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No:70-000412,
Irrigation Department,
Colombo 7.
25.04.1990.

Circular No. 8

Handing Over of Distributory Channels & Field Channels to the Farmer Organisations for O & M

This circular is further to the Department Circular No.1 of 1989 on the same subject.

Operation & Maintenance Contracts

According to the above circular once the D & F channels have been handed over to a farmer Organisation, Department has to enter in to an agreement on O & M of the channels with the F.OO before the commencement of a season. However in future such agreement should not take the form of a service agreement as stipulated in the above circular. The payment should be given out on a small scale contract on a measure & pay basis on a BOQ as in the case of any other small scale contract. BOQ should include only the items of work selected from a priority list (agreed after consultation with the farmer Organisation) depending on the funds available for Operation & Maintenance computed according to the circular of 1989.

Farmer Organisations are expected to do any balance work, that may be included in the contract, in the channel that they have taken over on a voluntary basis even though no payment is made due to the lack of funds. Such extra work should also be measured & entered correctly in the measurement book, even though no payment is made and F.OO should be informed of the extra quantities done. However performing additional work should not be considered to be a necessary condition of paying them for work completed under the agreement.

Farmer organisations, that contract for O & M works, should not be considered similar to other contractors, since they will continue to undertake contracts annually to operate and maintain the same canals. If the Farmer Organisation is found to be incapable of performing the work. Therefore retention money should not be deducted from their payments with regards to O & M contracts.

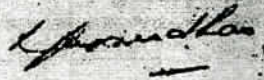
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2. Handing over of gates & padlocks to the farmer organisations

As decided at the steering committee meeting on irrigation management convened by State Secretary, Irrigation all gates, gate planks & pad locks of distributory & field channels (including padlocks & keys) should be handed over to the registered D-channel Organisations when the channels are handed over to them for joint management of O & M work. (The minutes of the steering committee held on 11.12.1989 have been already circulated)

After handing over according to the procedures mentioned below should not be retained in the ID stock books thereafter. After such handing over, replacement of gate planks, padlocks etc. should be the responsibility of the D-channels organisations. Following are the conditions & procedures for handing over of gates, gate planks, padlocks & keys.

- The relevant D-channel organisation should be registered
1. In the IMD in case of all INMAS Projects and with the DDI in case of all other schemes. Registration of farmer organisations should be done based on the requirements stipulated in the IMD circular No. 26, (dated 1986.08.17) under the sub-heading of registration of farmer organisations.
 2. The items handed over should be properly receipted by the D-channel organisation and certified by the project manager of IMD in the case of INMAS projects & by the DDI in the case of other projects. The reference number of the project manager's letter or the DDI's letter forwarding his certification should be quoted in all relevant documents especially the stock book & material returns.


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