



Joint Secretary, MoRD &
Director General, NRIDA

National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency

(Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)

5th Floor, 15-NBCC Tower, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

No: NRRDA-T015(14)/3/2018-Dir(P-I) / 143

Dated: 1st February, 2021

To,

**The Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of
Nodal Department implementing PMGSY in the States/UTs**

Sub: Regarding payment of pending bills through eMarg.

Sir/Madam,

You may be aware that maintenance payments of PMGSY roads were to be mandatorily done through the eMarg system with effect from 1.4.2020, as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

2. In this connection, it is stated that e-Marg has successfully been implemented in all states and payment and maintenance payments are being routed through it. The approved PMGSY standard bidding document (SBD) issued by NRIDA provides for payment based on performance assessment of roads called performance based maintenance contract, during the defect liability period. Contractor is paid after due verification of the condition of roads on the basis of criteria specified as provided in SBD. To ensure that contractor always maintains roads in good condition, SBD mandates that contractor submits bills every month and PIU engineers verify and keep evidence of proper road maintenance before clearing bills for payments. Delay in bill submissions by the contractor results in forfeiture of his right of payment of such bills. The relevant clauses of both the old (2015) and new (2020) SBDs are appended below:

Cl 38.2 (c) (Old SBD) "If the bill for a month is not received from the Contractor by the 10th day of the succeeding month or/ and if the Engineer has not certified that the Contractor has carried out the maintenance work for defects brought to his notice under clause 32.6 within specified period, no payment will become due to the Contractor for that month."

Cl 38.2 (f) (Revised SBD) "The contractor shall submit monthly bills by the 10th day of the next month (on web based software utility e- Marg) and If the bill for a month is not received from the Contractor, he forfeits his right for the payment and no payment shall be due to the contractor."

3. The aim of the SBD clauses is to ensure that the roads are kept in good condition through regular upkeep and timely payment of the maintenance bills of the contractors. However, in certain cases, it has been noticed that time barred bills for

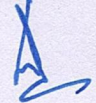
maintenance are being accepted and paid by certain states, in contravention of the above said SBD clauses.

4. While states were on boarding on e-Marg, the decision regarding payment on such bills was left to the discretion of PIUs, while keeping reasons for such deviations on record. However, it is noticed that there is still a lot of pendency of bills, which are due for payment but have been submitted by contractors beyond the stipulated time limit or in many cases they have not even been submitted.

5. In order to ensure timely maintenance and payment of bills, **states are advised to clear the backlog of pending bills by 28th Feb 2021.** While making such payments necessary evidence of road maintenance by the contractor shall be kept on record by the respective PIUs, and due care should be taken so that fake bills or bills submitted for work not actually done in the field must not be processed. It may be noted that after 28th Feb 2021, e-Marg will allow the payment of time barred pending maintenance bills only after online certification / approval by Chief Engineer of the SRRDAs (through e-Marg login of Chief Engineers). States are once again requested to issue requisite directions to their PIUs to expedite the payment of pending maintenance bills on eMarg as per the stipulated procedure so as to ensure that the pendency is cleared before 28th Feb 2021.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

 . 1/2/2021

(Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel)