

**MINUTES OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL EMPOWERED
COMMITTEE (HLEC) OF REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI) HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 2020
AT CHIEF SECRETARY'S COMMITTEE ROOM, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**

The meeting started at 02.30 PM with the Chief Secretary in the chair. The list of attendees is attached.

Chief Secretary welcomed the participants. The meeting proceeded to consider the agenda items one by one.

1. Actions taken subsequent to 7th HLEC Meeting held on 21/11/2019.

The Committee perused the action taken report. Additional Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department who represented Principal Secretary (Planning) submitted that the proposal on changes that are to be brought in the operational guidelines of RKI for expediting implementation of projects has not yet been finalized. The Committee also noted that the LSGD has not submitted DPRs/ detailed estimates for the reconstruction of flood damaged bridges/ hanging bridges of LSGD. The Committee, having considered this, issued the following directions.

(i) Principal Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department will expedite the preparation of a proposal on changes that are to be brought in the operational guidelines of RKI for speedy implementation of projects, and place it before the HLEC immediately.

[Action: Prl. Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department]

(ii) LSGD shall prepare and submit a detailed proposal with cost estimates for the reconstruction of flood damaged bridges/ hanging bridges of Local Self Governments on a priority basis.

[Action: ACS, LSGD; CE, LSGD]

2. 4th Meeting of the Advisory Council of RKI

The Committee took note of the matter.

3. Nammal Namukkayi- People's Contact Programme

CEO, RKI explained to the Committee the activities undertaken so far. He informed that the programme was inaugurated by the Hon. Chief Minister on 21/01/2020. An online portal for the public to submit their views and suggestions is made operational. He informed the Committee that the additional fund requirement for the programme is yet to be finalized and that the revised budget will be presented before the next HLEC.

4. Amendment of approved list of PWD roads under RKI

ACS (PWD) requested the Committee to include two roads viz. (1) Arakkunnam-Amballoor-Poothotta-Piravam road in Ernakulam District and (2) Vayyatupuzha-Pothippad road in Pathanamthitta District, in the package of roads already approved by HLEC.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved the amendment of approved list of PWD roads under RKI by including the following roads.

(1) Arakkunnam-Amballoor-Poothotta-Piravam road in Ernakulam District, and

(2) Vayyatupuzha-Pothippad road in Pathanamthitta District.

Necessary steps shall be taken to amend the G.O. already issued regarding reconstruction of PWD roads.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

5. Project Appraisal Guidelines for the RKI

CEO presented before the Committee for its approval, a draft 'Project Appraisal Guidelines' for evaluating the projects which are submitted to RKI by various departments in future. He told that there are certain checklists in the document which will help the departments to go by the core principles underlying RKI as mentioned in the operational guidelines of RKI and to check the project's alignment to the programme chalked out in the RKDP. This will ensure that the projects proposed to be facilitated through the RKI, will follow the operational strategies of RKI, especially the following:-

- Adoption of higher standards of infrastructure in repair and reconstruction.
- Building ecological safeguards and standards into structures that will be constructed to equip new and restored assets to better withstand the onslaught of future disasters.
- Redesigning infrastructure from the point of view of resilience and sustainability.
- Substitution of conventional methods and technologies with alternate methods which are more cost-effective, less resource-intensive and give greater value for money.

The Committee discussed the draft guidelines in detail. Shri TKA Nair expressed his agreement with the draft guidelines and said that the departments, while submitting a project, shall certify that it has looked for every alternatives for the project and has found that it is the most cost-effective and most valued proposition that will cater to the aim, objectives and outcome of the proposed project. ACS (WRD) and ACS (Finance) suggested modifications in the operational guidelines of RKI for speedy execution of projects approved by the HLEC and subsequently by the Council of Ministers. CEO submitted that, based on the 7th HLEC decision, RKI has issued orders that in the case of project proposals for which the Council of Ministers has accorded in-principle sanction to take up the same under RKI, and the HLEC had examined the proposals in detail, the Secretaries concerned shall be authorized to issue Administrative Sanction without further placing the DPR in the HLEC, provided no technical sanctions are required in such cases and that the estimated cost is not above Rs.10 crore. This has been done for the speedy execution of the projects. Further, the 7th HLEC has entrusted the Prl. Secretary (Planning) to submit a proposal on changes that are to be brought in the operational guidelines of RKI so as to expedite implementation of projects. Secretary (WRD) requested to conduct a workshop for the departments for familiarization of the guidelines.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved the draft 'Project Appraisal Guidelines' for evaluating the projects which are submitted to RKI by various

departments in future. RKI shall conduct a workshop/ training session to the departments concerned to get them familiarized with the guidelines.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

6. Presentation of DPRs of approved projects of Water Resources

Department.

ACS (WRD) presented before the Committee, the DPRs/ DERs of the following projects which were approved in principle by the Council of Ministers.

- a) Completion of nearly completed KWA schemes: Rs. 182.6 Cr
- b) Post Flood Repair and Maintenance of Dams/ Regulators/ Canals/Irrigation Structures: Rs. 107.10 Cr

Chief Secretary expressed displeasure on not complying his earlier directions to form a separate vertical in Kerala Water Authority exclusively for septage treatment.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved the DPRs/ DERs for the projects and directed RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the projects viz. (a) Completion of nearly completed KWA schemes estimated at Rs.182.6 crore, and (b) Post Flood Repair and Maintenance of Dams/ Regulators/ Canals/ Irrigation Structures estimated at Rs.107.10 crore.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

KWA should create a separate vertical exclusively for septage treatment, by deploying qualified and competent manpower from within the establishment of KWA and without involving additional costs, and report to HLEC forthwith.

[Action: ACS, WRD; MD, KWA]

7. Presentation of new project proposals/DPRs by various departments.

The Committee considered various new projects submitted to RKI by departments. It also considered proposals submitted by Animal Husbandry Department, Dairy Development Department and LSGD-Roads, which were placed as additional agenda items. CEO submitted that the views of RKI on the projects are placed before the Committee as Annexure 12 to the agenda

notes. Chief Secretary directed that all proposals presented before HLEC shall invariably be authenticated by the Secretary of the department concerned.

i. Public Works Department

ACS (PWD) presented the project proposal along with its technical estimate for the reconstruction of flood damaged Sarangakkaavu Bridge in Alappuzha district for execution under RKI. The total estimate for the project is to the tune of Rs.12.5Cr. The Committee considered the proposal and decided as follows.

Decision taken:

HLEC recommended the project for placing before the Council of Ministers for approval. On approval, RKI shall issue Administrative Sanction to the project.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

ii. Water Resources Department

ACS (WRD) submitted a DPR for the 'Urgent rectification of damaged side protection walls of Regulator Cum Bridge at Chamravattom across Bharathappuzha' at an estimated cost of Rs.1.5 cr. The Committee considered the matter and decided as follows.

Decision taken:

HLEC recommended the project for placing before the Council of Ministers for approval. On approval, Water Resources Department shall issue Administrative Sanction to the project.

[Action: CEO, RKI; Secretary, WRD]

iii. Construction/ upgradation of substations of Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB)

The KSEB presented a proposal along with the estimate for the construction of (i) new 33 KV substation at Kidangara, (ii) new 110 KV substation at Kavalam, and (iii) upgradation of 66KV substation of Kuttanadu to 110 KV. The project is envisaged for strengthening the transmission system in Kuttanad, where drawing the distribution lines is difficult due to floods in each monsoon. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs.4260 lakhs.

Decision taken:

HLEC recommended the project for placing before the Council of Ministers for approval.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

iv. Animal Husbandry Department

ACS (AHD) briefed the Committee of the following projects viz. (i) Livelihood support scheme for the animal husbandry sector (Rs.77 crore), (ii) Central Hatchery at Chengannur (Capital cost Rs.12.92 crore and recurring cost Rs.3.22 crore), and (iii) Kerala Chicken Project (Rs.63.11 crore).

Chief Secretary directed to explore the possibility of taking up the aims and objectives of the Hatchery project through private sector participation rather than seeking commitment of funds from the Government. ACS (AHD) agreed that the proposal for enhancing the productivity of Central Hatchery at Chengannur may not be taken up under RKI.

CEO, RKI informed that RKI-IC has examined the project reports in detail and is of the opinion that, though the reports mentions that the Department of Animal Husbandry will implement the proposed project in consultation with the LSGD, there are no details on the proposed model of convergence specific to each of the project components. Moreover, the RKI has already accorded administrative sanction for Rs.205 crore to the Kudumbasree for implementation of livelihood projects. In these circumstances, CEO requested, it would be most prudent to clearly examine the prospects of convergence and collaboration across all the above-listed proposals under consideration, as well as the interventions for which administrative sanction has already been accorded. It is advised that there is clear demarcation of roles and responsibilities, and optimal utilization of existing assets to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed project. The proposal also does not explain how the assets and livelihoods created will be less vulnerable to future shocks and calamities. It does not throw light on how the proposed project will bring about a significant improvement of the pre-disaster conditions through the incorporation of new ideas, new

technologies, new approaches (may be national or international best practices), or any other means.

The Committee considered the matter and took the following decision.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved in-principle the projects viz., (i) Livelihood support scheme for the animal husbandry sector (Rs.77 crore) and (ii) Kerala Chicken Project (Rs.63.11 crore), subject to (i) incorporation of elements of convergence, optimal utilization of existing assets, and disaster-resilience, and (ii) clear demarcation of roles and responsibilities among various stakeholders like AHD, LSGD, Kudumbashree, Brahmagiri Development Society etc. HLEC further directed RKI to place the project reports before the Council of Ministers. Subject to the Council's approval, RKI shall issue Administrative Sanction to the projects based on the revised project reports to be submitted by Animal Husbandry Department taking into consideration the above aspects.

[Action: ACS, Animal Husbandry Department; CEO, RKI]

v. Dairy Development Department- MRCMPU- Establishment of Fodder Hubs in the Flood Prone Area with system assisted monitoring of the routine transactions.

ACS (AHD) presented the proposal of the Malabar Regional Cooperative Milk Producers Union Ltd. (MRCMPU) on 'Establishment of Fodder Hubs in the Flood Prone Area with system assisted monitoring of the routine transactions' to meet the urgent shortage of quality roughage feed material at affordable costs (Rs.3/Kg). The proposal is to the tune of Rs.630 lakhs, out of which, **Rs.540 lakh** is proposed to be met under RKI.

CEO, RKI informed that RKI-IC has examined the project reports in detail and is of the opinion that proposal establishes the context of the project and the urgent requirement to address the negative impact of the floods on the lives of the dairy farmers. It also reasonably estimates the associated costs and benefits, and the opportunities for livelihood and employment. However, it does not explain how the assets and livelihoods created will be less vulnerable to future shocks and

calamities. Further, it does not throw light on how the proposed project will bring about a significant improvement of the pre-disaster conditions through the incorporation of new ideas, new technologies, new approaches (may be national or international best practices), or any other means.

Decision taken:

HLEC recommended the project for placing before the Council of Ministers for approval. On approval, Animal Husbandry Department shall issue Administrative Sanction to the project.

[Action: ACS, AHD; CEO, RKI]

vi. Reconstruction of flood damaged LSGD roads under RKI.

CE, LSGD recalled that the reconstruction of flood damaged LSGD roads was taken up under RKI vide G.O. (Ms) No.25/2019/P&EA dated 13/08/2019, as per which a total of Rs. 488cr [Rs.315 cr for Category A roads (ROW >5 mtrs) & Rs.173 cr for Category B roads (ROW<5mtrs)] has been earmarked for reconstruction of LSG roads under RKI using DPL funds. He placed before the Committee, a list and estimates of 266 road works under category B in 7 districts (excluding Palakkad) of 194.63 KM length at a cost of Rs.67.9 crore, and requested to approve the estimates and accord Administrative Sanction to the said road works.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved the estimates and directed RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the works of 194.63 KM length of roads at a cost of Rs.67.9 crore.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

The meeting concluded at 03.30PM with a vote of thanks by the Chair.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Sri.Tom Jose	Chief Secretary
2.	Dr. Vishwas Mehta	Addl. Chief Secretary, Water Resources Dept.
3.	Sri. D.K. Singh	Addl. Chief Secretary, Agri. Dept.
4.	Sri. R. K. Singh	Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance & AH Dept.
5.	Dr. Venu V.	Principal Secretary, Revenue & CEO, RKI
6.	Sri. T.K.A. Nair	Member, HLEC
7.	Sri. Aravind Babu	Law Secretary
8.	Dr. B. Ashok	Secretary, Power & Water Resources
9.	Sri. N. Padmakumar	Commissioner, Rural Development
10.	Smt. Mrinmayi Joshi	D.S., Projects(WRD)
11.	Sri. Rajan M.V.	C.E, LSGD
12.	Smt. Remani Mathew	Additional Secretary, LSGD
13.	Dr. M.K. Prasad	Director, Animal Husbandry Dept.
14.	Sri. Ajith Kumar M.V.	Additional Director, Panchayath
15.	Sri. Venugopal N.	Director (TSO), KSEB Ltd.
16.	Sri. D. Anilkumar	EE, Chamravattam Project
17.	Sri. Rajeev N.	Assi.Executive. Engineer.Kseb.Ltd