

**NATIONAL RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI**

**MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE GENERAL BODY OF NATIONAL RURAL ROADS
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2010 AT UNNATI, KRISHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI**
(List of members present is annexed)

At the outset DG, NRRDA welcomed the Hon'ble Minister (RD) & President, Secretary(RD) & Vice President, Additional Secretary & FA and other members. With the permission of the Chair, the meeting began with a Power Point Presentation for apprising the members on various aspects of PMGSY including Bharat Nirman.

2. The Presentation broadly covered objectives of PMGSY, connectivity, progress made under PMGSY / Bharat Nirman - overall in the country and by the States, different aspects relating to financing of PMGSY, quality and inspection of rural roads, standardization of bidding documents, institutional architecture, development of core network, rural road specifications, finance & administration, etc.

3. Queries raised by the members during the presentation were replied and necessary explanations furnished to the members. Following action points emerged:

4. President observed that clearance of projects exceeded eligible projects in terms of the number of habitations, new connectivity in kms and upgradation in kms. He desired that position in this regard should be reviewed State wise and a suitable system should be adopted to address such situations.

5. President expressed concern over the deteriorating condition of roads for want of due maintenance by States. Secretary RD opined that one of the reasons for this is plying of overloaded heavy traffic on rural roads especially in the mining areas. DG informed that the States have been requested to prepare their Zonal Maintenance Plans for execution through Panchayati Raj Institutions in view of the funds being provided to them by the Finance Commission.

Addl. Secretary & Financial Adviser of the Ministry explained that to avoid toll on main roads heavy vehicles use rural roads which are not meant for such heavy traffic as such he suggested for appropriate tolling by the States for such select roads on heavy vehicles for which adequate legislation is also available. President desired that a proper system of funding such

roads needs to be developed by States to ensure maintenance. Road specifications also need to be reviewed to improve safety standards.

6. President felt that the Centre is providing full funds to the States for construction of roads but does not have any say in regard to taking up of road projects in the States. Complaints are received about certain areas remaining under connected and under developed. He, therefore, desired that all proposals should be called for in one go from every State by a fixed date and approval in principle be given. While sanctioning projects of a State balanced development should be ensured. AS&FA added that for this purpose line estimates be taken and Detailed Project Reports should be prepared by States after in principle clearance.

7. President desired that Geographical Information System based network should be brought in place of conventional maps by the States. AS&FA suggested that NRRDA may prepare a panel of 10-20 such service providers which can be used by the States for engaging an agency for GIS network. President also desired that areas of possible convergence between MGNREGA and PMGSY should be explored.

8. President expressed concern over the deteriorating quality of roads. He desired that with the increase in the volume of PMGSY works, the quality of construction also needs to be given greater attention. He stated that big size packages are resulting into sub-contracting, even to small contractors who are not operating in the road sector. He desired to look into this problem and to work out suitable size packages. He desired greater attention to be given to the quality inspections being carried out at initial stages of road construction.

9. Secretary (RD) stated that an inspection plan, categorizing States in accordance with the gravity of the problem, should be prepared so that problematic areas are inspected more frequently. He emphasized upon the need for introducing e-tendering in the problematic States.

10. AS&FA stated that under the present contract, the contractor is not appropriately locked financially as such he suggested for incorporation of provisions in the contract like; performance guarantee, payment schedule, ensuring proper maintenance, etc. as suggested under the modified PPP. President desired that all the issues relating to maintenance and quality of road construction should be addressed in a more practical way, for which a Committee be constituted.

11. President also desired that construction of requisite bridges should be a precondition for considering road proposals. He advised that bottlenecks in respect of roads alignment through forest land should be suitably taken up with the Ministry of Environment.

12. While discussing the Finance and Administration related issues, Secretary (RD) and AS&FA suggested that under service conditions possibility of providing accommodation should be explored so that better people come on deputation to NRRDA. DG informed that DDA is being approached for allotment of 10 flats to NRRDA.

13. Secretary observed that the present "feedback" module available in OMMAS may not be feasible for the remote and backward areas. He desired that a convenient system to seek feedback from such areas be thought of and got in place.

The Agenda items were next taken up for discussion:

Item No. 1 Confirmation of the proceedings of the 12th Meeting of General Body held on 15th December, 2009.

The Director General informed that Minutes of the 12th Meeting were circulated amongst the members and Action Taken Report thereon has also been placed. He stated that no comment on the Minutes has been received from any member as such proposed for confirmation of the Minutes. The members confirmed the Minutes of the 12th Meeting.

Item No. 2 Adoption of the audited Accounts of NRRDA for the year 2009-10

The Director General explained the basic features of the audited Annual Accounts of the Agency for the year 2009-10. The President observed that out of Rs. 76 lakh pointed out by Auditors as outstanding advances, UCs in respect of only Rs. 25 lakh had been obtained. DG informed that in the latest updated Report, out of Rs. 1.23 crore pointed out by the auditors, Rs. 0.77 crore have been adjusted so far and explained the reasons for the balance amount lying outstanding. The General Body adopted the Audited Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Statement for the year 2009-10.

Item No. 3 Approval of Annual Report of NRRDA for the year 2009-10.

The Director General gave a brief account of the activities carried out during the period under report. He informed that the Executive Committee in its 22nd meeting held on 23rd November 2010 had also deliberated on the draft Annual Report and recommended the Annual Report for placing it before the General Body. The General Body approved the Annual Report.

Item No. 4 Approval of Revised Estimates for 2010-11 and Budget Estimates for 2011-12.

A brief account of the Revised Estimate 2010-11 and Budget Estimate 2011-12 was presented before the General Body. DG informed that the proposed Revised Estimates for 2010- 11 and Budget Estimates for 2011-12 were placed before the Executive Committee of the NRRDA in its meeting held on 23rd November 2010 which resolved to place them before the General Body. The General Body after due deliberations approved the RE-2010-11 and BE-2011-12.

Item No. 5 Status of drawl and disbursement of RIDF loan from NABARD.

The Director General stated that under the present arrangements, no more loan is possible from NABARD and looking into the requirement of funds for meeting the targets he requested for taking up the matter with NABARD for restructuring of repayment schedule in a longer span to enable further drawl of loan.

Item NO. 6 Ratification of the amendment of provisions relating to honorarium and TA entitlements to NQMs in “Honorarium and TA Bye Laws for NQMs 2006”.

The Director General explained the need for revising the rates of honorarium and TA entitlement adequately so that better quality monitors may come forward for inspection of road works being executed under PMGSY. He informed that a proposal for amendment of provisions relating to honorarium and TA entitlement of NQMs to bring these at par with the rates being paid by IRC to their consultants at similar levels was submitted to the Hon’ble Minister & President of NRRDA which he had kindly approved. He

requested for ratification of the amendments. The General Body ratified the amendments.

Item No. 7 Ratification of the amendment in RRs for the posts of Director, Joint Director, Dy. Director in NRRDA raising the upper age limit from present 55 years to 57 years.

The Director General explained the need for raising the upper age limit from 55 years prescribed in the existing Recruitment Rules for the posts of Director, Joint Director and Dy. Director in NRRDA to 57 years. He informed that a proposal in this regard was submitted to the Hon'ble Minister & President of NRRDA which he kindly approved. He requested for ratification of the amendment in RRs for raising the upper age limit from present 55 years to 57 years. AS&FA, noticing the difficulties being faced by NRRDA in getting persons on deputation, suggested that the service conditions of NRRDA need to be made more attractive for which a small committee of officers may be constituted to examine the service conditions and make suitable recommendations which was agreed upon. The General Body ratified the amendment.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of members/representatives present in the 13th General Body Meeting

1. Hon'ble Minister, MoRD & President, NRRDA
2. Shri B.K. Sinha, Secretary (RD), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Shri Arvind Mayaram, Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.
4. Dr. Pramod Kumar Anand, Joint Secretary (RC) & Director General, NRRDA, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Dr. B.P.Chandrasekhar, Director (Tech), NRRDA, New Delhi
6. Shri R.Chauhan, Director (F&A), New Delhi.
7. Shri Prabha Kant Katore, Director (P-III), NRRDA, New Delhi
8. Shri Rohit Kumar, Director (RC), Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Shri A.S.Sahota, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Room No. 104-A, 1st Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Shri M.C.Boro, Secretary cum Commissioner, Public Works Department, Government of Assam, P.O Sachivalay7a, Dispur, Guwahati-781006.
11. Shri Raja Sekhar Vundru, Special Secretary. Public Works Department (B&R), Government of Haryana, Room No. 207, 2nd Floor, Mini Secretariat, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector-7, Chandigarh. HARYANA.
12. Prof P.K.Sikdar, Director, International Consultants & Technocrats Pvt. Ltd., A-8.Green Park, New Delhi-110016.
13. Shri S.C.Sharma, Retd. Director General, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, 175, Vigyanlok, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091.
14. Representative, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi.
15. Representative, Planning Commission, Room No. 264, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
16. Representative, MORTH, Transport Bhavan, 1 Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001.
17. Representative, Public Work Department, Government of Rajasthan, Rajasthan Secretariat, Jaipur, Jacob Road, Rajasthan.
18. Representative, Central Road Research Institute, CRRI, Delhi-Mathura Road, New Delhi.

