

Proceedings of the meeting of the Governing Body of Himachal Pradesh Social Audit Society (under MGNREGA) held under the Chairmanship of Shri Onkar Chand Sharma, IAS, Principal Secretary (Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, on 28.06.2017 at 11.30 AM in his office Chamber, H.P. Secretariat, Shimla-171002.

The meeting of the Governing Body of Himachal Pradesh Social Audit Society was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Onkar Chand Sharma, I.A.S, Principal Secretary (Rural Development & Panchayati Raj) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh on 28.6.2017 at 11.30 AM in his office Chamber, H.P. Secretariat, Shimla-171002.

The list of participants is annexed at **Annexure "A"**.

Setting into motion the proceedings of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed all the members of the Governing Body. He informed the House that this meeting was to be chaired by the Chairperson, Governing Body of HP Social Audit Society-cum-Additional Chief Secretary (UD) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh but she had to go to New Delhi and she authorised him to chair this meeting on her behalf. He then directed the Member Secretary to start the proceedings of the meeting and present the items of agenda one by one before the members for consideration and decision.

1. Delegation of Administrative and Financial Powers to the Officers of Social Audit Society for its smooth functioning:

The Member Secretary informed the house that at present all the administrative powers are with the Governing Body or the Chairperson. In such a scenario, even petty matters are required to be referred to the Chairperson for approval which consume her valuable time. It is therefore proposed that administrative & financial powers may be delegated to officers of the Society at various levels to ensure its smooth functioning. Therefore, the draft of delegation of powers was prepared and sent to the Deputy Controller (F&A) Department of Rural Development for vetting. The vetted draft was placed before the House for consideration and decision. After deliberation the draft was approved with minor modifications.

2. Review of progress of strengthening Social Audit Unit in Himachal Pradesh:

The Member Secretary informed the House that full time Director, Social Audit Unit has been appointed who took over in February, 2017. Similarly, 2 Social Audit Experts have also been appointed and they have also joined their duties in February, 2017. One Manager, MIS was appointed in October, 2016.

He further informed that One Accountant cum Data Entry Operator and one Class-IV have also been appointed in June, 2017. All have joined their duties in HP Social Audit Unit, Shimla. He further apprised the House that 15 District Resource Persons have been selected and appointment orders are being issued to them very shortly. 30 days training is being organized for them in July, 2017. During deliberations it was brought to the notice of the House that the remuneration of Social Audit Expert at State Level is Rs.20,000 per month whereas District Resource Person will also get the same remuneration. It was resolved that Government of India Ministry of Rural Development be requested to enhance the remuneration of State Social Audit Expert from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 per month. The Member Secretary assured the house that Social Audit will start in Gram Panchayats of the state after the completion of training of District Resource Persons. The House expressed its satisfaction on the progress made so far in strengthening the Social Audit Unit in the State.

3. Hiring of Vehicle i.e., taxi for Director, Social Audit Unit:

The Member Secretary informed the House that State Cabinet has approved an amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh per annum @ Rs. 25,000/- per month as State level Mobility Allowance. It is therefore proposed to hire a taxi for official use for Director, Social Audit Unit. After deliberation, it was decided to approve the hiring of taxi for Director, Social Audit Unit for office use with the condition that the expenditure so incurred will not exceed the limit fixed by the State Cabinet

4. Provision of Rs. 900/- (Rs. Nine hundred) per month only under contingency for cleanliness of office premises of Director, Social Audit Unit:

The Member Secretary informed the House that office accommodation has been taken on rent for the office of the Director, Social Audit Unit at Barowalias House, Khalini, Shimla-171002, after completing all the codal formalities. The office has been made functional at the said building w.e.f. 17.4.2017 and the office is being got cleaned regularly @ Rs. 900/- per month. It is, therefore, proposed that an amount of Rs. 900/- (Rs. Nine hundred) only per month may please be approved under contingency w.e.f. 17.4.2017 for the maintenance and cleanliness of the said office. After a brief deliberation the proposal was approved.

5. Authorizing the Director, Social Audit Unit for making the payment of rent of first floor for the office accommodation of Social Audit Unit out of 0.5% of MGNREGA fund meant for Social Audit Unit.

The Member Secretary apprised the House that office accommodation has been taken on rent for the office of the Director, Social Audit Unit and Chairman, Appellate Authority (MGNREGA) at first floor of Barowalias House, Khalini, Shimla-171002 w.e.f. 17.4.2017. It is proposed that Director, Social Audit Unit may be authorised to make payment of rent to the owner of the

budgeting regular out of 0.5% of MGNREGA fund meant for Social Audit Unit. After deliberations, the House approved the proposal. It was further decided that if Social Audit Unit experience scarcity of funds on account of payment of rent in future, the Director (RD) will provide additional funds from MGNREGA HEAD to the Social Audit Unit.

6. Hiring of Security Personnel on outsource basis for office of Social Audit Unit on sharing basis:

The Member Secretary informed the House that there is no watch and ward staff in the office of the Director Social Audit. The office of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission set up at ground floor of Barowalias House is also without watch and ward staff. It is therefore proposed that 2 security guards be engaged on outsource basis from Sarswati dot com @ Rs. 11,571/- per security guard on sharing basis. The cost of one guard will be borne by the HP Social Audit Unit and the other by the NRLM. After brief deliberations, the House approved the proposal.

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

Principal Secretary (RD) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.