

No.P-17024/15/2017-RC (FMS No. 358623)

**Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Rural Development**

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
Dated the 22nd March, 2022

Minutes

Subject: Minutes of Meeting of Empowered Committee to consider the project proposals for Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Area (RCPLWEA) (Batch-I, 2021-22) submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra -reg.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith the Minutes of the meeting of the Empowered Committee held on **14th March at 04:00 PM** under the chairmanship of Secretary (RD) to consider the project proposals submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra under RCPLWEA for the year 2021-22 (Batch-I).

2. It is requested that a compliance report on all the observations of the committee may be sent to Ministry/NRIDA.



(Lalit Kumar)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

Distribution:

- i. The Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD), Mantralaya, Mumbai.
- ii. The Secretary, Public Works Department (PWD), Mantralaya, Mumbai
- iii. The Chief Engineer & Empowered Officer, PWD Bandhakam Sankul, Civil Lines Nagpur 440001
- iv. The Superintendent Engineer, Gadchiroli Circle
- v. Shri Nishant Kumar Mishra, Deputy Secretary (LWE), North Block, MHA, New Delhi-110001 Email: ds-lwe@mha.gov.in
- vi. All Directors in National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), 15 NBCC Tower, 5th Floor, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110001.

Copy for information to:-

Sr. PPS to Secretary (RD)/PPS to AS (RD)/PPS to AS & FA

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EMPOWERED COMMITTEE HELD ON 14TH MARCH 2022 AT 04.00 P.M. TO CONSIDER PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY STATE GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA UNDER RCPLWEA, BATCH-1 OF 2021-22

A Meeting of the Empowered Committee (RC) was held through video conferencing on **14th March 2022 at 04.00 PM** under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) to consider the project proposals submitted by the State of Maharashtra under Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Affected Areas (RCPLWEA), Batch-I of 2021-22. The following officials were present in the meeting: -

Government of India Representatives	
Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha	Secretary, Department of Rural Development
Ms. Leena Johri	AS&FA (RD)
Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel	Additional Secretary (RD) & DG, NRIDA
Shri Devinder Kumar	Director (RC), MoRD
Shri. B C Pradhan	Consultant (Tech), NRIDA
Shri Deepak Ashish Kaul	Director (F&A), NRIDA
Dr. I.K.Pateriya	Director P.III, NRIDA
Shri Pradeep Agarwal	Director (P.I), NRIDA
Shri Nishant Kumar Mishra	Dy Secretary (LWE), MHA
State Govt. Representatives	
Shri Manoj Saunik	Additional Chief Secretary, PWD, Maharashtra
Shri S. Salunkhe	Secretary, PWD, Maharashtra
Shri Sanjay Dashpute	Chief Engineer, Nagpur Region
Smt Neeta Thakre	SE, Gadchiroli, PWD Circle
Shri Atul Meshram	EE, Allapalli

2. Details of Proposal

Item	As per Pre EC dated 31.12.2021				As per OMMAS as on 11.03.2022			
	No	Length (in m)	Cost (Rs in Crores)	Avg. Cost per km/m (Lakhs)	No	Length (in km/m)	Cost (Rs in Crores)	Avg. Cost per km (Lakhs)
LSBs	4	1165	88.54	7.60	4	1170	88.81	7.59
Total	4	1165	88.54	7.60	4	1170	88.81	7.59
*MoRD Share: Rs. 16.58 Crore					State share: Rs. 72.23 Crore			

All proposals of roads are uploaded and scrutinised by the STA on OMMAS. No proposal has been scrutinized by PTA. State should get the proposal scrutinized by PTA.

3. Pre-EC Compliance

- i. Empowered Committee observed that the average cost of LSB/mtr is almost same as what was at the time of Pre EC. The State has reported that average cost of LSBs in the earlier batches of FY 2017-18 & 2019-20 were Rs. 4.20 lakh/mtr. But due to increase in the height and width of bridges, cost per running meter of bridges have increased.
- i. It was also observed that confirmation regarding extra cost, over and above the cost permitted under the project, is still awaited from the state. In this regard, ACS (PWD) submitted that file has already been moved to their Planning & Finance Department for further financial decision which is awaited and same will be intimated to the Ministry soon.
- i. Out of these 4 bridges, 3 are interstate bridges, sharing border with the state of Chhattisgarh. According to the state, these bridges are also beneficial to the state of Chhattisgarh. Forest clearance will be required from both the states.

In this connection, ACS, PWD, state of Maharashtra informed that they will coordinate with the state of Chhattisgarh in next 15 days regarding cost sharing, forest issues and then communicate to the Ministry whether these projects will be undertaken/ proposed or not.

Empowered Committee further informed that in such situation meeting at MHA level may also be arranged for better coordination between the states. Representative of MHA was informed accordingly.

4. Progress of RCPLWEA Roads

Roads

SANCTIONED		COMPLETED		BALANCE		UNAWARDED	
Nos.	LENGTH (Km)	Nos.	LENGTH (Km)	No. of Roads	Length (km)	No. of Roads	Length (km)
46	619.68	6	125.46	40	494.21	-	-

LSBs

Sanction (Nos.)	Completed (Nos.)	Balance (Nos.)	Unaward (Nos.)
108	15	93	-

Annual physical target for the State during current financial year is construction of 400 km of road length, against which state has completed 93 km only. State should expedite completion of RCPLWEA works.

Secretary (PWD) informed that now only 2 roads and 23 bridges are pending for forest clearance (FC) and they will accelerate the process within this month.

5. **e-Marg**

Out of total 4 packages under DLP, 4 packages pushed in e-MARG, out of pushed packages, no package is pending for locking and no package is pending for manual entry expenditure (MEE). The state was asked to saturate 100% roads on eMARG.

6. **Quality**

- a. Out of 133 ongoing packages, QC labs have not been established yet in 29 packages.
- b. Number of active SQMs are 81. During 2021-22, 723 SQM inspections are targeted and till date, 131 inspections have been conducted which is very less. The state needs to increase the pace of SQM inspections and meet the target.
- c. It was observed that, during the last three years (March 2019 to February 2022), 5.56% of the ongoing works and 6.25% bridge works have been graded unsatisfactory by NQMs, which are more than the national average (4%). The State was advised to take immediate corrective action and show some improvement in the aforesaid indicators.
- d. 4 ATRs on ongoing works are pending. Out of which, 01 ATR is pending for more than 01 year. State should immediately take action for ATR more than 01 year otherwise work will be treated as non-rectifiable and state has to bear entire cost of the project.
- e. Some anomalies noticed in SQM inspections are as under: -
 - Percentage of filler provided in WBM is very high. However, it has been graded as Satisfactory (Package No. MH1009).
 - The Quality of road has been ascertained by seeing top layer only. The tests on lower layers have not been conducted (Package No. MH1014).

- Repeated photos are uploaded, and no field test has been conducted on 29.58km road (Package No. MH1012).
- Compaction of earthwork shown in uploaded test reports is not as per prescribed limit. However, the work has been graded as Satisfactory (Package No. MH856).

State needs to monitor the quality of works seriously and need to work on the quality of SQMs inspections as well. The state should also re-orient the SQMs so that these deficiencies do not recur.

7. Financial Issues

- i. State share budget is not reflected in PFMS TRSY-07 report.
- ii. Interest recovery of Rs. 0.18 Cr is still pending from Bank.

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

8. Recommendations of Empowered Committee

The Govt. of Maharashtra within next 15 days would convey their decision on whether they wish to proceed with the projects. Subject to the above observations and concurrent action/compliance by the State Government as stipulated in the foregoing paras & the decision of Govt. of Maharashtra to proceed ahead, 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.
