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Government of India

Ministry of Rural Development

Department of Rural Development

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi

Dated the 9th February, 2022

Minutes

Sub: Minutes of Meeting of Empowered Committee to discuss the project proposals for Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Area (RCPLWEA) submitted by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the year 2021-22 (Batch-II)-reg.

A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 7th February, 2022 through Video Conferencing to consider the project proposals submitted by State of Andhra Pradesh under Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Area (RCPLWEA) is forwarded herewith for information and necessary action. The State Government is requested to furnish compliance on the observations of EC on priority.



(Lalit Kumar)

Deputy Secretary (RC)

Tel. No.011 -23382406

Distribution:

- (i) The Principal Secretary, RD&PR, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) The Engineer in chief, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) The Director (LWEO-II), Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.
- (iv) All Directors in National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), 15 NBCC Tower, 5th Floor, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110001.

Copy to:-

PS to Hon'ble MRD/PS to Hon'ble MoS/ Sr. PPS to Secretary (RD)/PPS to AS (RD)/PPS to AS&FA

Minutes of the Meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 7th February, 2022 at 12:30 PM to consider the project proposals submitted by the State of Andhra Pradesh under Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) Batch-II of 2021-22

A Meeting of the Empowered Committee was held through video conference on **7th February, 2022 at 12:30 PM** under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Rural Development to consider the project proposals submitted by the State of Andhra Pradesh under RCPLWEA (Batch-II, 2021-22). Following officials were present in the meeting: -

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha | Secretary, Department of Rural Development |
| Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel | Additional Secretary (RD) & DG, NRIDA |
| Ms. Leena Johri | Additional Secretary & FA, DoRD |
| Shri. B C Pradhan | Consultant (Tech), NRIDA |
| Shri Deepak Ashish Kaul | Director (F&A), NRIDA |
| Shri Pradeep Agarwal | Director (P.I), NRIDA |
| Dr. I.K.Pateriya | Director (P.III), NRIDA |
| Shri Mam Chand | Director, IFD, DoRD |
| Shri Nishant Kumar Mishra | Deputy Secretary, MHA |
| Shri Lalit Kumar | Deputy Secretary, MoRD |
| State Govt. Representatives | |
| Shri B Subba Reddy | Engineer-in-Chief, PRED |
| Shri Ramesh Kumar | Engineer-in-Chief, R & B |
| Smt. K.Vijaya Kumari | SQC, PRED |
| Shri K. Raghu Rami Reddy | Executive Engineer, PRED |

2. Details of Proposal:

a. The State of Andhra Pradesh has so far been sanctioned 192 road works of 1,533.40 Km (PR & RD: 162 roads of 1091.81 km, R & B: 30 roads of 441.58 km) and 34 LSBs (PR & RD: 18, R & B: 16) under Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA). The Ministry of Home Affairs had in the month of October, 2021 recommended additional proposals of 16 roads of 141 Km and 3 bridges to the State of Odisha.

The Inspector General of Police (Operations), Odisha Police has vide letter No. 1817/OPS dated 25th November, 2021 intimated that following two (02) roads among sixteen (16) additional road works recommended for the State of Odisha fall completely in territory of State of Andhra Pradesh:-

- i. Laxmipuram-Padalput (Via Budapanasa, Gobarpada, Matampur)
- ii. Dabugurha-Jodigumma

As per the inputs provided by the Odisha Police and Intelligence Department, Andhra Pradesh, these roads provide connectivity to the Maoist hot bed of Swabhimani Anchal area, Malkangiri in Odisha and also opens up the interior area of Visakhapatna district of Andhra Pradesh.

The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, who attended the meeting of the Empowered Committee confirmed the above facts and recommended to go ahead with the proposals submitted by the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The State of Andhra Pradesh has accordingly submitted **proposals for these two (02) roads (new construction) and 4 bridges** falling on one of the roads. The State has also submitted proposals for 7 bridges along 4 roads sanctioned to the State under Batch-I of 2019-20. The details of proposals are as under:-

| Item | As per Pre-EC meeting | | | | As per OMMAS on 04.02.2022 | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | No. | Length (in km/m) | Cost (Rs in Crores) | Avg. Cost per km (Lakhs) | No. | Length (in km/m) | Cost (Rs in Crores) | Avg. Cost per km (Lakhs) |
| Roads | 2 | 24.58 | 25.16 | 102.32 | 2 | 24.58 | 23.63 | 96.13 |
| LSBs | 11 | 508.30 | 35.78 | 7.04 | 11 | 508.30 | 34.29 | 6.75 |
| Total | 2 roads + 11 LSBs | 24.58 km roads + 508.30 m LSBs | 60.94* | | 2 roads + 11 LSBs | 24.58 km roads + 508.30 m LSBs | 57.92* | |
| * MoRD Share- Rs. 34.13 crore, State Share- Rs. 23.79 crore | | | | | | | | |

b. All the proposals of roads are uploaded and scrutinized by the STA on OMMAS. 10% of proposals are also scrutinized by PTA.

c. The cost of 2 road works has reduced by Rs. 1.53 crore, when compared to cost indicated at the time of Pre-EC meeting. The cost of bridge proposals has also reduced by Rs. 1.49 crore.

d. The State representative intimated that out of 2 road works, in one (01) road work namely Lakshmipuram to Padalput, 50% length of road is passing through forest areas and requires forest clearance. He added that the PCCF, Guntur has given permission for DGPS Survey. After completion of survey, extent of forest area will be finalized.

As regards bridge works proposed in the instant proposal, it was informed that 1 bridge work @ 10/015 Km on Lakshmipuram to Padalput road (the same road as above) is in the forest area and needs forest clearance. One bridge work on R/F R&B road at Vanagumma to Jodigumma (earlier sanctioned road work) falls in forest area (< 1Ha), for which clearance was accorded by the District Collector on 25th October, 2021. All other 9 bridges are outside forest areas and do not need forest clearance.

e. 32 km under PMGSY-I and 493 km and 3 LSBs under RCPLWEA are already pending due to forest clearance since long. Considering that all the projects under RCPLWEA are targeted for completion by March, 2023, the State was asked to draw an action plan for obtaining the forest clearance in r/o all the projects under forest clearance including the proposals included in the current batch (clearly indicating critical steps and sub-steps and time-line for completion of the same) and their completion by March, 2023. It was emphatically clarified that any project, which remain pending on the sunset date of 31st March, 2023 would be frozen and will have to be completed by the State using their own resources.

3. Distribution of roads based on District/ Traffic/ Carriageway Category

Both the roads are proposed for new construction of 3.75 m carriageway width in T4 traffic category. The total length of the roads is 24.58 Km. The PCU values of proposed roads (02) are less than 2000. The average pavement, non-pavement and total cost of the roads are Rs. 77.56 lakh/km, Rs. 18.58 lakh/Km and Rs. 96.13 lakh/km respectively.

The average cost of proposed bridges is Rs. 6.75 lakh/m. ***The state was advised that the road on which four bridges are proposed, should be tendered along with four bridges (by making a single package) so that one contractor has the overall responsibility, to achieve synergy and speed. Moreover, for the balance 7 bridges, the state may consider awarding all the LSBs on one road to one contractor (by making packages suitably). The State representative agreed to the proposal.***

4. **DPR observations**

- As per the DPR submitted by the State Government, length of Laxmipuram-Padalput road is 22 Km, which is more than the length mentioned by the Odisha (16 Km). The NRIDA was asked to check the road alignment proposed by the Odisha. It was also queried if there is any alternate alignment which can avoid the 10 km forest route in this proposal. The proposal of Odisha, as well as the roads being constructed in this area (both in AP and Odisha) should be seen on map, and suitable analysis should be done on the justification of the proposal.
- The State representative indicated that the application of New Technology such as Sub-base/base stabilization is not feasible as the proposed roads are located in interior forest area and Maoist affected area. Deployment of heavy machinery is also a problem, as the roads pass through hilly terrain with steep gradients. The above submissions of the state representative were not agreed to. The state was asked to submit undertaking indicating state's keenness to adopt new technology and mechanized mode of construction for speedier completion of the proposed projects. The DPRs should be revised accordingly.

5. **Maintenance**

State has proposed Rs. 141.80 lakhs for 5 years Routine maintenance, which is 6% of the construction cost and agreeable. Similarly, for 6th year renewal cost is Rs. 425.40 lakh, which is of 18% of the construction cost and agreeable.

6. **Progress of RCPLWEA works**

Roads

| Agency | SANCTIONED | | COMPLETED | | BALANCE | | UNAWARDED | |
|--------|------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Nos. | LENGTH (Km) | Nos. | LENGTH (Km) | No. of Roads | Length (km) | No. of Roads | Length (km) |
| R&B | 30 | 441.58 | 23 | 368.10 | 07 | 69.40 | - | - |
| PRED | 162 | 1091.81 | 64 | 427.92 | 98 | 655.09 | - | - |
| Total: | 192 | 1533.40 | 87 | 796.03 | 105 | 724.49 | - | - |

Bridges

| Agency | Sanctioned (Nos.) | Completed (Nos.) | Balance (Nos.) | Un-awarded (Nos.) |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| R&B | 16 | 09 | 08 | - |
| PRED | 18 | 01 | 17 | 04 |
| Total: | 34 | 10 | 24 | 04 |

The State representative of R&B Department intimated that out of balance 69 Km, 34 Km are held up due to forest clearance. The balance 35 Km shall be completed by March, 2022. Out of 655 Km pending under PR&RD Department, 459 Km are under forest clearance. The balance length is targeted for completion by March, 2022. Four bridges are still pending for award since June 2021, this is an unacceptable delay.

7. Physical Progress

Against physical target of 2,145 Km under PMGSY (including RCPLWEA) for the FY 2021-22, only 827 Km road length has been completed. The State needs to expedite the pace of execution to achieve the target.

8. eMARG: Onboarding

Out of 85 packages in DLP, only 20 packages have been pushed to eMarg and pending for locking. As intimated by the State representative, out of 85 road works under DLP, 62 road works pertain to PR and 61 packages have been pushed to eMARG. Out of 23 packages pertaining to R&B Department, 20 pushed to eMARG. The representative of R&B Department also intimated that mapping of DDO account is underway, after which the process of payment through eMARG would start.

9. Quality

I. 111 packages are presently in progress and in 03 packages lab is not yet established. The State representative intimated that 2 works are held up due to forest clearance and in one case lab details will be uploaded shortly.

The target for SQM inspections during 2021-22 (RCPLWE projects) is 832, against which only 193 inspections have been carried out so far. State was advised to speed up SQM inspection in order to meet the target.

II. Unsatisfactory % based on NQM inspections (February, 2019-January, 2022) -

- Completed Works - 0.00 % - 18 Completed works inspected
- Ongoing Works -5.88% - 68 Ongoing works inspected
- Maintenance works - 0.00% - 2 Maintenance Works Inspected
- Bridge Works - 0.00% - 12 Bridge works inspected

It was observed that during the February, 2019 to January, 2022, 68 road works were inspected by NQM and 5.88 % ongoing works were graded Unsatisfactory. During the same period, 463 ongoing works were inspected by SQM and 0.43% works were graded unsatisfactory. The Committee advised State Government to check the quality of SQM inspections and improve the same.

III. Pending ATRs at State level-

- Ongoing Works - 04 (Ongoing works-03, Completed works-01)

IV. Anomalies of SQM Inspections:-

- Honeycombing could be seen on the retaining wall which has to be repaired, as SQM has not mentioned about the same (Package no. AP5LWE122).
- No compressive strength machine could be seen on the LSB laboratory (Package No. - AP20RBLWE83).
- For checking the thickness of WMM , inappropriate pit have been excavated which is circular and of way small size, average thickness from pit size of 50x50 has to be done, requires justification (Package No. - AP20LWE324)
- For a completed road, thickness of BM and SDBC layer has been done inappropriately which is against the norms (Package No. - AP05RBLWE115).
- Shoulders are not maintained at few stretches of road and at chainage 2/600 km super-elevation seems to be very less as water can be seen stagnant on the curve, SQM has graded as Satisfactory, needs justification (Package No. - AP1818P23).

ATR on the above should be submitted.

10. Financial Issues

- Budget provision has not been shown on Treasury-07 report on PFMS. The State was advised to ensure the same on priority.
- The interest verification certificate for FY 2020-21 has not been submitted.

11. Recommendations of Empowered Committee

Subject to the above observations and concurrent action/compliance by the State Government as stipulated in the foregoing paras, the Empowered Committee recommended the above proposals as at Para-2 above.

The meeting ended with a Vote of thanks to and from the Chair.
