

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PRE-EMPOWERED COMMITTEE FOR
PMGSY HELD ON 27th SEPTEMBER 2012**

STATE: WEST BENGAL – Phase X (2012-13)

A Meeting of the Pre-Empowered Committee (EC) for PMGSY was held on **27th September, 2012** at 11.00 AM in the Chamber of Joint Secretary (RC), Department of Rural Development to discuss the proposals to provide connectivity to eligible habitations for IAP and Non-IAP districts in the State of West Bengal under PMGSY. List of participants is given below:

Dr P K Anand	Joint Secretary (RC)
Shri P K Katare	Director (P-III), NRRDA
Dr I K Pateria	Dir(Tech), NRRDA
Shri. Bhupal Nanda	Dir (F&A), NRRDA
Shri S Kukreja	Jt. Dir (F&A)
Shri P.Manoj Kumar	Director (RC)
State Govt Representatives	
Shri. S. Das	Pr. Secretary, P&RD
Shri.Satyabrata Chakrabarti	Additional CEO
Shri. Bikram Das	Technical Adviser

2. Details of proposals discussed by the Committee for the State of West Bengal are as under:

Value of projects proposed (Rs. in crore)		3575.78
Total no. of road works		1415
Total length of road works (in km)		6065.133
Total no. of Habitations Benefited		1065
New connectivity	Cost (Rs. in crore)	3051.48
	No. of road works	1065
	Length (km)	5220.55
	Number of Habitations covered	1065
	Average cost per km (Rs.in Lakhs)	58.45
Upgradation	Cost (Rs. in crore)	524.30
	No. of road works	350
	Length (km)	841
	Number of Habitations covered	0
	Average cost per km (Rs. in lakh)	62.34

3. In addition to the above, proposals for 6 packages covering 35.81 km length to the tune of Rs. 22.11 crore (14 habitations) were also discussed by the Committee, which were

considered by the Empowered Committee (EC) in its Meeting held on 23rd January 2012 and recommended in principle approval for the proposals subject to fulfilment of all conditions laid down in the PMGSY guidelines. Further, a proposal for 14 packages covering 84.175 km length to the tune of Rs. 51.99 crore (31 habitations under RRSIIP Batch I ADB project) was also discussed in the meeting for consideration.

4. The Pre-Empowered Committee reviewed the progress since the previous Empowered Committee Meetings held on 16.08.2011 and 23.01.2012 and considered the institutional capacity of the State to efficiently execute the PMGSY works with the requisite attention to quality. The Pre-Empowered Committee also considered attainment of PMGSY, public disclosure norms in terms of the physical and financial and accounting data entered by the State in the programme software, Quality Monitoring, OMMAS and the diligence in maintenance of the high quality assets created under the programme for the long term reduction of poverty.

5. Financial Controller (PMGSY) in the State was not present in the Meeting, though he was expected. His absence was viewed seriously. It was informed that the incumbent is under order of transfer and the substitute has just joined. The Committee also advised the State to fill up the post of SQC, as the present incumbent is retiring on superannuation.

6. Following issues were discussed in the Meeting.

6.1. It was observed that average cost of the road works is much higher compared to the average cost of works sanctioned to the State previously. Also, the average cost reported for up-gradation of works is higher than that of New Connectivity work, which appears to be unrealistic. It was decided that the State should review the cost estimates, particularly in respect of length of Cement Concrete road works, Protection works. Accordingly, the revised estimates considering the observations of NRRDA, which has already been sent to the State, should be sent to NRRDA for scrutiny immediately. The issue of Providing Hard shoulders along with Cement Concrete Roads works was discussed wherein the State informed that this has been provided as per the recommendation of PTA, IIT Kharakpur. It was discussed that this needs to be looked into keeping in view of the overall perspective and cost implications on the project.

6.2. The State was advised to correct the data of already sanctioned works of different phases on OMMAS. Data should also be fed into OMMAS on a regular basis and State should ensure that data entered on OMMAS is accurate.

6.3. The Committee advised the State to send consolidated proposals for dropping of all roads in the prescribed format along with requisite certificates immediately for approval.

6.4. The Committee observed that the pace of implementation is slow and it needs to be considerably accelerated in order to ensure timely completion of the ongoing works. As per OMMAS, 647 roads works sanctioned upto March 2010 are yet to be completed. The State was informed that stage-wise status of all road works sanctioned upto March 2010 should be sent along with a completion plan for all incomplete works in the prescribed format (copy of the format provided to the State).

6.5. The Committee observed that the amount of maintenance credited by the State is low. It was informed that an amount of Rs. 31.54 crore and Rs. 106.44 crore was credited to WBSRRDA during the years 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. The State further agreed that it will take immediate action to strengthen maintenance management system. It was also stressed to carry out PCI survey before December 2012, to which the State agreed.

6.6. While appreciating the quality of ATR, the Committee observed that the number of ATR submission is below the expected number. It was decided that the State will upload ATRs on OMMAS for all completed works immediately. It was reported that 15 % ongoing and 21 % completed works found unsatisfactory by NQMs during the period from April 2011 to June 2012 necessitated improvement in quality.

6.7. While reviewing the quality monitoring mechanism in the State, the Committee observed that the second tier quality monitoring mechanism in the State is quite weak considering the size and number of districts in the State. The State reported that there are 25 SQMs in position, who are retired Engineers from PWD. The Committee observed that number of SQMs under 2nd tier quality monitoring system should be increased. The State was informed that care should be taken while assigning districts to SQMs that no SQM should be assigned to their home district and rotational policy should be adopted for assignment. It was clarified that the State can induct SQMs at the level of Executive Engineer also.

7. Following issues concerning to Financial Management/Accounting were also disused.

7.1 . The Committee observed that huge unspent balance is lying in the savings account, which needs to be deposited in 'Fixed Deposit', considering the financial requirements, which would attract higher interest.

7.2. Cheques valuing Rs. 17 lakh debited twice, which needs to be looked into.

7.3. Financial data should be updated in OMMAS.

7.4. The State was advised to take immediate action for financial closure for all completed works.

7.5 The State agreed that it will report the financial requirement (quarterly) during the year 2012-13.

7.6. The State informed that it did not require any substantial funds till March 2013.

8. On a query raised by the State Government regarding utilization of savings amount, it was clarified that the savings amount due to difference of tender amount and sanctioned amount may be utilized for other road works sanctioned under the same phase/batch, as per para 11.5 of the PMGSY guidelines.

9. The State proposed that all activities as mentioned at para 6 and 7 above will be completed within one week. The Committee advised that the State should furnish all information at the earliest so as to enable the Ministry to fix up an early date for Empowered Committee Meeting

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