

National Rural Roads Development Agency
Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the General Body of National Rural Roads Development Agency
held on 28th September 2006 held 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. The Agenda was taken up for discussion with the permission of the Chair.

Item No. 1 Confirmation of the proceedings of the fifth meeting of the General Body held on the 20th April 2006

The General Body considered the proceedings of the previous meeting and confirmed the same.

Item No. 2 Adoption of the Audited Accounts for the year 2005-06

It was pointed out by AS & FA of the MoRD that substantial closing balances were available with NRRDA both under the grant-in-aid received from the Ministry as well as funds under the World Bank assisted technical assistance component. It was explained by the DG that the balance available under the general grant-in-aid component would be utilized during the current year to clear the claims of the project management consultants engaged for the ADB assisted rural road project in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. As regards the balance available under the TA component, it was explained that these funds were received in the month of March. However, the available funds under this

component would be fully utilized during the current year for training and for providing support to States to strengthen their quality control laboratories and project preparation capabilities. The General Body took note of these clarifications and accordingly adopted audited accounts for 2005-06.

Item No. 3 Adoption of Resolution for filing of Tax returns of NRRDA

Director (F&A) explained the details about the Resolution for filing of Income-tax returns which was approved and adopted by the General Body.

Item No. 4 Amendment to the Memorandum of Association of NRRDA

Director General NRRDA informed the General Body about the approval of the Cabinet for Rs. 16,500 crores loan from NABARD to meet the targets of Bharat Nirman. As NRRDA would be agency taking the loan on behalf of the Ministry of Rural Development, its Memorandum of Association and Rules required amendment to meet the requirements. The General Body approved the proposed amendment.

Item No. 5 Empanelment of Hospitals under NRRDA(Medical Attendance) Byelaws 2004

The empanelment of the hospitals approved by CGHS in Meerut under the NRRDA Medical Attendance Byelaws 2004 was approved by General Body.

Item No. 6 Amendment to NRRDA (Pay and allowances) Byelaws 2004

The proposed amendment to NRRDA (Pay and Allowances) Byelaws 2004 to bring it in line with the Government of India rules on transport allowance was approved by the General Body.

Item No.7 Annual Report 2005-2006

The Draft Annual Report placed before the General Body was considered and approved.

Item No.8 Any other item with the permission of the chair

- (i) The DG mentioned that in view of the expanding workload of NRRDA, in the context of Bharat Nirman, it is necessary to strengthen the agency by recruiting more domain specialists either on contract or on deputation. This should, however, necessitate revision in the compensation packages. The General Body agreed that NRRDA would require strengthening and directed that a concrete proposal should be placed in the next meeting.
- (ii) Principal Secretary (RD) Madhya Pradesh raised the following issues for examination of the Ministry/ NRRDA.
 - (a) The State Government should be fully empowered to revise the schedule of rates as and when necessary keeping in view variations in the market prices of construction materials and wage rates.
 - (b) If after several rounds of bidding adequate response is not received for a package, the State Governments may be empowered to revise the estimates.
 - (c) The existing restrictions on central assistance for bridges exceeding 25 metres should be reviewed.
- (iii) Commissioner (RD), Government of UP raised the following issues:
 - (a) The State Government may be permitted to utilize savings from the earlier phases (Phase I and II) for the ongoing projects.
 - (b) When a work is abandoned by the contractor and adequate response is not received from the bidder to complete the balance work, the work should be allowed to be completed departmentally.

Hon'able Minister of Rural Development advised that the issues raised by the Principal Secretary (RD), Government of Madhya Pradesh and Commissioner (RD), Government of Uttar Pradesh may be examined by NRRDA and the Ministry.

In his concluding observation the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development informed the General Body about the massive expansion in the programme size under Bharat Nirman which is a bold initiative of the Central Government to augment rural infrastructure in a time bound manner. In order to achieve the targets set under Bharat Nirman, the programme implementation and contracting capacity of the States have to be substantially enhanced. In addition constraints on availability of construction materials would have to be addressed with appropriate technology intervention. In many States, project preparation also get delayed on account of clearances required under laws relating to forest, environment and wild life. Efforts are being made in consultation with Ministry of Environment & Forests to secure faster clearance under these laws. Hon,ble Minister highlighted the need for strengthening institutional arrangements at the State level to ensure sustainable maintenance of rural roads. He informed the General Body that he has written to all the Chief Ministers' and also to the Planning Commission to specifically monitor this aspect. Plantation of trees on rural roads is yet another area on which action is required to be taken by States. The Ministry of Rural Development has separately requested the State Government to utilize the resources available under the wage employment programme for planting trees on both sides of rural roads. M(RD) has also advised the Chief Ministers to confer usufructory rights on the private lands owners to ensure proper upkeep and maintenance of trees. Hon,ble Minister thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution. M (RD) highly emphasized on maintaining quality of works, technical audit, need for creation of citizen's information board.

The meeting included with the votes of thanks to the Chair.

Members of the General Body of NRRDA

1. Dr. Raghuvarsh Prasad Singh, Hon'ble Minister MoRD & President, NRRDA.
2. Smt. Renuka Viswanathan, Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi and Vice President, NRRDA.
3. Shri. Atul Chaturvedi, AS&FA, Ministry of Rural Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Shri J.K. Mohapatra, Joint Secretary (RC) & Director General, NRRDA.
5. Shri. Pradip Bhargav, Principal Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development Deptt.,
6. Dr PK Nanda, Director CRRI, New Delhi
7. Shri Prashant Singh, Director, DEA, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of Additional Secretary, DEA, Ministry of Finance, Govt of India
8. Shri. S.R Meena, Commissioner, Rural Development on behalf of Principal Secretary, Rural Development, Secretariat, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
9. Mr Tribhuvan Ram, President IRC.
10. Shri S.C.Sharma, Retd. DG, MoRTH,.Govt of India
11. Dr. C.K. Singh, Engineer-in-Chief cum Addl. Comm. Cum Spl. Secretary (Retd.), Jharkhand
12. Prof. P.K.Sikdar, Director, Intercontinental Consultants & Technocrats Pvt. Ltd.,