

**No. P-17024/10/2021-RC-Part(1) (eFMS-384928)**

Government of India  
Ministry of Rural Development  
Department of Rural Development  
Rural Connectivity (RC) Division


New Delhi, the 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

**MINUTES**

Subject: Minutes of Meeting of Empowered Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 05:00 P.M. to discuss the project proposals of bridges submitted by UT of Jammu and Kashmir under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) (Batch-II) for the year 2023-24 - reg.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith the Minutes of the Empowered Committee meeting held on **5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 05:00 P.M** under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) **(through Video Conferencing)** to discuss the project proposals of bridges submitted by UT of Jammu and Kashmir under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) (Batch-II) for the year 2023-24.

2. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.



(K.M Singh)  
Director (RC)

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**Distribution:**

- i. The Principal Secretary, PW (R&B) Department, Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Roads Development Authority, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.
- ii. The Adviser, NITI Aayog
- iii. The Director, Central Roads Research Institute, Mathura Road, New Delhi
- iv. The Secretary General, Indian Road Congress, Kama Koti Marg, Ranji Nagar, Sector-6, Rama Krishna Puram, New Delhi, Delhi 110022
- v. The Chief Engineer, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, ParivahanBhavan, New Delhi
- vi. All Directors in NRIDA.

**Copy forwarded for information to:-**

PSO to Secretary (RD)/ PPS to AS (RD)/ PPS to JS&FA/PPS to JS (RC)

**Minutes of meeting of Empowered Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 05:00 P.M to discuss the project proposals of bridges submitted by UT of Jammu and Kashmir under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) (Batch-II) for the year 2023-24**

A meeting of the Empowered Committee (RC) was held through Video Conference on **5th September, 2023 at 05:00 P.M** under the Chairmanship of Secretary (RD) to consider the project proposals of bridges submitted by UT of Jammu and Kashmir under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) (Batch-II) for FY 2023-24. Following officials were present in the meeting.

| <b>MoRD/ NRIDA Representatives</b> |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Shri Shailesh Kumar Singh          | Secretary (RD), MoRD  |
| Ms. Tanuja Thakur Khalkho          | JS & FA (RD), MoRD  |
| Shri Amit Shukla                   | Joint Secretary (RC), MoRD & DG, NRIDA                              |
| Shri K.M.Singh                     | Director (RC), MoRD   |
| Ms. Ranjana Saini                  | Assistant Director (RC), MoRD                                       |
| Shri. B.C. Pradhan                 | Consultant (Tech), NRIDA  |
| Shri Nirmal Bhagat                 | Director (F&A), NRIDA   |
| Shri Pradeep Agarwal               | Director (P.I), NRIDA   |
| Ms. Shalini Das                    | Joint Director (Technical)  |
| <b>UT Govt. Representatives</b>    |   |
| Shri Shailendra Kumar              | Principal Secretary PW(R&B)<br>Department/Empowered Officer JKRRDA. |
| Ms. Tanvi Mir                      | Chief Engineer PMGSY, Kashmir.                                      |
| Shri Ranjan Mengi                  | Chief Engineer PMGSY, Jammu.  |
| Shri Mazhar Hussain Khan           | Financial Controller.   |
| Shri Vinod Kumar                   | State Quality Coordinator   |
| Shri Sajad Ahmad Guru              | IT Nodal Officer  |

**2. Details of Proposal**

| Items        | As per Pre-EC 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 |               |                  |                     | As per OMMAS 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 |                |                  |                     |
|--------------|---|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
|              | Nos.                                    | Length (in m) | Cost (Rs in Cr.) | Avg. Cost (Lakhs/m) | Nos.  | Length (in m)  | Cost (Rs in Cr.) | Avg. Cost (Lakhs/m) |
| LSBs         | 61                                      | 3428          | 322.19           | 9.39                | 65  | 3625.8         | 367.56           | 10.13               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>61</b>                               | <b>3428</b>   | <b>322.19</b>    | <b>9.39</b>         | <b>65</b>                                   | <b>3625.80</b> | <b>367.56</b>    | <b>10.13</b>        |

**\*MoRD Share: Rs. 330.80 Crores**  
**Target: 1750 Km**

**UT Share: Rs. 36.75 Crores**  
**Sanctioned: 1672**

**3. General Observations**

i) UT of Jammu & Kashmir has been allocated target road length of 1750 km under PMGSY-III, out of which, 1672 km has already been sanctioned. Current proposal is for sanction of 65 bridges of 3625.80 m length which is within the remaining allocation for the UT.

ii) All the proposals have been scrutinized by STA on OMMAS and only 2 proposals have been scrutinized by PTA. **UT had uploaded 4 additional bridges just prior to schedule date of EC. It was decided that these 4 bridges should be scrutinized by PTA/CRRI.**

#### **4. Planning Audit (Proposals)**

i) All 65 proposals have been checked on GeoSadak and are located on the alignment of PMGSY-III sanctioned/ proposed roads.

#### **5. Average Cost trends**

i) It was observed that at Pre-EC stage, the average cost of bridges was Rs. 9.39 lakh/m however due to the increase of the cost of construction material and revision of State SoR for bridges, cost of bridges has increased to 10.13 lakh/m at EC stage. UT informed that there is no separate SoR prepared for bridges. Since, the materials used for roads and bridges are same, SoR for roads is used for bridges also. **It was also explained that for the bridges, UT have an option to follow either MoRTH or their own SoR (generally PWD rate of UT) for the item/items, the rate of which is not available in the General SoR, approved by NRIDA.** In the instant case, rate of only 4 items have been taken from the SoR of the State PWD, as the same was not available in the General SoR.

**Also four additional bridges have been added in the proposed list post EC which has also contributed in the enhancement of the average cost. It was also clarified to the UT that cost of bridges having length more than 200 m will have to be borne by them on pro-rata basis.**

#### **6. District-wise details of LSBs proposal**

i) The UT has proposed 65 bridges in 11 districts, 7 in the Kashmir region and remaining in Jammu region. The committee observed that average cost of some bridge proposals was on the higher side. UT representative informed that in order to tackle the change in river course in districts such as Kulgam and Pulwama, pile foundation is used to stabilize the structure, which is slightly expensive. Moreover, SoR of 2022-23 is now being used. Also the cost of steel and cement have increased, hence the cost is on higher side when it is compared with previous years sanctioned cost of bridges.

**UT representative also elaborated on 4 types of bridges proposed in the current batch viz. Composite Girder bridges, RCC Slab bridges, Steel Composite bridges and Steel Truss bridges. It was informed that if the physical level of bridge above the stream is high, Composite Girder bridges with pile foundation have been proposed whereas Steel Composite and Steel Truss bridges have been proposed if the span is less and working area is limited. UT also informed that the bridges have been worked out as per site requirement, assessment of STA and inputs of Design, Inspection & Quality Control (DIQC) department of J&K. Hence, the bridges proposed by UT were cross-verified by both STA as well as DIQC department where structural engineers have been posted.**

#### **7. Pre-EC Compliance**

i) During Pre-EC, it was observed that although all the LSB proposals had been scrutinized by STA on OMMAS, the PTA scrutiny was yet to be done for 10% of the proposed bridges. UT was asked to get the PTA scrutiny done at the earliest. NRIDA

informed that 4 bridge proposals have been uploaded on OMMAS on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. The UT has submitted vetting details of these bridges by DIQC Department of J&K. Planning audit of these 4 nos. of LSBs has been done. However, only 2 bridge proposals have been scrutinized by PTA out of 8 proposals sent. The committee asked NRIDA to get the pending proposals scrutinized by PTA/CRRI.

The State apprised that span reduction had been undertaken on the advice of NQM. It was stated by the UT that the reduction of span will be made up by increasing the length of approach road since reduction of span has been done on small "Nala" or rivulets. State also briefed about the necessity of proposing different type of bridges as detailed above.

## **8. Physical Progress**

i) It was observed that, 360 roads of 894 km and 47 bridges under PMGSY-I and 23 roads of 17 km under PMGSY-II are pending to be completed. UT was asked if the works would be completed by the extended timeline i.e. March, 2024. The UT representative informed that, under PMGSY-I, around 7-8 schemes would not be completed due to fact that these are either in the wildlife or forest areas and forest clearance is required for their completion. It was also informed that since many balance roads have been sanctioned in two parts, hence, the State cannot complete second part unless first part of roads is complete. Around 350 roads of 800 km by March 2023 and 40 bridges will be completed by March, 2024 and the rest will be completed by June, 2024.

ii) Out of the target of 1530 km for FY 2023-24, only 164 km has been completed. UT representative informed that due to unseasonal rains, the construction work has not picked up. Restoration work is going on for damaged roads which are roughly 700 km. The UT was requested to increase the pace of construction so as to achieve the target.

iii) UT representative also informed that proposals of around 123 km have been uploaded on OMMAS and requested for conducting EC for the said proposals also at early date. The committee was informed that dates for EC will be conveyed in due course.

## **9. Maintenance**

i) It was observed that there was difference in Defect Liability Period (DLP) maintenance expenditure between figures on OMMAS and as per UT. The UT was requested to ensure rectification of reported expenditure figures in coordination with NRIDA. UT explained that two types of expenditure are captured on OMMAS: DLP and post DLP. It appears that expenditure on both types of roads are getting clubbed together. UT requested to segregate both types of expenditure. Also, there may be double counting of road lengths which have been sanctioned in stages. Dir(P1), NRIDA explained that the expenditure figures that is being reflected in OMMAS is more or less correct. The small differences could be on account of booking maintenance expenditure by UT on stage I roads which are not captured through e-marg. Also expenditure booked on LSBs may also be reflecting in the figures. It was decided that both NRIDA and UT will work on it and rectify the differences in figures.

ii) It was also observed that 416 packages have payment pending for more than 3 months, out of which 122 packages are pending for first payment. Also, UT was requested to ensure that no Routine Inspections (RI's) are missed. UT was requested to look into the above issues related to maintenance of rural roads and to resolve them at the earliest.

(iii) UT assured to allocate appropriate funds for maintenance of roads constructed under the scheme. It was also appreciated that J&K has performed well in implementation of OMMAS.

## 10. Quality

i) Out of 571 ongoing packages, labs were requested to be established in 3 packages. UT representative informed that labs would be established in around 15 days. UT assured that they don't allow contractors to start works without establishment of Lab. The State was also requested to look into the unsatisfactory grading given for sub-base (10%) and base-course (13%) of roads. UT was requested to give special attention towards this aspect as these are the vital component of road and there should be no reason for these layers being graded as Unsatisfactory.

ii) SQM inspections are to be conducted immediately for 13 works which are more than which are 12 months old. UT representative informed that the 497 inspections have been conducted in FY 2023-24 till date and it is on course to achieve its target of 1399 SQM inspections for FY 2023-24.

iii) 34 ATRs of NQM inspections are pending from the UT. The UT was requested to send ATRs to NRIDA at the earliest.

iv) 12 complaints are pending at UT level for disposal. UT was requested to dispose off the complaints at the earliest.

v) In the NQM inspections conducted during September, 2020 to August, 2023, 6.42% completed works, 5.97% ongoing works, 26% maintenance works and 16% bridge works were graded as Unsatisfactory, which is very high. UT was asked to specifically focus on bringing down U% of maintenance works. UT assured that they would work hard to bring down U% on maintenance.

vi) During the SQM inspections conducted during the same period, 1.50% completed works, 3.64% ongoing works, 16.35% maintenance works and 1.14% bridge works were graded as Unsatisfactory. UT was requested to see if the remedial action has been taken on Unsatisfactory bridge works.

vii) UT was also requested to send the reply on the complaints pending since 2021. The UT agreed to send the inputs after consultation with NRIDA.

viii) It was observed that following SQMs are giving less Unsatisfactory percentage:

| Sr.No | Name of the SQM     |
|-------|---------------------|
| 3     | Bhat Bashir Ahmad   |
| 4     | Gandhi Puran Bharat |
| 5     | Gupta Rajan         |
| 9     | Khan Ajaz Ahmad     |
| 12    | Kumar Suresh        |
| 13    | Mantoo Farooq Ahmad |
| 15    | Mehra Ashwani Kumar |
| 16    | Mir Fayaz Ahmad     |



| <b>Sr.No</b> | <b>Name of the SQM</b> |
|--------------|------------------------|
| 23           | Sharma Om Prakash      |
| 27           | Wani Aijaz Ahmad       |
| 28           | Wani Mohd Ayub         |

UT was requested to evaluate the performance of SQMs and then allot the inspections. SQMs having the tendency of giving more satisfactory percentages should not be allotted more number of inspections. The UT representative mentioned that already several SQMs have been de-empanelled.

#### **11. Financial issues**

- i) Interest amount of Rs. 2.39 crore is pending to recover from bank. UT was requested to take necessary action in this regard.
- ii) Internal Audit is not yet conducted. UT was asked to get it conducted at the earliest.
- iii) Minutes for Audit Committee were requested to be submitted at the earliest
- iii) 28 works pending for financial closure for more than 180 days as on 04-09-2023. UT was asked to financially close these works at the earliest.
- iv) UT share of Rs. 0.556 crore is pending to be credited into SNA.
- v) UT is liable for penal interest as the central share has been credited after the 30 days deadline.
- vi) Rs. 0.502 crore central share of interest pending for FY 2022-23, which has to be remitted to CFI.

UT was asked to resolve issues mentioned at (iv), (v) & (vi) so that funds could be released in the future.

**Subject to the compliance of the observations/recommendations as discussed above, the Empowered Committee approved the instant proposal of Jammu & Kashmir.**

Meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to and from the chair.

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