

NREGA under tech watch

E-SUNEHA Admn an SMS away from works underway in 9 Amritsar blocks under web-enabled system

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AMRITSAR: Taking the tech approach, the district administration has launched a unique two-way communication through a web enabled system to get information on all projects and people working under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme (NREGA) covering the nine Amritsar blocks and 826 gram panchayats under them.

The system, e-suneha, was launched at the Amritsar DC's office in the past week. "The system will enable a speedy dissemination of orders and sharing of information among the

office authorities," said Deputy Commissioner K.S. Pannu.

The web enabled system, hired from mobME Wireless Solutions based in Kerala, who have designed the system, will incorporate the mobile phone numbers of officers, panchayat members and employees of the nine blocks and 826 gram panchayats.

The use of the system for NREGA, for gathering information from block and panchayat level, has already begun.

For example, on Thursday, the administration asked for two inputs - the number of works underway along with the number of labourers for daily record; and, spun pipes required

HOW IT WORKS

- The web enabled system works on a ten-digit dedicated long code (akin to a mobile number on the lines of small codes used by TV channels for sharing messages and sending votes) from where SMSes are sent to saved mobile phones numbers of officials and employees
- The respondents collect the information within a stipulated timeframe and send it back to the code. This can then be collected and documented by downloading it from the website

with inputs on pipes already dispatched to the blocks.

"With the help of the new system, we can avail the information in just two hours against several days earlier," said NREGA in-charge Baljeet Singh Virk.

As per IT manager Pankaj Sharma, the web enabled sys-

tem works on a ten-digit dedicated long code (akin to a mobile number on the lines of small codes used by TV channels for sharing messages and sending votes) from where the SMSes are sent to saved mobile phones numbers of officials and employees.

"We have taken a 50,000 SMS

package from the company through which we reach out to our block officers, who reach further down for information," says Sharma. The respondents collect the information within a stipulated timeframe and send it back to the code. This can then be collected and documented by downloading it from the website.

The system gives an edge as it does not involve the complex procedure of opening a website and sending information through email. "Sending sms is very simple. Moreover, we have kept IT assistants and data entry operators for helping officers and employees involved," added Sharma.

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