

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 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2023

To


Secretary Roads & Building Department,  
Government of Gujarat, Block No. 14/2,  
New Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**Sub: Minutes of Pre-Empowered Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 03:00 PM to consider the project proposals submitted by the State Government of Gujarat under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III), (Batch-I, 2022-23) -reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith the minutes of Pre-Empowered Committee meeting held on 16th January, 2023 at 03:00 PM to consider the project proposals submitted by the State Government of Gujarat under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III), (Batch-I, 2022-23)

2. The State Government is requested to furnish compliance on all the observations of Pre-EC on priority.

  
(Devinder Kumar)  
Director (RC)

**Copy to:**

- i. Shri Y.M. Chavda, The Chief Engineer cum Empowered Officer, Block No. 14/3, New Sachivalaya, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- ii. All Directors in National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA), 15 NBCC Tower, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110001.

**Copy for information to:-**

PPS to AS (RD), PPR to JS (RC)

**Minutes of the Pre- Empowered Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 03:00 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 Pre- Empowered Committee was held through Video Conference on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 03:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (RD) & DG, NRIDA 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).

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

Dr. Ashish Kumar Goel	Additional Secretary (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA
Shri Amit Shukla	Joint Secretary (RC)
Shri Devinder Kumar	Director (RC), MoRD
Shri B C Pradhan	Consultant/Director (Tech), NRIDA
Shri Pradeep Aggarwal	Director (Projects-I), NRIDA
Dr. I.K. Pateriya	Director (Projects-III), NRIDA
Shri Nirmal Bhagat	Director (Finance), NRIDA
Shri J. K. Agrawal	Section Officer (RC), MoRD
<b>State Govt. Representatives</b>	
Shri Y M Chavda	CEO, GSRRDA
Shri T P Goswami	Dy. Executive Engineer, GSRRDA
Shri Parth Jani	Financial Expert, 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 OMMAS as on 04.01.2023				
Item	Nos	Length (in m)	Cost (Rs in Crores)	Avg. Cost/m (Lakhs)
LSBs	191	9819.367	623.96*	6.35
<b>*MoRD Share: Rs. 371.54 Cr.</b>		<b>State Share: Rs. 252.42 Crores</b>		

#### 4. General Observations

- (i) The State of Gujarat has been sanctioned entire allocated target length of 3012.50 km under PMGSY-III.
- (ii) State was asked to ensure that 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.
- (iv) PTA has not scrutinized proposals. Pre-EC has observed that if CRRI is not available, then other Institutes which are specialized in bridges may be assigned by NRIDA for PTA scrutiny.
- (v) 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. State was required to give justification why bridges are not proposed along the PMGSY-III roads. State was asked to ensure that all LSBs are on PMGSY-III roads uploaded on Geo-Sadak.
- (vi) 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. State was asked to examine the average cost. NRIDA should critically examine cost elements, bridge wise, and bring out the reasons for such increase.
- (vii) While analyzing the proposal district-wise, the Committee observed that the average cost is abnormally high in Ahmedabad, Bharuch, Dahod, Dangs, Gandhinagar, Junagadh, Mahisagar, Panchmahals and Sabarkantha districts. The State was asked to examine the high cost of bridges in detail and furnish proper justification for the same.
- (viii) State was advised to use new technology in case of short span bridges.

## **5. Compliance on the observations on sample DPRs**

(i) Most of the DPRs are not supported by design. Only drawings, Hydraulic report, Geotechnical report and cost estimation have been given. State has furnished compliance in the matter. NRIDA may scrutiny the design accordingly.

(ii) Pre-EC has 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. State has intimated that the bridges are proposed on existing causeway/minor bridges. Protection works are proposed at approach sides. Approach side slopes are restrained by providing protection wall to avoid private/farm land issues. *Pre-EC observed that NQMs may be detailed for verification on ground.*

(iii) Pre-EC has also 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. State has intimated that the protection work in form of retaining wall is proposed only in cases of high embankment. In all cases protection wall is proposed for height more than 2.5 meter followed by toe wall with stone pitching for height less than 2.5 meter to economies the structure. Pre-EC has observed that NQMs may be detailed for verification on ground as cost is abnormally high in a few districts.

## **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 625 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. 2.43 crore has been done. For the current financial year 2022-23, the maintenance liability is 4.69 crore and as on 14.01.2023, the expenditure is Rs. 1.22 crore only. State has not updated the OMMAAS for the fund credited to SRRDA's account under DLP.

Only 93.39 km road length has been renewed during current year. The renewal target for this year is 8621 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 116 packages pushed to e-MARG, 3 (3%) packages are pending for locking, 4 (3%) packages are pending for manual entry expenditure (MEE). 72 roads are eligible for routine inspection in December, 2022, 7 roads (10%) are pending for routine inspection (RI) missed. 01 package is pending for payment for >3 months. Payment of Rs.1.09 crore has been done using e-MARG in FY 2022-23. Total expenditure of Rs. 1.02 crore (92%) has been done on bills having liability of FY 2022-23, out of total expenditure of Rs. 1.09 crore using e-Marg. The State should take necessary steps to increase DLP expenditure on roads due for maintenance in 2022-23.

## **9. Quality**

- (a) Out of 98 ongoing packages, QC labs have not been established in 3 packages. There are 9 works which have not been inspected even once. These should be inspected immediately.
- (b) Number of active SQMs is 15 against the requirement of 28 SQMs. During 2022-23, 1618 SQM inspections are targeted and till date, only 725 inspections have been conducted which is meager. State was asked to expedite pace of inspection to achieve the target.
- (c) 24 ATRs (07 completed works + 17 ongoing works) are pending at State Level. State should show substantial compliance for these pending ATRs before the EC meeting.
- (d) Unsatisfactory grading by NQM from January, 2020 to December, 2022 for maintenance works it is 18.75%. The unsatisfactory grading by SQM during the same period for maintenance works it is 34.33%. Thus, the quality grading awarded by the NQM and SQM on maintenance works are on higher side.

*State was advised to take immediate corrective action and show some improvement in the aforesaid issues and furnish the ATR before the EC meeting.*

## 10. SQM Analysis

It was noticed during the meeting that SQMs empanelled 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 10 such SQMs and find out whether the performances of such SQMs are satisfactory. **All the works inspected by them may be re-inspected by other SQMs under the supervision of SQC, EO and CEO.**

## 11. Financial issues

- (a) State has not submitted management letter alongwith Audited balance sheet of program fund, administrative fund and maintenance fund. The same may be submitted immediately.
- (b) Books of Accounts of Maintenance funds are closed upto March, 2022.
- (c) Interest verification certificate has also not been submitted for FY 2004-05 to 2008.09 & 2020-21 to 2021-22.
- (d) Financial closure of 39 no of works is pending for more than 180 days as on 13.01.2023. 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.

**12.** The State was asked to furnish the compliance report on the observations of the Pre-Empowered Committee urgently so that the proposal could be placed before the Empowered Committee at the earliest possible. New Technologies need to be adopted in sufficient number of bridges.

Meeting ended with Vote of thanks to the chair.

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