

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

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**MINUTES OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE GENERAL BODY (GB), OF THE  
NATIONAL RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NRRDA) HELD  
ON 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, 2016 AT NRRDA, NEW DELHI**

List of members present is annexed.

At the outset JS (RC) & DG, NRRDA welcomed Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation and President, NRRDA as well as Special Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoRD and other members of the GB. The members were introduced to the President NRRDA.

The Agenda items were then taken up for discussion as under:

<b>Item No. I</b>	<b>Confirmation of the proceedings of the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the General Body held on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 and action taken thereon.</b>
<b>Decision</b>	Director General informed that Minutes of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the GB were circulated amongst the members on 23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2016. No comments on the minutes have been received from any member and as such the minutes of 21 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the General Body may be confirmed. <b>The General Body confirmed the minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.</b>
	<b>Changed sharing pattern and consequent availability of financial resources for PMGSY</b>
	Director General explained about the changed fund sharing pattern for the on-going as well as new works of PMGSY, which has come into effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2015. He further informed that as advised by GB, an amount of Rs. 1076.49 Crores has been earmarked in the budget of 2016-17 as incentives to be provided to better performing States.

	<b>Physical targets and achievements under PMGSY during 2015-16</b>
	Director General explained that an average of 100 km/day was constructed during 2015-16 by the States and appreciable progress was achieved in respect of the targets of connectivity in terms of road length and number of habitations connected.
	<b>Research work undertaken under PMGSY by NRRDA in collaboration with STAs and PTAs.</b>
	The General Body took note of the three on-going research and development projects sanctioned to NIT, Raipur, NIT Silchar and IIT, Bhubneshwar, in 2015-16. The General Body was informed that NIT, Raipur will submit final report by November 2016. Similarly, NIT Silchar will also submit report by October 2016 and IIT, Bhubneshwar within 6 months.
	<b>Strengthening of Quality Assurance</b>
	<p>General Body took note of the details regarding complaints received from various sources particularly MPs which have been investigated through the State Govts. concerned or the National Quality Monitors (NQMs) and the findings shared with the complainants. Inputs received on social media and mobile applications are also being verified by NQMs and the findings of such inspections are being disseminated on the social media and OMMAS.</p> <p>The General Body was apprised that as on 31st July, 2016, a total of 108 NQMs are actively involved in the inspection of road works and this number is sufficient to meet the annual target of 7,500 inspections for 2016-17.</p>
	<b>Use of environment friendly “Green” technologies in PMGSY roads</b>
	Director General pointed out that in the year 2016-17, 3,825 kms of PMGSY roads would be constructed using waste plastic and 3,900 km using cold mix technologies. Against this target, till July, 2016,

	<p>about 1,200 kms of roads using these technologies have already been completed. He further informed that from inception of PMGSY to the year 2014, only 806.93 km was constructed using green technologies, this substantially increased to 2,634.02 km in two years i.e. 2014-16. New Technology Initiatives Guidelines issued in May 2013, are being revised in the light of the feedback received from the States, STAs and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The General Body appreciated this initiative and advised that States be encouraged to make greater use of such non-conventional material, local material and green technologies.</p>
	<p><b>New publications and standards issued by NRRDA</b></p>
	<p>The Director General pointed out that various new publications and standards have been issued by NRRDA and made available to the States and also uploaded on PMGSY website. These publications can be translated into regional languages for which States can use Administrative Funds available with the States under PMGSY. IEC efforts of PMGSY are being further strengthened through production of films, e-books &amp; other publicity materials.</p>
	<p><b>Use of IT enabled/mobile technology for monitoring of PMGSY roads</b></p>
	<p>General Body took note of the Application of Space Technology in Rural Road Projects under PMGSY. In order to create a mechanism to detect the variance between the actual progress of PMGSY (as revealed by Remote Sensing) and the progress reported by the States through manually/ electronically, sent progress reports. NRRDA had entered into a MoU with Centre for Geo-Informatics Application in Rural Development (CGARD) of NIRD &amp; PR, Hyderabad by using Remote Sensing and Satellite Imageries. At present, five States (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana, 2 districts each) have been selected in the first phase of the project. In 5 States</p>

	<p>(covering 10 districts), after analysing the satellite imageries, 31% variations have been found in road lengths. The reports received from the CGARD have already been shared with the respective States for their comments on the discrepancies in terms of length of the road works.</p> <p>It is proposed to universalize this intervention in remaining States in near future.</p> <p>President, NRRDA advised that these States should, on a priority basis, submit the status of road length actually constructed and payments made in respect of each PMGSY road.</p>
	<p><b>Contractual services of retired officers engaged in NRRDA</b></p>
	<p>Director General informed about the status of the compliance. He also pointed out that in respect of retired officers appointed against regular vacancies in NRRDA, who have attained the age of 65 years, an internal committee of NRRDA, had examined the matter and made certain recommendations.</p> <p>The General Body deliberated on the issue taking into account the comments of Internal Finance Division of the Ministry and decided that the matter be settled on file.</p>
	<p><b>e-payments to contractors for all PMGSY works in all States</b></p>
	<p>General Body took note of the endeavours of NRRDA to shift to electronic payments (through OMMAS), to contractors executing PMGSY works. At present 21 States have implemented e-payment system. Training to SRRDA officials have already been done. Remaining 7 States ( AP, Telangana, Goa, Kerala, J&amp;K, Arunachal Pradesh &amp; Nagaland) are yet to start e-payments. President NRRDA advised that special attention needs to be given to Kerala as average construction cost in the State is substantially higher as compared to</p>

	other States.
<b>Item No. II</b>	<b>Empanelment of New NQMs, Performance Review of the existing NQMs, Delay in Joining by NQMs and Non Compliance of Inspection Schedules issued by NRRDA</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body took note of the information regarding empanelment of new NQMs and Independent process of evaluation/ performance review of existing NQMs. Hon'ble Minister and President, NRRDA advised that NRRDA should explore other options also, in addition to the practice of hiring retired persons and also consider engaging fresh graduates from IITs & NITs for such inspection works.
<b>Item No. III</b>	<b>Increase in honorarium of NQMs &amp; STAs</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body took note of the information regarding Increase in honorarium of NQMs & STAs. Hon'ble Minister in principle agreed for a need for enhancement but advised that the matter be settled on file, after obtaining the comments of Internal Finance Division.
<b>Item No. IV</b>	<b>Assessment of the actual no. of NQMs required, average no. of annual inspections done vis-a-vis their quality</b>
<b>Decision</b>	It was explained that the absolute number of NQMs has increased substantially since the last two years. The present no. of 108 active NQMs is sufficient to meet the annual inspections targets fixed by NRRDA for NQMs. Hon'ble Minister and President, NRRDA advised that NRRDA should also consider utilizing the services of fresh graduates from IIT's & NITs for this purpose. Such infusion of fresh blood & fresh ideas in inspection would be beneficial for the quality of PMGSY road works.
<b>Item No. V</b>	<b>Accreditation of NQMs through National Accreditation Board for Certifying Agencies (NABCB)</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body took note of the initiative of NRRDA for Accreditation of NQMs through NABCB as well as Quality Council of India (QCI) Empanelled 3 <sup>rd</sup> party Agencies for quality inspection.

	The Chairman, however, advised that the procedure be so designed as to avoid duplication of effort.
<b>Item No. VI</b>	<b>Manual on construction equipment of Rural Roads</b>
	The General Body took note of preparation for Manual on construction equipment for Rural Roads by NRRDA. The General Body was informed that an expert committee obtained inputs from States, domain experts, contractors and equipment manufacturers and only then the Manual was finalized. The first of its type, Manual covers the features of various types of machine and equipments to be used in construction of rural roads.
<b>Item No. VII</b>	<b>Citizen Monitoring of Rural Roads under PMGSY</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body took note of the information regarding outcome of Citizen Monitoring of Rural Roads under PMGSY in the States of Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Meghalaya in first phase and in the States of Assam, Karnataka, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Meghalaya in Second Phase.  Hon'ble Minister and President as well as the G.B. expressed satisfaction on this innovative approach to "Social Audit" of PMGSY.
<b>Item No. VIII</b>	<b>Setting up of the NTSA as a separate unit within NRRDA and renaming of NRRDA as NRRHDA</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body took note of the information regarding the background and justification for setting up of the NTSA within NRRDA.  The General Body deliberated on the issue and reiterated that the character of NRRDA should not be diluted. GB also advised that the matter be reconsidered within the Ministry, before a final decision is taken.

<b>Item No. IX</b>	<b>Progress of ADB Projects</b>
	The General Body was apprised about the progress of ADB assisted Rural Roads Sector I Project (RRSIP), RRSIIP and Rural Connectivity Investment Program (RCIP). Further the General Body was also apprised about the current status of Rural Connectivity Investment Program (Supplementary) of US \$ 500 Million which aims to construct / upgrade 6,000 km of rural roads in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. The General Body appreciated the fact that all targets of ADB assisted projects have been achieved/are being achieved.
<b>Item No. X</b>	<b>World Bank funded PMGSY RRP-II and Proposal RRP-III</b>
	The General Body was apprised about the progress of World Bank funded US \$ 1400 million PMGSY RRP-II and the intention of Ministry/NRRDA to propose RRP-III for the States of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The General Body appreciated the fact that PMGSY RRP II was well on the way to achieve its target.
<b>Item No. XI</b>	<b>Twitter @ PMGSY_NRRDA</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body was apprised about the Twitter handle of PMGSY/NRRDA and appreciated its progress.
<b>Item No. XII</b>	<b>Designation of Consultants</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body after due deliberations, approved the proposal.
<b>Item No. XIII</b>	<b>Delegation of Financial Power to Director (F&amp;A) in regard to hiring of conveyance and vehicle.</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body agreed to delegate the powers of Director General in respect of hiring of conveyance and vehicle upto Rs. 20,000/- in a month, to Director (F&A).

<b>Item No. XIV</b>	<b>Correction in fixation of remuneration of Shri Brij Mohan and Shri HS Saini engaged as Consultants in NRRDA</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body after due deliberations, approved the proposal.
<b>Item No. XV</b>	<b>Enhancing the rate of increment to Shri Arun Trivedi, Consultant (CA) on Contract</b>
<b>Decision</b>	<p>The General Body after due deliberations agreed to an interim increase of only 10% at present.</p> <p>The General Body also desired that such proposal should not be presented in a piece meal fashion, rather all such proposals, in future, should be integrated, keeping in view the remunerations of similarly placed professionals in similar Govt. Organizations.</p>
<b>Item No. XVI</b>	<b>Leave of Young Engineers</b>
<b>Decision</b>	The General Body deliberated on the issue and after taking into account the comments of Internal Finance Division of the Ministry and decided that the matter be settled on file.
<b>Item No. XVII</b>	<b>Any other matter with the Permission of the Chair</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>A presentation was made by the Joint Secretary (A&amp;C) MoRD regarding the report of the Committee on HR policy for NRRDA. JS (A&amp;C) provided an overview of the recommendation made by this Committee. Hon'ble Minister and President advised that the views of NRRDA/programme division of the Ministry regarding service conditions and pay structures be proposed on file. It was decided that the matter be examined on file by IFD &amp; put up to the Competent Authority for appropriate decision.</b></p> <p><b>Initiating discussion, Hon'ble Minister and President, NRRDA pointed out following important issues:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All out efforts should be made to construct the targeted road length of 133 km /day during 2016-17.</b></li> <li>• <b>Involvement of IIT &amp; NIT fresh graduate engineers during the inspections of road works with NQMs.</b></li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>State specific specifications and designs for rural roads should be in place.</b></li><li>• <b>For better quality assurance mechanism, Centre should increase its presence and focus on quality and time bound completion monitoring of PMGSY through SRRDAs and NQMs.</b></li><li>• <b>Need to reduce the average cost of construction of PMGSY roads and the need for the Ministry to issue guidelines to States to fully utilize State wise locally available construction materials.</b></li><li>• <b>The need for the States to focus on regular maintenance of PMGSY roads assets and put in place mechanism to ensure that overloaded vehicles do not damage PMGSY roads.</b></li></ul> |
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The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.