

**National Ruiral Roads Development Agency  
Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India  
New Delhi**

**Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the General Body of National Rural Roads  
Development Agency held on April 16, 2007 at NRRDA, Bhikaji Cama Place  
New Delhi**

( List of members present is annexed )

The Director General welcomed the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and President NRRDA and the members of the General Body to the meeting. He informed that the main issues listed for discussion in the meeting were the Budget Estimates for the year 2007-08 and Quality Monitoring. Under the additional items, he requested the President for permission to inform the General Body about the National Workshop scheduled to be held in May 2007.

The Agenda was taken up for discussion with the permission of the Chair.

***Item No. 1. Confirmation of the proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the General  
Body held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.***

- The General Body was informed about the action taken on the issues raised by the Secretary, Madhya Pradesh and Commissioner, Rural Development, Uttar Pradesh in the last meeting. As regards revision of estimates in cases where no response was received from bidders even after repeated rounds of bidding, Ministry of Rural Development would have no objection to the revised estimates provided that the State Government is willing to bear the differential cost.
- For financing State share of cost of bridges exceeding 25 metres, arrangement has been made for sanction of assistance by NABRD under RIDF.

- Regarding the issue of completion of pending work departmentally, the Director General informed that such proposals are being considered by the Ministry on a case-to-case basis.
- The General Body considered the proceedings of the previous meeting and confirmed the same.

***Item No. 2    Approval of Revised Estimates for the 2006-07 and Budget Estimates for the year 2007-08.***

- It was pointed out by AS&FA, MoRD that the opening balance for the year 2006-07 was more than the grants-in-aid during the year. It was explained by DG that the balance available from the previous year was on account of excess receipts during 2005-06 and the same was to be utilised for payments to consultants under ADB during 2006-07
- Regarding the comment of the AS&FA on increase under provision of professional services, it was explained that this was on account of services hired for various studies required to be undertaken for the second World Bank loan, payments for these studies have to be made during the year 2007-08. It was further informed that increase in the provision under Workshop and Conference was on account of the National Conference on Rural Roads to be held in May 2007.
- AS&FA suggested that NRRDA should consider increasing provision for advertisements and publicity and workout a strategy for IEC.
- The Budget Estimates for the year 20078-08 were approved by the General Body.

***Item No.3 Approval of Annual Action Plan for the year 2007-08.***

- The DG briefed the General Body about the Annual Action Plan of NRRDA which apart from the normal working, included certain important issues.
- *Technical Audit:* The DG informed the Committee that the draft reports for three States had been received which would be discussed with the respective States. Similar audit would be carried out in other States during 2007-08
- *Cost Audit:* Cost Audit of estimates had also been initiated and is being taken up on a pilot basis in three States.
- *Manual:* The Design for the Manual of flexible pavements, and CD structure is expected to be released by the IRC in June.
- The draft Manual on Design Construction and Maintenance of Gravel roads has been received and is under examination.
- It is also proposed to prepare a Manual on DPR preparation.

AS&FA suggested that while clearing projects, we should focus on states which are lagging behind in implementation of the programme and are unable to draw their share of Cess allocation.

***Item No. 4 Review of Quality Mechanism.***

- Director P-III Shri P.K. Katare briefed the General Body about the review being carried out of the first and third tier of quality monitoring to ensure its effectiveness. He informed the General Body about the workshop being held to obtain a feed-back on the Quality Assurance Handbook which prescribes the tests etc. to be carried out by the first tier. He also informed that it is

proposed to release the Handbook during the Conference to be held in May, 2007

- Shri C.K. Singh brought to the notice of the General Body that in Bihar and Jharkhand, the second tier quality monitoring did not exist. General Body was informed by the DG that regular monitoring of the second tie had been started. Secretary(RD) was of the view that the financial incentives/disincentives should be provided where the prescribed quality mechanism has not been fully operationalised. President advised that NRRDA should monitor the performance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier in all States on a monthly basis and keep the states informed about the deficiencies observed regularly.
- Dr. Sikdar suggested that the district level and regional level laboratories in States need to be well-equipped for motivating retired professionals to take up assignments as SQMs. Financial support should be provided by NRRDA to states for strengthening these laboratories.

***Item No.5 Review of Standard Bidding Document.***

- Director P-III informed the General Body about the modifications carried out in the Standard Bidding Document on the recommendation of the Committee set up for the purpose.
- The representative of Government of Madhya Pardesh suggested that the financial bonus may be provided for projects completed before schedule. Shri S.C. Sharma, however, felt that such a provision has yielded mixed results in case of NHAI. Director CRRI observed that while providing incentives for timely completion it needs to be ensured that the project conforms the prescribed quality standards in all respects. Keeping these observations in view, it was decided that the results of the recently introduced provision to

non-financial incentive for timely project completion may be observed and evaluated for at least a year before any further modification is made.

***Item No. 6 Any other item with the permission of the Chair.***

- The General Body was informed about the National Conference on Rural Roads scheduled to be held on 23-24 May, 2007. Hon'ble Prime Minister will inaugurate the conference and will also release the Rural Roads Plan – Vision 2025. More than 1000 participants from the States and Central Government, academic institutions, construction industry and professional bodies are expected to participate in the Conference. Minister (RD) requested all members of the Governing Body to participate in the conference and contribute their ideas for comprehensive development of the sector.
- Minister(RD) also suggested that impact assessment studies should be carried out by NRRDA through reputed institutions to systematically document the socio-economic impact of PMGSY. He was of the view that benefits of the programme need to be quantified and shared with the citizens keeping in view the huge investment being made on PMGSY. Such studies should bring out the impact of rural roads, *inter alia*, on migration, access to education and healthcare, on cost of agricultural inputs and on price realization by the farmers on their produce. Employment generation potential of investment of rural roads, both direct and indirect, also need to be quantified through these field studies.

The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

**ANNEXURE****MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL BOODY**

1. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Hon'ble Minister MoRD & President, NRRDA.
2. Dr. Subas Chandra Pani, Secretary MoRD, New Delhi.
3. Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, MoRD, New Delhi
4. Shri J.K. Mohapatra, Joint Secretary(RC) and Director General, NRRDA..
5. Shri P.C. Sastri, Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Andhra Pradesh
6. Shri H.P. Shivhare, Chief Engineer, representing Principal Secretary, RD, Madhya Pradesh.
7. Prof. P.K. Nanda, Director, CRRI, New Delhi
8. Shri S.C. Sharma, Retd. DG, MoR, Delhi
9. Prof. P.K. Sikdar, Director, International Consultants & ATechnocrats Pvt. Ltd.
10. Dr. C.K. Singh, E-in-Chief - cum Addl. Commissioner.