 Gram Panchayats in intense naxal affected areas, wage employment in MNREGA provided. First step and seeds of development sown in these strife torn areas. Works like nistari tank, pond clearance & deepening work, land leveling work, construction of earthen road, construction of food grain storage structures,construction of PDS centre undertook. A rare collective team effort by Involving of all stakeholders right from the DPC to the field level functionaries worked with team spirit. Persistent determination of District Collector and Zilla Panchayat CEO's special focus, along with the security departments continuous assistance, Ground level functionaries like Sarpanch, Sachiv, Rozgar Sahayak,

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Technical Assistants, RES Sub Engineer, ADEO whose team repeatedly visited these areas at least 10-15 times.

Developmental activities and individual beneficiary oriented works undertook in these interior GPs under MGNREGA brought wider public participation and ray of hope towards governance.

Integrated Development Of Villages-

Integrated Development taken up in Chintalnar, Chintagufa, Jagargunda, Kistaram, Golapalli, Narsapuram ,Burkapal, Kankerlanka, Temalwada ,Puswada,Bbhejji,Ettagutta, Kothacheru, Gorkha axis. Night landing facility in Kistaram, chintagupha ,Bhejji made. Public Delivery Systems through Teachers, doctors, gram panchayat officers ensured.

In Bhejji Villagers returned back, PDS shops reopened, Schools restarted,Shala Pravesh Utsav done in April,Improvement in doctor,ANM, staff nurse visits, MNREGA work started, Injaram to Bhejji by road is laid, Public Transport started, Solar Light powered drinking water facility started.

In Chintalnar –Chintagufa residential Facility for doctors, medical staff, teachers and other village level officers, Mini Stadium development in progress, School building and toilets back in use, MGNREGA work operational, PDS shop started, Solar electrification work initiated.

Name of GP	Registered		Employment Demanded /Offered		Person Day	Payment by march 2016(in Lakhs)
	Family	Person	Family	Person		
Bheji, Chintagupha, Chintalnar , Jagargunda,	3371	9652	1100	3595	17430	27.71
Kunded, Tadmetla, Tarlaguda, Golapalli, Milampalli, Punpalli, Kistaram	41915			69.10		

Employment Generated during the FY-2014-15 ,2015-16 ,2016-17 & 2017-18					
S.No.	Category	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 till june
1	Annual expenditure of district	1706.39	2418.56	2962.93	1422.61
2	Average person days of district	28.5	44.4	45.74	21.84
3	No. of Person days generated----- TOTAL	477890	961033	1099075	274000
4	No. of Person days generated -----STs	420006	845105	959427	239805
5	No. of Person days generated -----WOMEN	239323	480848	550599	137822
6	No . of HH Provided Employment--- TOTAL	16768	21644	25890	11867
7	No. of Families Completed 100 days	362	2272	2693	7
8	No. of Families Completed 100 days STs	324	2012	2683	7

2015-16 Beneficiary Related Works Sanctioned-

S.No.	Name of Work	Expenditure (in lakh)	Number of beneficiary
1	Goat shed construction work	27.93	49
2	poultry shed construction work	28.56	51
3	Dugwell construction work	65.85	35
4	Dairy shed construction work	87.3	15
5	Land leveling	515.7	573
6	pucca platform	41.6	52
7	Toilet construction work	300	2097
8	Pig shed construction work	4.68	9
9	Vermi compost	11.31	87
10	Nadep tank construction work	26.26	202
11	Anzola construction work	4.76	34
12	Cow shed construction work	31.61	29
13	Through IAY 90 days work	1.9	54
14	farm pond work	39.52	19
	Grand Total :-	1200.49	3315
	ST Beneficiary:-		2852

Category of work	Name of Work	No. Of Work	Area	Sanction Amount (Lakh)	Benefited /completed
Promotion of Live Stock	Goat Shed , Poultry Shed, Dairy Shed , Pig Shed and Cow Shed	916	-	440.89	153 Beneficiary
Community / Individual Assets	Farm pond , Nistari pond , dug well etc.	250	38.29 Hact	1382.11	92 (307.5 hact irr.pot.)
	Nadep,Vermi compost ,urine tank with pucca platform	841	-	145.58	313
	Roads & culvert	488	412km	3486.74	119
	Toilets	3027	-	363.68	2097
Public Works (Natural Resource Management)	Plantation , Coconut plantation , Nursery	136	10 km	248.47	40 (21000 plants)
	Water Shed works-Contour Trench ,percolation tank etc.	57	2.28 Hect	82.45	21 (31.5 hect irr. Pot.)
Development of land	Land leveling	780	702 Hact	592.41	573
Rural Infrastructure	PDS Shop , Muktidham,Food grain Storage, Nirmla ghat ,AWC	136	-	839.67	17

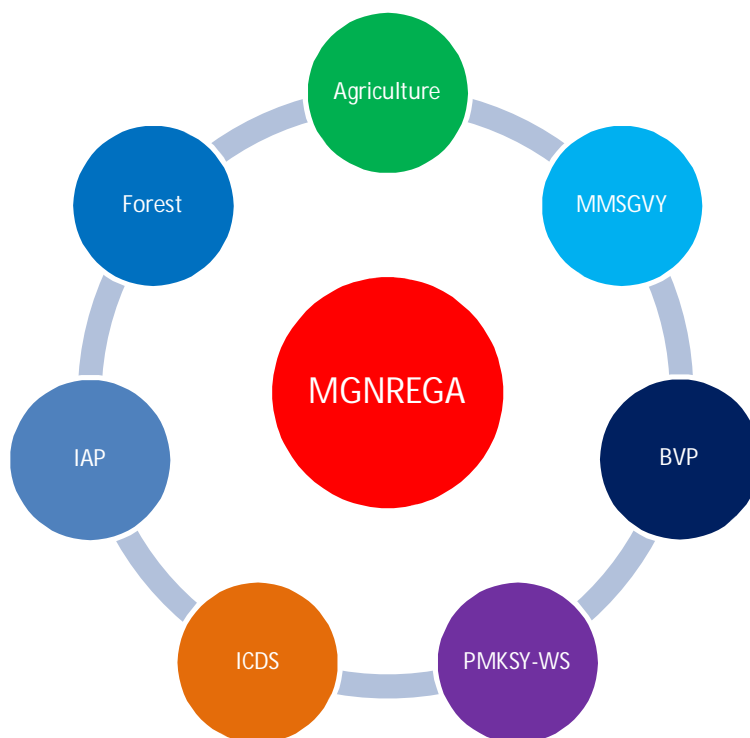
2016-17 Beneficiary Related Works Sanctioned-

S. No.	Name of work	Expenditure(in lakh)	Number of beneficiary	Work in progress
1	Toilet construction in IAY	83.64	697	900
2	Farm pond construction work	278.86	191	130
3	Land levelling	34.02	57	40
4	Nadep /Vermi /Angola	6.05	101	54
5	Goat shed construction work	7.44	46	60
6	Dairy shed construction work	11.64	9	12
7	Poultry construction work	7.44	48	95
8	Dug well construction work	40.85	43	54
9	IHHL Toilet construction in IAY	60	690	946
Grand Total :-		529.94	1911	2291
ST Beneficiary :-				1970

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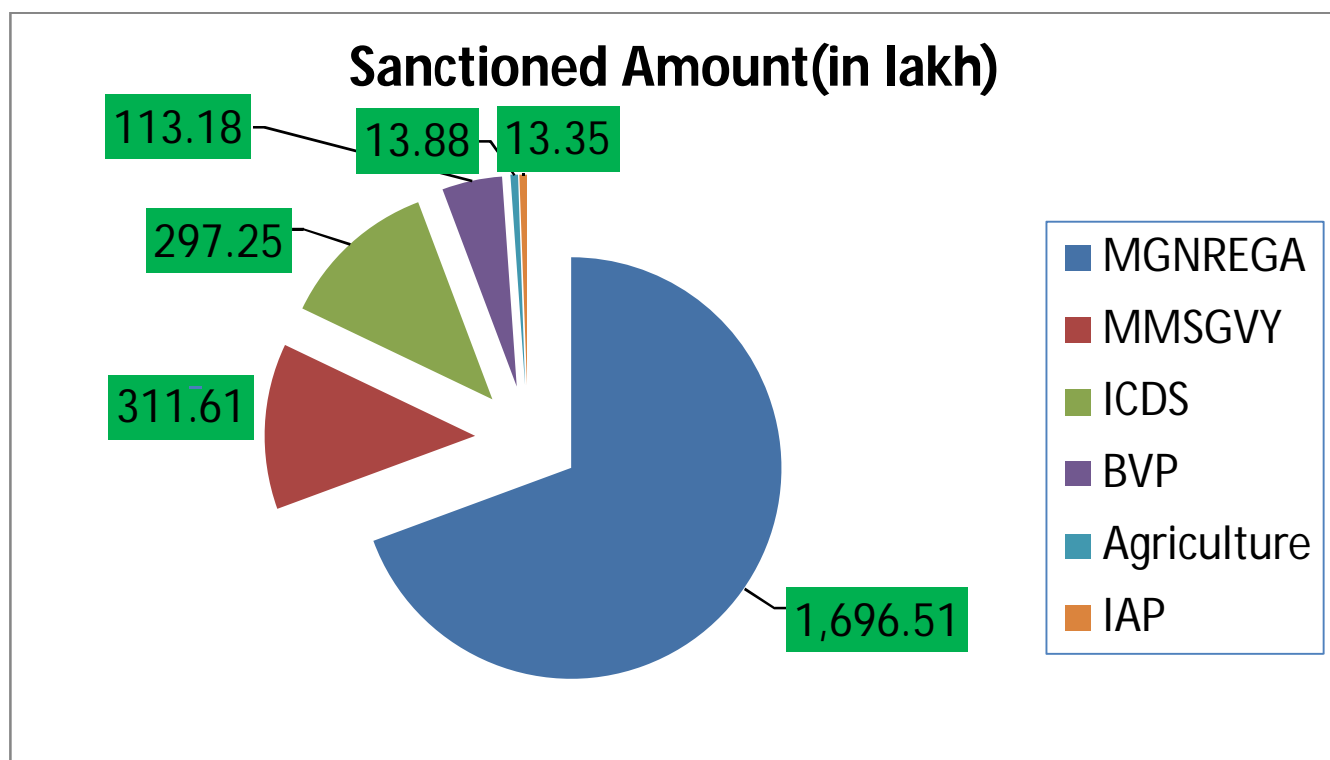
Category of work	Name of Work	No. Of Work	Area	Sanction Amount (Lakh)	Benefited /completed
Promotion of Live Stock	Goat Shed , Poultry Shed, Dairy Shed , Pig Shed and Cow Shed	681	-	614.14	123 Beneficiary
Community / Individual Assets	Farm pond , Nistari pond , dug well etc.	1232	154.95 hact	2958.67	409 (924.9 hact irr.pot.)
	(Nadep,Vermi compost ,urine tank with pucca platform),Roads	316	-	596.76	116
	Toilets	5049		605.88	2203
Public Works (Natural Resource Management)	Plantation (Road side & Block side)	9	10 km & 14 Hact	154.22	9
Development of land	Land leveling	112	100.8 Hact	127.46	57

Convergence-



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S.No.	Convergence Scheme/ Department	Work Name	Cost (In Lakh)
1	MGNREGA ,IAP & CSR	Hariyar Badi, Dairy Farm	246.47
2	MGNREGA,BVP,MMSGVY	Naveen Gram Panchyat Bhavn	792.40
3	MGNREGA,MMSGVY	Mini Stadium	49.42
4	MGNREGA,Agriculture	Nadep /Vermi Compost Tank And Coconut Plantation Work	101.03
5	MGNREGA,ICDS	Anganbadi Construction	748.20
6	MGNREGA, PMKSY-WS	Percolation Tank,Check Dam,Farmpond,Contour Bund	82.45
7.	MGNREGA, Forest Dept.	Road Side Plantation, Block Plantation & Nursery Work	399.73
Total:-			2419.7



Outcomes-

- ❖ Wide public participation
- ❖ Effective organization at PRI Level
- ❖ Reduction in Distress Migration
- ❖ Strengthened Livelihood base
- ❖ Work on Individual land permitted under MGNREGA improved agriculture system
- ❖ Sustainable Development through convergence
- ❖ Improved Access to Basic Commodities-PDS ,bazars
- ❖ Psychological hope
 - ✓ towards Development
 - ✓ Enriched Social Life-away from arms
- ❖ Administration
 - ✓ Renewed Enthusiasm

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