

**MINUTES OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE (HLEC) OF REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI) HELD ON
THURSDAY, 06TH AUGUST, 2020 THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCE**

The meeting started at 11.00 AM. The participants joined through Video Conference. The list of participants is attached. Chief Secretary welcomed the participants. The meeting proceeded to consider the agenda items one by one.

1. Actions taken subsequent to 9th HLEC Meeting held on 18/05/2020.

The ACS & CEO, RKI presented the Action Taken Report before the Committee. The ATR detailed the various sanctions issued by the RKI in line with the directions of HLEC with respect to various projects such as the Kuttanad flood resilience package of KSEB, various projects of Agriculture Department such as Strengthening Market Network in Kerala, Improved Infrastructural facilities to overcome flood and drought in Thrissur Ponnani Kole Lands, Infrastructure development works of Pampoorichal padasekharam in Ramamangalam panchayath, Ernakulam, and Athirappally Tribal Valley Agricultural Project, project of 25 LSGD roads from 4 districts, projects of PWD such as 21 PWD roads under 4 packages, Upgradation of Alappuzha – Changanassery road, and Restoration of Airport-Sanghumugham beach road in Thiruvananthapuram district, and Revenue Department's project of reconstruction and renovation of flood damaged village offices in Phase-I and Phase-2.

The CEO informed the Committee that Administrative Sanction have been accorded for projects worth Rs.5,799 crore, and that works have been awarded/ tendered for an amount of Rs.2,354 crore. The RKI has so far allocated an amount of Rs. 237 crore to various Departments/ implementing agencies, and the expenditure incurred as on date is Rs. 117 crore.

The Committee reviewed the status of various projects under RKI with the various Secretaries concerned. With respect to the PWD projects, CEO informed that projects worth Rs. 2,040.13 crore have been tendered/ awarded so far. Secretary, PWD mentioned that, all the 7 World Bank funded road projects have been tendered, and that the 4 road projects under KfW would be tendered by 15th August 2020. The KfW has very

stringent guidelines for Environment, Health and Safety aspects in their Standard Bid Documents (SBD), and this causes the delay in getting necessary clearances from the Bank. He assured that, by 31st of August, 2020, all road works would be tendered. Regarding the major project viz. Upgradation of Alapuzha-Changanassery Road to Semi elevated Highway, the work is likely to be awarded by 31st August, 2020. The expected date of completion of the project is February, 2023. For the Restoration of Airport-Shangumukham beach road in Thiruvananthapuram, ULCC is the qualified bidder. The Department has successfully negotiated with the firm, and selection notice was issued on 03rd August, 2020. Phase I will be completed within 6 months.

Out of Rs.392.09 crore worth LSGD road projects for which AS was issued, roads worth around Rs.50 crore have been tendered. The LSGD may furnish up to date details of works tendered to the RKI Secretariat urgently. AS for projects worth Rs.322.29 crore have been issued to Water Resources Department, of which projects worth only Rs. 71.305 crore have been tendered till date. ACS, WRD stated that he is personally monitoring the progress on a weekly basis, and he expressed hope that substantial progress will be achieved in this regard soon.

CEO stated that, out of the 14 projects of the Agriculture Department at a total cost of Rs.469.09 crore, 9 projects worth Rs.45.45 crore have been tendered. Principal Secretary, Agriculture stated that one of the approved projects is worth Rs.300 crore, with an implementation period of 5 years. Another project costing Rs.110 crore is expected to be tendered by December 2020. She informed that a total of Rs.230 crore expenditure is expected to be incurred during the current financial year.

The CEO further stated that, the Finance Department has exempted RKI projects from the quarterly budget ceilings prescribed, which will allow unrestricted expenditure for the RKI projects, and will not thus hinder the timely implementation of the projects.

He apprised the Committee that GoK has sought DEA's approval for the restructuring of the proposed World Bank Second Resilient Kerala Program Development Policy Operation (DPO-2) as a PfrR (Programme for Results).

It has also moved PPR for KfW Program Loan as a co-financing component on the World Bank's DPO-1. RKI has held initial discussions with the World Bank to formulate a PfrR. In the context of the restructuring of external assistance, now the RKI need to identify result indicators/ measures for the PfrR instrument for WB funding. These will be aligned with RKDP for availing funds at the earliest so as to support the next phase of the RKI.

The HLEC, having perused the ATR, issued the following directions.

(i) The Additional Chief Secretaries of Finance (also CEO, RKI) and Planning & Economic Affairs Departments will discuss the proposal for amendment in operational guidelines of RKI to expedite implementation of projects, identify methods for streamlining the process, and place before the next HLEC.

[Action: ACS & CEO, RKI; ACS (Planning & Eco. Affairs Dept.)]

(ii) Regular monitoring and review of RKI projects by Secretaries concerned should be ensured to expedite implementation. CEO, RKI will also review in consultation with Secretaries concerned.

[Action: CEO, RKI; All Secretaries concerned]

(iii) Water Resources Department will submit a proposal to RKI for construction of a groyne near the Thottappally Spillway. The RKI will evaluate the proposal and place the proposal for the consideration during the next HLEC.

[Action: ACS (WRD), CEO, RKI]

2. Presentation of DPRs/Presentation of new project proposals/ DPRs/ Estimates by various departments

i. PWD

In continuation to the project of 21 roads which was accorded Administrative Sanction vide G.O.(Rt.) No.235/2020/P&EA dated 29/05/2020, the Secretary, PWD presented before the Committee, the DPRs of 7 more roads under RKI. He informed that savings of approximately Rs.1,000 crore is expected for the already approved projects on account of elimination of land acquisition from the project components and also due to the fact that the department may have to hold certain

projects that requires the clearance from the department of Forest & Wildlife. He proposed that the present proposal of 7 roads worth Rs.1101.79 crore can be funded using these savings. He requested the HLEC to issue AS for the 7 road projects under consideration.

Decision taken

The HLEC approved the DPRs submitted by the PWD, and directed the RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the same.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

ii. Agriculture Department

a) Setting up of Centre of Excellence (COE) in vegetables and flowers at Ambalavayal, Wayanad.

The Agriculture Department presented before the Committee, the revised project proposal and requested to issue administrative sanction for the same. The total cost of the project is Rs. 13 crore; out of which Rs. 4.99 crore is expected to be met from the RKI.

Decision taken

The HLEC approved the the DPR submitted by the Agriculture Department and directed the RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the same, subject to the condition that the Department shall provide necessary manpower to man the project through redeployment, and no additional posts shall be created for the purpose.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

b) Comprehensive and Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme for Attappady Tribes

The Agriculture Department submitted the revised project proposal for the consideration of the HLEC and requested to issue Administrative Sanction for the same. The cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 7.99 crore.

Decision taken

The HLEC approved the DPR and directed the RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the same, subject to the following conditions, viz.,

- (i) there is no duplication of efforts with the Kudumbashree or similar Departmental projects in the project area;
- (ii) the Tribal Development Department will be consulted, and its services utilized during the project implementation so that the lessons of that

department's recent initiatives in this area are incorporated in the project; and

(iii) tie-up with the Civil Supplies Department will be ensured to explore the potential of domestic market of the produce.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

c) Strengthening of e- Governance in Agriculture Department.

The Agriculture Department resubmitted before the Committee, the project proposal for an amount of Rs.17.5 crore, with a reply to the queries earlier posed by the HLEC in its meeting held on 21/11/2019, and the Project Appraisal Form prescribed by the RKI.

Decision taken

The HLEC may consider approval of the DPR presented by the Agriculture Department at a reduced budget of Rs. 12 crore, and issued the following directions.

(i) The desktop computers proposed for procurement shall be replaced with laptops to the maximum extent possible, in order to ensure lesser maintenance and to maximise convenience, and thereby causing savings in the proposed cost of UPS and networking related equipment. Wherever possible, network printers shall be procured and installed instead of normal printers so that resources can be shared and capital cost be minimized.

(ii) The cost proposed towards handholding support, development of Digital Media Library and establishment of Digital Media Server etc. need to be optimized. Training and handholding support shall be provided through online facilities, thus minimizing the training cost and at the same time ensuring 24x7 support.

(iii) The cost towards networking and connectivity can also be reworked. To ensure better connectivity at minimal cost for the Information System, the Department shall utilize the upcoming K-Phone facility.

(iv) Seamless integration with ongoing ICT activities under various agencies under the Department need to be ensured for the project to achieve its desired outcomes.

(v) Modules for linkage of value addition and marketing of agro-produces through initiatives involving start-ups in the state may be added in the Information System.

The Committee directed the RKI to place the project proposal for in-principle approval of Council of Ministers, and subsequently, to issue Administrative Sanction to the project, subject to compliance of the directions mentioned above.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

iii. Reconstruction 5 no.s of flood affected LSGD bridges through LSGD Engineering wing

The LSGD presented before the Committee, the detailed investigation reports and estimates of the following 5 bridges for reconstruction under RKI.

(1) Thammanimattom hanging bridge over Muvattupuzha River in Ernakulam District, (2) Pakkoye bridge across Vanimel River in Kozhikode District, (3) Munnam kai thottil palam in Kozhikode District, (4) Repair works of Suspension Bridge at Payathuruth in Thrissur District, and (5) Mangattupalam Hajjiarpalli thukupalam in Malappuram District.

Decision taken

The HLEC approved the DPRs/Detailed estimates submitted by the LSGD and directed the RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the said works. The Committee stipulated that all projects involving building structures, suspending cables etc. (temporary or permanent) across inland water bodies shall strictly adhere to the vertical and horizontal clearance standards for inland navigation. Further, the requisite approvals/ clearances should be obtained in all cases.

[Action: CEO, RKI; Pri. Secretary, LSGD]

iv. Clean Kerala Company Ltd.

The LSGD presented before the Committee, DPRs of the following 3 projects, and requested Administrative Sanction and release of funds for the same.

- (i) Setting up of District Level Sorting & Segregation Facility in Thiruvananthapuram: *Rs.504.50 lakh*,
- (ii) Setting up of Material Collection Facility in all Government Offices: *Rs.274.13 lakh*, and
- (iii) Integrated Plastic Waste Management Facility: *Rs 201.90 lakh*.

Decision taken

The HLEC approved the DPRs and directed the RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the projects, subject to the following changes/ conditions.

Since LSGD is separately implementing material collection through Suchitwa Mission, for the project "Setting up of Material Collection Facility in all Government Offices", priority need to be given to those local bodies that have earmarked or utilised their plan fund allocation for the purpose and have made available the land/ space for these projects. The RKI funds shall be used to top-up the schemes initiated by the local bodies.

[Action: CEO, RKI; Prl. Secretary, LSGD]

3. Project Management Support Services (PMSS) of RKI

The CEO, RKI apprised the Committee that, in compliance of G.O. (Rt.) No.262/2020/P&EA dated 18/06/2020, an agreement was executed on 26/06/2020 with M/s KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. for a period of 24 months to provide Project Management Support Services (PMSS) to the RKI with the objective of providing technical, managerial and secretarial support to RKI. He informed that the firm has mobilized the resources (10 numbers out of the total 17) on site and has commenced the work on 01/07/2020.

Decision taken

The HLEC perused the matter, and directed that the units/ subject experts of the Project Management Support Services (PMSS) entity engaged for RKI projects will be linked/ attached to the Departments concerned, latest by 27th August, 2020. The CEO, RKI will hold a meeting with Departments concerned to coordinate this.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

Additional Item: Upgradation of Alappuzha-Changanassery road into semi-elevated Highway- Revised Estimate.

Secretary, PWD and CE, PWD informed that Administrative Sanction was accorded to the "Upgradation of Alappuzha- Changanassery road into semi-elevated Highway" for an amount of Rs.624.48 crore. However, since the project is thereby decided to be executed in EPC mode with a long term maintenance contract, the maintenance cost (4.5 % of the project

cost as per the EPC mode of contract) and cost escalation (5% of the project cost) which were not earlier mentioned in the estimate, need to be incorporated now. The revised cost, including the above components, will be Rs.671.66 crore. Hence, they requested to issue revised Administrative Sanction to the project.

Decision taken

The HLEC approved the revised estimate for the project at Rs.671.66 crore, and directed the RKI to issue revised Administrative Sanction to the project.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

The meeting concluded at 12.30 PM with a vote of thanks by the Chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation |
|---------|---------------------------|--|
| 1. | Dr. Vishwas Mehta | Chief Secretary |
| 2. | Shri T.K. Jose | Addl. Chief Secretary, Home & WRD. |
| 3. | Sri. R. K. Singh | Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance Dept. & CEO, RKI |
| 4. | Dr. Venu V. | Addl. Chief Secretary, Planning & Eco. Affairs Dept. |
| 5. | Dr. A. Jayathilak | Principal Secretary, Revenue |
| 6. | Smt. Sarada Muraleedharan | Principal Secretary, LSGD |
| 7. | Smt. Ishitha Roy | Principal Secretary, Agriculture & APC |
| 8. | Sri. Anand Singh | Secretary-II, PWD |
| 9. | Dr. Dinesh Arora | Secretary, PWD & Power Dept. |
| 10. | Smt. Mrinmayi Joshi | Staff Officer to Chief Secretary |
| 11. | Sri. Rajan M.V. | C.E, LSGD |
| 12. | Sri. Kesavan Nair | MD, Clean Kerala Company Ltd. |
| 13. | Sri. K. Sunil Kumar | Joint Secretary, RKI |
| 14. | Sri. Prasad Unnikrishnan | Programme Supervisor, PMSS, RKI |
| 15. | Sri. Rishi Shah | Engagement Manager, PMSS, RKI |