

**Minutes of the Regional Review Meeting for the States of Gujarat,
Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan on 31st January,
2020 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

A Regional Review Meeting was held on 31st January, 2020 at Ahmedabad under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA for the states of **Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan** to discuss Progress of works, Planning, New and Green Technology, Contract Management, Finance & Accounts, Quality and Maintenance of works. The meeting was attended by State officials, Director (RC), MoRD and Director(s) from NRIDA.

At the outset, Secretary (R&D), Govt of Gujarat welcomed the AS(RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA, Directors of NRIDA and the State representatives who had come to attend the Regional Review Meeting. The meeting was inaugurated by lighting the lamp. Secretary (R&D), Govt of Gujarat informed that for the state PMGSY-I & II are over and now the state is focusing on PMGSY-III. He further informed that MMGSY was launched in the State of Gujarat in 2016-17 and more than 80% of the project is complete.

AS (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA also thanked the SRRDA officials of Gujarat for conducting this Regional Review Meeting at Ahmedabad. She informed that we are nearly on the completion stage of connectivity under PMGSY-I. DG, NRIDA informed that **Hon'ble MRD has desired to identify such roads which are more than 4 years old and not yet awarded and that no further funds shall be released for these works. Also, if these works are not completed by March, 2020, the states shall bear all the cost from the State budget for them.** Further, AS (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA urged the SRRDAs to emphasise more on completion of PMGSY I and PMGSY-II targets. She informed that Secretary, RD, Government of India has prepared teams of officers who will visit SRRDAs to get the figures of progress of works that have to be chased. She suggested that the roads which are upto to the WBM level may be foreclosed. GIS mapping is to be given high priority as it is primary criteria for sanction of PMGSY-III. AS (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA informed that no further sanctions will be given under PMGSY-I as the cut off date was March 2019. She further informed that the cut off date for PMGSY-II will be March 2020.

In her address, AS (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA emphasised on upkeep and maintenance of roads. She stated that the **states need to focus on maintenance budget planning and monitoring system.** The comparison was also shown to the States w.r.t. the achievement in the quarter of 2018-19 and 2019-20 (upto Jan. 20). Madhya Pradesh achieved 60% of road length w.r.t. 2019-20 target (2400 km), Maharashtra achieved 11% and Rajasthan achieved 38% of road length w.r.t. to their allotted targets (500 km and 150 km

respectively). Pace of constructions are relatively slow with comparison to the achievement made during last year upto Dec.2019. **States have been advised to increase the pace of work in the remaining period. DG, NRIDA desired to expedite the completion of works under PMGSY-I.**

With respect to balance lengths of states, it was informed that the state of Gujarat has 11.91 km, Karnataka has 0.48 km, Madhya Pradesh has 1294.48 km, Maharashtra has 743.49 km and Rajasthan has 141.33 km of balance length. Engineer-in-Chief of Madhya Pradesh informed that out of the total balance length of 1294.48 km, balance length of 529.67 km of PMGSY-I will be completed by March 2020, and the balance length of 689.74 km of PMGSY-II will be completed by June 2020.

AS (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA briefed about pending roads, especially that are more than 4 years old need to be completed by March, 2020. State of Gujarat has 4 no. of such roads covering 11.91 km and 1 no. of such bridge work. State of Karnataka has 2 no. of roads with a length of 0.48 km. COO, Karnataka informed that this 0.48 km showing on OMMAS needs to be corrected. AS (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA suggested to discuss and resolve the issue with C-DAC. State of Madhya Pradesh has 21 no. roads covering road length of 32.74 km and 18 no. of bridges. Engineer-in-Chief, MPRRDA informed that 20 no. of works will be completed by March, 2020 and 1 no. of road work will be proposed for dropping. Maharashtra has 57 no. of works covering a length of 212.48 km and 22 no. of bridges and Rajasthan has 30 no. of road works covering a length of 104.12 km. Representative from State of Rajasthan informed that out of 30 no. of roads, 13 are in progress, 4 are to be desanctioned, 7 are pending due to forest issue and 2 have land disputes. DG, NRIDA directed Director P-II to visit the State of Maharashtra for a review of State with all the PIUs. Due to inadequate representation from the state of Rajasthan at the Regional Review Meeting, AS (RD), MoRD & DG, NRIDA expressed displeasure and proposed a separate Review Meeting for the state to be held on 11.01.2020 at New Delhi.

AS (RD) in her presentation briefed about **pending works held up for completion due to forest clearance. States were advised to either resolve the matter with the concerned department** for early completion of these road works or drop the works.

AS (RD) further highlighted progress made by the States under Green Technology during the year 2019-20 and overall length sanctioned and achieved. States were advised to speed up the progress of works under R&D, so that targeted length allotted to the States can be achieved by end of March, 2020, as the progress in the year 2019-20 is not up to the mark. **Further, States were advised to submit the performance evaluation report for the**

good practices under R&D. Further, DG, NRIDA informed that under PMGSY-III, it is mandatory to propose 15% of the total road length proposed using waste plastic. **Regular review at micro level should be done to achieve the target under R&D.**

With respect to status of eMARG, Deputy Director (P-I) asked for complete roll out of all the states by 31st March, 2020 and all maintenance related payments should start from 1st April, 2020 using eMARG as per MoRD, GoI instructions.

DG, NRIDA emphasized for strict quality control and upkeep of works with highest standards as per norms of PMGSY. She also emphasized for proper maintenance of rural roads, emphasizing on preventive maintenance, 5 year Defect Liability Period (DLP), allocation of funds by State to ensure that PMGSY roads are in good condition during and after its design life period of 10 years.

DG, NRIDA stated that the maintenance of roads have to be taken on mission. It is about 5.20 lakh km of road length under maintenance. It is now required to initiate micro management maintenance contract. Maintenance funds required as per Contract, amount credited in account of SRRDA and amount utilized by SRRDA during last year and current year were also discussed. As per information received from the States, during the current fiscal year, in case of Gujarat, the Maintenance amount required is 11.05 Cr, whereas the amount credited is 6.67 Cr and the amount spent is 4.38 Cr. In case of Karnataka, the Maintenance amount required is 25 Cr, the amount credited is 6.25 Cr and the amount spent is 62.63 Cr. In case of Madhya Pradesh, the Maintenance amount required is 79 Cr, the amount credited is 79 Cr and the amount spent is 46.16 Cr. For Maharashtra, the Maintenance amount required is 35.26 Cr, the amount credited is 35.26 Cr and the amount spent is 18.65 Cr. In case of Rajasthan, the Maintenance amount required is 69.74 Cr, the amount credited is 20 Cr and the amount spent is 14.94 Cr. In respect of percentage of Unsatisfactory(U) grading given to works based on NQM inspections for the current financial year (upto 25.1.2020), DG, NRIDA informed that for Gujarat and Maharashtra, the percentage for maintenance works are on higher side (20.59% and 45.83% respectively). It was reiterated that maintenance of built assets is of utmost importance and the states need to take a serious view of the same. States were advised to look into the matter with their respective finance department for release of funds.

A brief overview of the deliberations, issues discussed and decision taken are as below:

| Issues | Discussions | Decisions Taken | Action to be Taken by |
|--|--|---|--|
| Status of work unawarded and balance length | DG, NRIDA highlighted the issue of unawarded works and balance length and also uploading of the awarded works on OMMAS. The State of Madhya Pradesh has unawarded length of 29.5 km under RCP LWE and State of Maharashtra has 142.54 km of unawarded length (123.24 km under PMGSY-I and 19.30 km under RCPLWE). | States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been advised to quickly tender and award the PMGSY works, which have been sanctioned in the recent past. | Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh |
| Pending works due to Forest Clearance | State of Gujarat has 3 no. of works having length of 7.4 km, Madhya Pradesh has 23 no. of works covering a length of 180.91 km, Maharashtra has 5 no. of works covering length of 22.84 and Rajasthan has 15 no. of works covering a length of 61.60 km pending due for forest clearance. | All Chief Engineers have been advised to take up the matter with forest departments, proposal should be submitted for dropping, if works are not feasible. | All SRRDAs Except Karnataka |
| PMGSY-II | Under PMGSY-II the participating states have already achieved more than 90% length of their allotted targets | | |
| Physical Progress | Project sanctioned, completed and balance yet to be completed under PMGSY was discussed with participating States on the basis of data uploaded on OMMAS. States were advised to speed up the execution of works in the remaining period of this financial year and all efforts should be made to achieve the annual targets. | States should increase pace of execution of works within remaining period for achieving the target by March 2020. Data needs to be entered very carefully and updated on OMMAS on regular basis. | All SRRDAs except Gujarat and Karnataka. |

During the review meeting, Director (P-III & CQC) highlighted about the details of works sanctioned vis-a-vis field laboratories not established. The State-wise bifurcation is as below:

| State | Detail of Sanction Works | | | Field Lab not established | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------|
| | Total Sanctioned works | In progress awarded works | Packages Involved in awarded works | Total | | More than 6 months | |
| | | | | Nos | % | Nos | % |
| GJ | 4615 | 48 | 34 | 19 | 55.88 | 1 | 2.94 |
| KN | 3638 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MP | 20250 | 1013 | 664 | 57 | 8.58 | 26 | 3.91 |
| MH | 6833 | 153 | 147 | 55 | 37.41 | 31 | 21.08 |
| RJ | 17254 | 65 | 41 | 2 | 4.87 | 2 | 4.87 |

CQC informed that as per guidelines, field labs should be established before start of work and percentage should be within 10%. SQCs of participating states were advised to monitor closely and ensure that all pending field laboratories are established at the earliest and uploaded on OMMAS. States should take action against those contractors who are not establishing field laboratories at the site before start of the work and no payment should be done to the contractor without establishing field laboratory.

In Gujarat, out of 42 works, 8 works are such in which payment of more than one lakh have been made and the works have not been inspected even once by SQMs. In Madhya Pradesh, out of 193 works, 31 works; in Maharashtra, out of 95, 20 works and in Rajasthan, out of 20 works, 2 works are such where payment of more than one lakh has been made and works have not been inspected even once. None of the cases have been reported from the State of Karnataka.

With respect to comparison of Grading of works inspected by NQMS and SQMs during 2019, Director(P-III)/ CQC informed that in the state of Gujarat total no. of roads inspected by SQMs and NQMs are 28 out of which no. of roads with same grading from NQM as well as SQM are 16 and no. of roads with mismatched grading are 12 (42.85%). In case of Karnataka, total no. of roads inspected by SQMs and NQMs are 40, out of which no. of roads with same grading from NQM as well as SQM are 20 and no. of roads with mismatched grading are 20 (50%). For Madhya Pradesh, total no. for roads inspected by SQMs and NQMs are 987, out of which no. of roads with same grading from NQM as well as SQM are 892 and no. of roads with mismatched

grading are 95 (9.62%). In case of Maharashtra, total no. of roads inspected by SQM and NQM are 75, out of which no. of roads with same grading from NQM as well as SQM are 55 and no. of roads with mismatch grading are 20 (26.66%). In case of Rajasthan, total no. of roads inspected by SQM and NQM are 294, out of which no. of roads with same grading from NQM as well as SQM are 227 and no. of roads with mismatched grading are 67 (22.78%).

CQC further highlighted details of works assigned and inspected by NQMs in December, 19 in respect of completed, in progress and roads under maintenance. In case of Gujarat and Karnataka, no. of works assigned were 0 and no. of works inspected by NQMs were 0; for Madhya Pradesh, no. of works assigned were 164 and no. of works inspected by NQMs were 79, for Maharashtra, no. of works assigned were 18 and no. of works inspected by NQMs were 10 and for Rajasthan, no. of works assigned were 22 and no. of works inspected by NQMs were 17.

It was observed that for the project sanction year 2013-19, in the State of Gujarat, there are 3 contractors whose works have not been inspected even once by NQMs. Similarly, in Karnataka, there are 14 contractors; in Madhya Pradesh, 82 contractors; in Maharashtra, 18 contractors and in Rajasthan, there are 5 contractors whose works have not been inspected even once by NQMs. SQCs were advised to assign these works for inspection on priority.

Director (P-III & CQC) further highlighted about pending ATRs w.r.t. completed as well as ongoing works in the States. He informed that in case of Gujarat, among completed works, 1 ATR of 2015-16 is pending with State. In case of Madhya Pradesh, among completed works, 4 ATRs of current year and among ongoing works, 12 ATRs are pending with State (out of which 1 is of 2017-19 and 11 are of current year). In case of Maharashtra, among completed works, 1 ATR (2017-19) and among ongoing works, 4 ATRs (current year) are pending with the state. In case of Rajasthan, among completed works, 4 ATRs (current year) and among ongoing works, 1 of ATR (Current year) are pending with the state. No ATRs are pending for the state of Karnataka.

States were asked to resolve the issue of pending ATRs for both completed as well as ongoing works. It was reiterated that delay in submitting ATRs which were more than 5 years old recovery would be done for such works from the State Govt. States should give priority for SRI nature ATRs and submit within one month's time to NRIDA.

CQC pointed out that the poor maintenance of rural roads in these states is a cause of serious concern. He further informed about the percentage of 'Unsatisfactory (U)' grading of works in completed, ongoing and

maintenance works category for the period (April 2011 to Dec. 2019) which are as follows:

| State (s) | Completed Works (%) | Ongoing works (%) | Maintenance works (%) |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Gujarat | 0 | 0 | 20.21 |
| Karnataka | 0 | 0 | 9.33 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1.35 | 2.07 | 4.94 |
| Maharashtra | 0 | 4.76 | 37.06 |
| Rajasthan | 6.02 | 6.94 | 21.66 |

The figures clearly point out that the quality of roads has deteriorated owing to improper maintenance. Hence the states were requested to spend the money allocated to them for maintenance of roads.

In respect of pending complaints, it was discussed that for the State of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, 1 complaint each is pending which were sent to the states and 1 ATR is pending with state. For the state of J&K, only 1 complaint is pending for which ATR of NQM inspection is pending with the state. In case of Uttarkhand, 3 complaints are pending and for all the 3 complaints ATRs of NQM inspections are pending with State. States were advised to submit the reports without further delay.

CQC further briefed about complaints received on Meri Sadak App. Most of the complaints of participating states received were of 'Poor Quality' of road works. In case of Gujarat, percentage of complaints of 'Poor Quality' were 42.43%, in case of Karnataka, 41.66%, Madhya Pradesh, 48.20%, Maharashtra, 46.48% and in case of Rajasthan it is 44.10%.

DD (F&A) in his opening remark highlighted common observations found in Auditor Report and Balance Sheet. The issue of impact of GST for all the works individually for all category of works indicated in the advisory already issued to all the States vide which States were advised to work out the impact of GST and submit detailed proposals based on the same. Any cost excess shall be borne by MoRD and the state in the existing fund sharing pattern of PMGSY as may be applicable to the states. In spite of the above guidelines, it has been observed that the State(s) have not assessed the impact of GST holistically as per the guidelines and instead are referring proposals in a piecemeal manner seeking additional funds. Participating States were requested to follow the

guidelines and demand additional funds from Ministry of Rural Development, if required, after a complete analysis of all the pending cases.

DD (F&A) further informed that SRRDAs are not verifying the amount of interest being credited by banks in the saving bank accounts as well as Corporate Liquid Term Deposits (CLTDs) despite the auditors' comments. There are instances where banks delayed transfer of PMGSY funds to CLTDs account and have credited less interest than what was due in the SRRDA account.

Further, DD (F&A) highlighted the following issues related to finance and accounts:-

- Non-segregation of Bank Balance between Saving Bank Account and Fixed Deposit Account (Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra).
- Mismatch in Audited Balance Sheet of Maintenance Fund with OMMAS (Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh).
- Non-submission of Banker's Certificate showing interest amount received and bank balance under saving bank account and FDR account (Karnataka).
- TDS deducted by bank but not entered in OMMAS (Karnataka).
- Negative figure under some DPIU under the head No. 11.02 "Up gradation of Existing Roads-In Progress"(Programme fund- Karnataka).
- Negative Expenditure during the year under the head No 54.08 "Outsourcing Execution and Management Functions" (Admn Fund- Karnataka).
- Interest income has not transferred from incidental fund to Programme Fund (Rs. 1037.93 Cr.).
- Heavy balance in Saving Bank Account (Recovery of interest is pending) – Rs. 29.39 Cr. (Maintenance fund- Madhya Pradesh).
- Pending Stale Cheque (Madhya Pradesh).
- Heavy Balance in Saving Bank Account (Rs. 97.37 Cr) in Programme fund and Rs. 35.34 Cr in Administrative Expenses fund account (Maharashtra).
- Audited Balance sheet is not matched with OMMAS (Maharashtra).
- Heavy Balance in Current Bank Account (Rs. 57.99 Cr) in Programme fund and Rs. 4.87 Cr in Maintenance fund account.

DD (F&A) further asked the States to take immediate action for dispose-off works pending for financial completion (Madhya Pradesh- 292 out of which,

108 works are pending for more than six months; Maharashtra- 12 out of which 9 works are pending for more than six months and for Rajasthan- 31 works out of which 14 works are pending for more than six months). States were advised to provide detailed justifications with reasons (PIU name, package number etc.) duly signed by CEO/ENC/CE, if required in case of opening of lock for entry on OMMAS.

While closing the Regional Review Meeting (RRM), the following main action points for time bound compliance, for all States, were reiterated:

- (i) States should submit the consolidated proposal of road works held-up for want of forest clearance/ wild life sanctuary and land problem, if any to MoRD/NRRDA.
- (ii) States must quickly utilize the available financial resources and submit the utilization certificates promptly to the Ministry, for facilitating further releases.
- (iii) States should achieve 100% physical target by March, 2020 both in terms of length and habitations.
- (iv) PIUs should ensure constant and regular uploading of details of connected habitations against partially completed road length on OMMAS. This should be reviewed periodically at the level of SRRDA.
- (v) All R&D stretches or R&D road length must be shown in R&D Module of OMMAS.
- (vi) States should prepare systematic plan/ strategy for post 5 year maintenance of PMGSY road works.
- (vii) States to focus on completion of road works, particularly those roads which are pending for more than 4 years. The States to submit month-wise completion plan for the ongoing works.
- (viii) States should review the maintenance works/bills on quarterly or monthly basis and also upload the expenditure on Maintenance Module of OMMAS regularly.
- (ix) Proper monitoring of ATRs on the observations of the NQM inspections to be carried out by SQMs and SQC before submission of ATRs to NRIDA.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
