

No. P-17024/7/2019-RC (FMS No. 369625)

Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
Rural Connectivity Division

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 28th March, 2023

Minutes

Sub: Minutes of Empowered Committee meeting hold on 20th March, 2023 at 12:30 PM to consider the project proposal submitted by the State Government of Gujarat under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) for the year 2022-23 (Batch-I)-reg.

A copy of the Minutes of the Empowered Committee (EC) held on 20th March, 2023 at 12:30 PM, through Video Conferencing to consider the project proposal submitted by the State Government of Gujarat under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) for the year 2022-23 (Batch-I) is forwarded herewith for information and necessary action. The State Government is requested to furnish compliance on the observations of EC on priority.


(Devinder Kumar)
Director (RC)

Distribution:

- i. Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat, 5th Floor, Block No. 1, Sardar Bhavan Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ii. Secretary, Roads & Building Department, Government of Gujarat, Block No. 14/2, New Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- iii. The Chief Engineer cum Empowered Officer, Block No. 14/3, New Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- iv. The Adviser (RD), NITI Aayog, NITI Aayog Bhavan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi.
- v. The Director, Central Roads Research Institute, Mathura Road, New Delhi.
- vi. The Secretary General, Indian Road Congress, Kama Koti Marg, Ranjit Nagar, Sector-6, Rama Krishna Puram, New Delhi-110037
- vii. The Chief Engineer, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Parivahan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- viii. All Directors in National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), 15 NBCC Tower, 5th Floor, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110001.

Copy for information to:-

PS to Hon'ble MRD/PS to Hon'ble MoS (RD)/PSO to Secretary (RD)/ PPS to AS (RD)/ PPS to AS & FA/ PPS to JS (RC)

Minutes of the Empowered Committee meeting held on 20th March, 2023 at 12:30 PM to discuss the project proposals of Long Span Bridges (LSBs) submitted by the Government of Gujarat under PMGSY-III, (Batch-I, 2022-23)

A Meeting of the Empowered Committee was held through Video Conference on 20th March, 2023 at 12:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) to discuss the project proposals of Long Span Bridges (LSBs) submitted by the State of Gujarat under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) for the year 2022-23 (Batch-I) on the roads already sanctioned under PMGSY-III.

2. The following officials were present in the meeting:-

Shri Shailash Kumar Singh	Secretary (RD), Ministry of Rural Development
Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel	Additional Secretary (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA
Shri Amit Shukla	Joint Secretary (RC), MoRD
Shri Devinder Kumar	Director (RC), MoRD
Shri B C Pradhan	Consultant/Director (Tech), NRIDA
Shri Pradeep Agarwal	Director (Projects-I), NRIDA
Dr. I.K. Pateriya	Director (Projects-III), NRIDA
Shri Nirmal Bhagat	Director (Finance), NRIDA
Shri T Nialkhanson	Under Secretary (Finance), MoRD
Ms. C. Shyamala	Economic Officer (RD), NITI Aayog
Shri J. K. Agrawal	Section Officer (RC), MoRD
State Govt. Representatives	
Shri S.B. Vasava	Secretary, Roads & Building Deptt, Govt of Gujarat
Shri Y M Chavda	CEO, GSRRDA and Addl. Secretary
Shri T.P. Goswami	Dy. Executive Engineer, GSRRDA
Shri D.D. Kalsariya	Assistant Engineer, GSRRDA

3. Details of Proposal

The details of the proposal of Long Span Bridges submitted by the State of Gujarat under PMGSY-III, Batch-I of 2022-23 are as under:-

As per Pre-EC (16.01.2023)					As per OMMAS dated 17.03.2023			
Item	No of LSBs	Length (in m)	Cost (Rs in crore)	Avg. Cost/m (Lakh)	No of LSBs	Length (in m)	Cost (Rs in crore)	Avg. Cost/m (Lakh)
LSBs	191	9819.36	623.96	6.35	191	9819.36	619.70*	6.31
*MoRD Share: Rs. 368.98 Crores State Share: Rs. 250.72 Crores (Including Higher Specifications)								

4. General Observations

(i) The State of Gujarat has been sanctioned entire allocated target length of 3012.50 km under PMGSY-III.

(ii) All current proposals of LSBs are on those roads which have already been sanctioned under PMGSY-III. It was also mentioned by the state that this is the full and final proposal for LSBs, and no other proposal will be submitted under PMGSY-III.

(iii) All proposals have been scrutinized on OMMAS by STA. PTA has scrutinized 16 proposals on OMMAS.

(iv) During Pre-EC meeting, it was observed that 05 LSB proposals (Package Nos- (i) GJ1310P3BR13, (ii) GJ0704P3BR01, (iii) GJ3304P3BR12, (iv) GJ1309P3BR26 and (v) GJ1309P3BR15) do not seem to be across the PMGSY-III sanctioned roads as verified from Geo-Sadak. Now, EC has been apprised that location of all 5 LSBs has been rechecked and it is found that they are on PMGSY-III roads.

(v) During Pre-EC meeting, it was observed by the Pre-EC that the average cost of bridges has increased from Rs. 3.67 lakh/m under PMGSY-II (2018-19, B-I) to Rs. 6.35 lakh/m (+73%) in the current batch. Now, State has provided bridge wise element details of 5 packages for package no. GJ1108P3BR03, GJ1607P3BR02, GJ0801P3BR01, GJ1705P3BR05 and GJ1705P3BR08. The EC has been apprised that the main reason of increase in cost is due to (i) increase in GST (ii) provision of protection works in some of the bridges and (iii) increased rate of cement and steel.

(vi) During Pre-EC meeting, it was observed that the average cost is abnormally high in Ahmedabad, Bharuch, Dahod, Dangs, Gandhinagar, Junagadh, Mahisagar, Panchmahals and Sabarkantha districts. In this connection, State has reported that they have worked out separate details for 34 bridges in these 9 districts. Bridges in these districts includes 17 bridges in plain terrain, 4 bridges in rolling terrain, 9 in mountainous a terrain and 4 in hilly terrain. There are 5 bridges are on pile and 27 are on open foundation. Out of 34 bridges, Box-4, RCC solid slab-29 and RCC T-beam -1 bridge. State further reported that the high cost is mainly due to protection works, which includes U-Type retaining wall followed by toe wall cum stone pitching. retaining wall is proposed on embankment of more than 2 to 2.5-meter wise stone pitching to economize the cost of structure. It was also apprised to the EC that one NQM and bridge consultant were detailed for on-site inspection of **13 No. of LSB**

proposals having higher average cost in 6 districts. Now Cost is reduced to Rs. 6.31 lakhs/m.

(vii) During Pre-EC meeting, State was advised to use new technology in case of short span bridges. Now, State has reported to the EC that they have explored the provision of new technology bridge like Pre-Fabricated bridges and found that cost of these new technology bridges are higher as compared to what they have catered for in current proposals.

(viii) State has proposed GEO GRID in approach portion for stabilization of approaches on all bridges. Gabion wall has been proposed in 2 bridges in Ahmadabad district (Package no. GJ0103P3BR01 and GJ0103P3BR02) instead of retaining wall on pile for economy purpose. These bridges are located nearby sea and due to sea environment area to eliminate corrosion effect fusion bonded epoxy coating steel has been proposed.

5. Compliance on the observations on sample DPRs

(i) During Pre-EC meeting, it was observed that most of the DPRs are not supported by design. Only drawings, Hydraulic report, Geotechnical report and cost estimation have been given. In this connection, State reported to the EC that all DPRs are supported by drawings, Hydraulic report, Geotechnical report and cost estimation. Detailed design has been approved by R&B, Design circle who have expertise in bridge design.

(ii) During Pre-EC meeting, it was observed that Protection works in most of the DPRs are on the higher side and the length of retaining wall (RW) U-Type (Type-1, Type-2, Type-3, Type-4) is more than 50m in some cases of varying heights which ranges about 2.4 m to 9.0 m, followed by toe walls (TW) of 25-30m length, along with good length of stone pitching. In this connection, State reported to the EC that Protection work is proposed to protect approach portion and embankment and to restrain side slopes to avoid private/ farm land issues. Stone pitching/ toe wall is proposed for height up to 2.5 meter and gabion wall/ RCC retaining wall/ Protection wall etc. are proposed for greater height of embankment on case to case basis based on feasibility of site. NRIDA has apprised to the EC that one NQM and bridge consultant of NRIDA were detailed for on-site inspection of bridges having higher cost and no major modification has been suggested by them except minor changes affecting cost reduction from Rs 6.35L/m to Rs 6.31L/m.

(iii) During Pre-EC meeting, it was observed that the cost of protection works (RW, Toe Wall and stone pitching) in 5 DPRs is more than the cost of construction of

proposed bridges (GJ 1108 P3 BR03, GJ1607 P3 BR02, GJ 0801 P3 BR01, GJ 1705 P3 BR05 and GJ 1705 P3 BR08). In some cases, it is about 85-95% of the cost of bridges. In few cases, it is lesser. Now, State has reported to the EC that Protection work is governed mainly on topography of the area and accordingly protection work is proposed. Total length of both side approaches in these 5 packages is in a range of 126.413 meter to 331.054 meter and an average embankment height varies from 6.981 to 4.4 meter. Correspondingly length of stone pitching is varying from 51.144 meter to 130.162 meter. Cumulative length of Retaining wall, stone pitching and toe wall is less than approach length. Also Length of stone pitching cum toe wall is kept less than length of retaining wall to minimize the protection work cost. NRIDA apprised to the EC that one NQMs and bridge consultant of NRIDA were detailed for on-site inspection of bridges.

6. Progress of PMGSY Works

- (i) 15 roads of 173.48 km length under PMGSY-III are still un-awarded. State needs to expedite the tender process of these works.
- (ii) Annual physical target of the State is 1500 Km, against which, State has so far completed only 797 km. State still needs to complete balance target. State was asked to increase the pace of construction, so as to achieve the annual target.

7. Maintenance of roads under DLP

During 2021-22, against the liability of Rs. 2.73 crore, expenditure of Rs. 1.46 crore has been done. For the current financial year 2022-23, the maintenance liability is 4.71crore and as on 18.03.2023, the expenditure is Rs. 2.63 crore only.

Only 821 km road length has been renewed during current year. The renewal target for this year is 7826 km. The State needs to confirm and update renewal length data & expenditure data on OMMAS. The same is required to be done immediately.

8. e-Marg

Out of total 122 packages pushed to e-MARG, 1 (1%) packages are pending for locking, 2 (2%) packages are pending for manual entry expenditure (MEE). 74 roads are eligible for routine inspection in February, 2023, 03 packages are pending for first payment for >3 months. Payment of Rs.1.01 core has been done using e-MARG in FY 2022-23. Total expenditure of Rs. 0.32 crore has been done on bills having liability of FY 2022-23, out of total expenditure of Rs. 1.01 crore using e-Marg. The State should take necessary steps to increase DLP expenditure on roads due for maintenance in 2022-23.

9. Award analysis

Out of total 289 awarded works under PMGSY-III, 65 works have been awarded at -30% below than the sanctioned cost, 59 works at 24-30% below the sanctioned cost, 55 works at 18-24% below sanctioned cost, 70 works at 12-18% below sanctioned cost, 22 works at 6-12% below sanctioned cost, 06 works at 0-6% below the sanctioned cost and 12 works are awarded at cost above the sanctioned cost.

The State was asked to ensure additional visits of State Quality Monitors on the low quoted PMGSY works so that these works are completed with good quality, in terms of advisory dated 3rd March 2022 issued by NRIDA.

10. Quality

(a) There are 86 ongoing packages.

(b) There are 5 works which have not been inspected even once. These should be inspected immediately.

(c) Number of active SQMs is 21 against the requirement of 28 SQMs. During 2022-23, 1618 SQM inspections are targeted and till date, only 834 inspections have been conducted which is meager. State was asked to expedite pace of inspection to achieve the target.

(d) 23 ATRs (06 completed works + 17 ongoing works) are pending at State Level. State should take necessary action and furnish the compliances for these pending ATRs.

(e) Unsatisfactory grading by NQM from March, 2020 to February, 2023 for maintenance works it is 26.32%. The unsatisfactory grading by SQM during the same period for maintenance works it is 29.03%.

Unsatisfactory grading by NQM from March, 2022 to February, 2023 for maintenance works, it is 66.67% as compared to quality grading of 16.67% for maintenance works respectively by the SQM. Thus, the unsatisfactory grading awarded by the SQM is quite low when compared to grading awarded by the NQM on maintenance works during the period from March, 2022 to February, 2023.

(f) Out of 4 QCRs analysis report in respect of ongoing works of Arvalli district, 01 QCR is uploaded only. State may take necessary action with respect to balance ongoing works.

State was advised to take immediate corrective action on the aforesaid issues.

11. SQM Analysis

- (i) It was noticed during the meeting that the SQMs empaneled by the State have graded very few works 'Unsatisfactory' out of the large number of projects inspected by them. The State was advised to scrutinize and find out whether the performance of such SQMs is satisfactory.
- (ii) Inspections done by SQMs need to be compared with the inspections done by NQMs road-wise.
- (iii) It was also observed by the EC that more inspections have been done by the SQMs who have graded most of roads as 'satisfactory' and fewer inspections have been done by the SQM who has graded some roads as 'unsatisfactory'. The SQMs namely Shri Chintankumar Kishorbhai Chokshi, Shri Devesh Bhanjibhai Mistry, Shri Kanaiyalal Bhavjibhai Parmar, Shri Amit Baldevbhai Patel, Shri Laxmikant Govindbhai Rajput, Shri Mihir Sureshbhai Shah, Shri Milind Vishwanath Vakhale, have not graded any road as 'unsatisfactory'. This aspect also needs to be checked at State level, and their performance to be evaluated.

12. Financial issues

- (a) Interest verification certificate has also not been submitted for FY 2004-05 to 2008-09 & 2020-21 to 2021-22.
- (b) Books of Accounts of Maintenance funds are closed upto January, 2023
- (c) Interest amount of Rs. 3.49 crore is pending to recover from the bank.
- (d) Financial closure of 23 no of works is pending for more than 180 days as on 17.03.2023. The State may take immediate action and expedite pending financial closure of completed works.

The State was asked to look into these financial issues and take appropriate action.

- 13. No compliance of observations were pending with the State Government for the 191 LSBs brought before the EC. Therefore, the Empowered Committee recommended the above proposals for sanction as at para -3 above.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the chair.
