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Joint Secretary, MoRD
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National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency
(Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)

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To

All empanelled National Quality Monitors (NQM) under PMGSY

Sub: Proficiency test for National Quality Monitors (NQM) under PMGSY

Dear Esteemed NQM,

As you are aware, quality being the centrality of PMGSY, a unique three tier system of quality monitoring has been envisaged under the programme. In addition to Project Implementing Unit (PIU) at field level, who is the first tier, the experience of retired senior government engineers is also utilized to guide the PIUs. The State Quality Monitors (SQMs) as second tier and National Quality Monitors (NQMs) as third tier have been the extended arms of the quality management system.

2. Recently, the qualification criteria for selection of NQMs and SQMs have been revised and made more inclusive to make eligible large pool of civil engineers eligible for getting empanelled as quality monitors. Retired and serving academicians, having requisite experience have also been made eligible for empanelment as quality monitor. This dispensation has resulted into significant increase in the number of NQMs and SQMs for close monitoring of projects.

3. Increase in number of quality monitors and the resultant increase in inspections has become imperative, particularly when the new technology and innovative construction material is being significantly used under the programme. Initial hand holding of NQM/ SQM is crucial for proper implementation of these projects. At the same time, the key of imparting proper guidance is constant refreshing and up-gradation professional knowledge of one own self.

4. It has, therefore, been decided that a system of periodic proficiency testing be introduced for the functionaries of all three tiers of quality monitoring system. At first stage, proficiency test would be conducted for NQMs wherein the test format will have 60 multiple choice questions (MCQs) to be answered in 60 minute duration. This test would be taken up through online mode and scores would be awarded to the participating NQMs, based on the marks obtained in the test. The NQM will have the choice of improving the score, in each subsequent test. Further, based on the experience and feedback received on the proficiency test of NQMs, the system would be extended to SQMs and PIU officials in the States as well.

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5. NRIDA shall be conducting the first on-line proficiency test shortly. The date and time of the test shall be intimated in advance. Meanwhile, I would request you to refresh your professional knowledge, specifications and code of practices being currently adopted for construction of rural roads. The purpose of conducting the proficiency test is to help the quality monitor and NRIDA to identify and assess the areas /topics where training support is required, and also to help QMs to brush up their knowledge and be up to date in the existing practices, so that they can effectively guide the implementing units.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel)