



Message from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa Shri Naveen Patnaik

The Objective of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (September 2005) is to enhance the livelihood security of the people in rural areas by generating wage employment through works that develop the infrastructure base of that area. The choice of works suggested addresses causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation, soil erosion. Effectively implemented, the employment generated under the Act has the potential to transform the economy of our state.

Orissa Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will be open to all rural households in the areas notified by the Central Government. The entitlement of 100 days of guaranteed employment in a financial year is in terms of a household. Planning is critical to the successful implementation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme. A key indicator of success is timely generation of employment within 15 days while ensuring that the design and selection of works are such that good quality assets are developed. The need to act within a time limit necessitates planning in advance. The Act envisages a planning process that coordinates different levels of needs and resources so that the district is prepared well in advance to offer employment upon demand on works that have been selected and designed with care.

The overall responsibility for ensuring that the Scheme is implemented according to the Act at the District level with the District Collector as the District Programme Coordinator, and at the Block level with the Block Development Officer as Programme Officer.

If a worker who has applied for work is not provided employment within fifteen days from the date on which work is requested, an unemployment allowance shall be payable by the State Government at the rate prescribed in the Act. The responsibility for payment of unemployment allowance shall be with the Programme Officer.

I am happy to know that Panchayati Raj Department is taking all necessary steps so that this legislation fulfills the dream of getting gainful employment for the rural poor within his/her village. I am sure the Mission Shakti groups promoted by us will take advantage of this.