

सुनील कुमार
सचिव
भारत सरकार
पंचायती राज मंत्रालय

Sunil Kumar
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



सत्यमेव जयते

नागेंद्र नाथ सिन्हा
सचिव
भारत सरकार
ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय

Nagendra Nath Sinha
Secretary
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development

DO # N-11019/8/2022-FD

March 25, 2022

Dear Chief Secretary,

As you are aware, Social Audits serve the objective of ensuring public accountability in utilization of funds by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Social Audits have already been mandated for the national flagship schemes like the MGNREGS for which detailed institutional mechanism of Social Audit Units (SAUs) already exist in the States.

2. Considering the large amount of grants that would be disbursed as Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) grants to the Rural Local Bodies during the period 2020-26, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has formulated the guidelines for Social Audit of XV FC Grants' activities/works after due consultation with all States and with the assistance of NIRDPR, Hyderabad and has circulated the same to all States. NIRDPR has also been conducting training programmes to the SAU/ State Panchayati Raj officials for making them proficient in these guidelines.

3 MoPR guidelines on Social Audit of XV FC Grants' activities /works has prescribed that these audits shall be undertaken at least once in three years in all the Gram Panchayats / Block Panchayats / District Panchayats and Traditional local bodies. Towards this end, it has been suggested that the States should draw up a calendar so as to ensure completion of social audit in at least 1/3rd of the total Gram Panchayats / Block Panchayats / District Panchayats / Traditional Bodies every year w.e.f. 1st April, 2022. The calendar should be made in such a manner that the Social Audits of MGNREGS as well as XV FC Grants' activities /works are done together in a convergent manner.

4. It is requested that your State may take necessary action to conduct the Social Audits of MGNREGS as well as XV FC Grants' activities together as above, beginning from FY 2022-23. As soon as the audits are concluded, public hearings may be arranged. In fact, the calendar of public hearings may be finalized along with those of the social audit itself. Wherever, the social audits are held jointly of both the programmes, the duration of the

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social audit would be appropriately determined. The State may kindly work out the expenses of social audit if held separately else the cost of the audit may please be shared and the sharing formula between NREGS and XV FC worked out. These funds may also kindly be provided to the Social Audit Unit in time.

5. The findings of Social Audit of XV FC funds can be uploaded onto the application being created by MoPR, while those of MGNREGS may be done at NREGASoft. However, the MoRD will arrange for publication on the MoPR application through an API based exchange. Similarly the Action Taken Report thereon within 30 days of public hearing on the Social Audit Report would be uploaded on the MoPR application. The ATR on Mahatma Gandhi NREGS will also be similarly published. The calendar prepared for carrying out the audits may also be shared with the Ministries of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.

6. We look forward to your confirmation of the above and assure to provide any assistance, if required, in this regard.

With regards,



[Sunil Kumar]
Secretary,
Government of India
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



[Nagendra Nath Sinha]
Secretary,
Government of India
Department of Rural Development

The Chief Secretaries/Advisors to Administrators in States/UTs

Copy to:

**The ACSs/Prl. Secys/Secys of Rural Development &
Panchayati Raj Departments in States/UTs.**