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Report on Pilot Tracking of NREGP Beneficiaries Using Biometrics

A pilot project for tracking of NREGP beneficiaries in two locations over a period of three days (June 5, 6, 7 2007) in the Phulwarisharif block of Patna District was conducted by Mr. Kris Dev and his team from Life Line to Business, Chennai, with the support of NIC and Bihar E-governance Services & Technologies Ltd, a joint venture of Beltron, a Bihar Public Sector Company, and ILFS.

DAY 1: Location: Kurkuri Village, Phulwarisharif Block, Patna District.

Registration done for 75 persons. The biometric tracking was done using Fingkey Hamster of NITGEN. The registration process included registering all ten fingers of the citizen. The citizen needs to place each finger twice on the scanner of the device. This process records the best minutiae count thus creating an exact digital record of each fingerprint and storing this data in the database. After registering all fingers, a photo of the citizen was taken. To verify the registration, the citizen needs to place a finger on the scanner and the photo of the citizen pops up verifying that the person is indeed himself and not someone else. Where the database is large the citizen's ID needs to be entered and any finger placed on the scanner. The computer then displays the citizen's photograph on the computer monitor in proof of verification.

In order to check that the fingerprints of manual labourers with worn out fingerprints is also recognisable, the trial was conducted with persons from the Musahar community (surname Manjhi), the poorest among the Scheduled Castes of Bihar, who depend almost totally on unskilled manual labour and earthwork. The success rate was 100% both for registration and verification for the 88 males and females registered.

DAY 2: Location: Dhuparchak Mushahari Village, Gonpura Panchayat, Phulwarisharif Block Patna District.

Registration done for 85 persons. The biometric tracking was done using Fingkey Hamster of NITGEN. The registration process was similar to the one used above, again registering Musahars. Additionally their NREGP Card was scanned for introducing it into a customized database, for ensuring genuineness of the registered person.

The registration and verification was 100% successful.

DAY 3: Location: Dhuparchak Mushahari Village, Gonpura Panchayat, Phulwarisharif Block, Patna District.

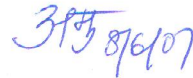
Verified: 85 people of the Musahar community, using Fingkey Hamster and

63 people using stand alone handheld biometric device 6161T was also tested. The device can run both on AC Power as well as external battery back up. The device could register all the 10 fingers uniquely (each finger three times) and the best values were taken and stored. The verification was also done to show the ID of the user.

The registration and verification was 100% successful.

Biometric registration of citizens for unique identification and verification can be used for NREGP work in association with a suitable web-based software for creating a central database for access at the Panchayat, Block, District and State level.

Pursuant to the success of this proof of concept, the Government of Bihar is planning to implement a comprehensive biometric NREGP solution including registration, smart card, e-Muster roll and bank-linked payment to streamline the implementation of this vital poverty alleviation programme.



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