

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

Minutes of the 11th Meeting of the General Body of National Rural Roads Development Agency held on 15th September, 2009 at UNNATI, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

(List of members present is annexed)

At the outset the Director General extended a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and President, NRRDA and also to the members of the re-constituted General Body to the meeting. The DG, NRRDA apprised the President about the mandate of the agency as well as its functions and activities. Thereafter, the agenda was taken up for discussion with the permission of the Chair.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of the 10th meeting of the General Body held on 3rd November 2008.

- The General Body confirmed the proceedings of the 10th meeting held on November 3, 2008.
- The DG, NRRDA gave a summary of action taken in pursuance of decisions of the last meeting. In this context, the following observations were made by the members.
 - Shri SC Sharma, retired DG, MORTH, explained that large scale training and HRD activities of NRRDA has contributed in no small measure to the high quality of project construction under PMGSY. Around 17,000 engineers have been imparted training as a part of this initiative. He suggested that the HRD and training activities should be expanded and enhanced funding should be provided for this purpose. He also stressed on strengthening of the maintenance arrangements in view of the fact that around 2.2 lakh km of road construction has already been completed under PMGSY.
 - Shri HL Mina, Member, Public Service Commission, Rajasthan, indicated that large quantities of marble dust and limestone waste is

available in Rajasthan. Accordingly, R&D projects should be taken up for demonstrating utilization of these materials in construction of rural roads.

- Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor of the Ministry of Rural Development highlighted the need for using the EPC mode and PPP mode (annuity) of project implementation for ensuring sustainable maintenance and upkeep of rural roads over a period of 10-15 years. He suggested to initiate suitable feasibility studies for exploring these option.
- Dr Tara Datt, Secretary(RD), Government of Orissa, suggested that regional variations should be kept in view while designing the maintenance arrangements. He also suggested that State Governments should be allowed to enter into separate maintenance contracts since in many cases it is observed that the contractors are not adequately performing the five year post construction maintenance activities.

Item No. 2: Approval of Budget Estimates for 2009-10

The DG, NRRDA explained in brief the budget proposals made in the Agenda, major items of expenditure proposed and reasons for major variations as compared to the BE & Actuals for 2008-09. He informed that e-procurement is a new item of expenditure in this year and is being introduced in 13 States for which a provision of about Rs. 3.70 Crore has been proposed. The members emphasized upon the need for providing funds adequately for important activities such as Training, R&D, HRD, etc. The Director General informed that under the head Training, Rs. 80 lakh have been proposed against the actual expenditure of Rs. 16 Lakh incurred during last year. Similarly, for the Technical Development and Research work against the expenditure of Rs. 2.00 lakh during last year, Rs. 40 lakh have been proposed for this year. The General Body considered the proposed receipts totaling to Rs. 7,480.15 crores and expenditure totaling to Rs.7,480.01 crores and after due deliberations approved the proposed Budget Estimates for 2009-10.

Item No. 3: *Any other item with the permission of Chair*

In his concluding remarks Minister (RD) and President, NRRDA, took note of the technical and management support provided by NRRDA for the implementation of PMGSY and made the following observations:

- Minister, RD emphasized upon the need for convergence of PMGSY and NREGA duly maintaining the quality of the roads. Areas of convergence should be identified so as to ensure maximum utilization of rural labour force.
- He observed that the existing tracks actually used by the villagers are being selected as the alignment for PMGSY roads. In the absence of provision for land acquisition at some locations provision of proper geometrics is not being ensured leading to accidents. Keeping this in view he suggested that appropriate road safety measures should be ensured in the planning and construction of PMGSY roads.
- Minister(RD) and President, NRRDA also observed that the core networks prepared under the scheme during 2003-04 contain many deficiencies. In some cases link roads, which are preferred options of the local inhabitants, have not been incorporated in the core network. In some cases there are missing links. In some other cases eligible habitations have also been left out. An exercise is required to be carried out for identifying and addressing these deficiencies.
- Minister(RD) and President, NRRDA observed that high volume of traffic in the areas where mining operations are carried out should be factored in while designing PMGSY roads. Specifications and design of the pavement should be based on the projected traffic volumes having due regard to the expected growth in the economic activities in the region due to provision of all weather connectivity.

- Minister(RD) and President, NRRDA advised that appropriate provisions and safeguards should be built into PMGSY guidelines for eliminating unauthorized sub-contracting. Similarly, suitable provisions should be incorporated in the guidelines to build appropriate incentives and disincentives in respect of adequate funding of maintenance requirements. He also advised that emerging growth centres in States should be identified in order to enhance rural road connectivity in those areas for facilitating the growth process.
- Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor suggested that the option of levying toll on commercial vehicles plying on high volume rural roads may be explored with a view to generating revenues for ensuring regular maintenance.
- Dr. Sikdar emphasized on the need for provision of appropriate geometrics in rural roads and updation of the core network.
- The General Body resolved to place on record its deep appreciation of the services rendered by the outgoing Director General.

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