

MINUTES OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL EMPOWERED COMMITTEE (HLEC) OF REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI) HELD IN VIRTUAL MODE ON MONDAY, 18TH MAY, 2020

The meeting was conducted in virtual mode. Agenda Notes were uploaded to the RKI portal on 11/05/2020. The communication regarding the same along with the username and password for the participant log-in was also shared via e-mail on 11/05/2020. Closing date for the reception of comments from the members/ date of conclusion of the meeting was fixed to be 18/05/2020. The list of participants is attached.

Outcomes/decisions regarding each of the agenda items of the meeting is as follows.

1. Actions taken subsequent to 8th HLEC Meeting held on 29/01/2020.

The Committee took note of the Actions taken subsequent to the 8th HLEC meeting dated 29/01/2020.

2. DPR submitted by KSEB on Kuttanad flood resilience package.

Project proposal of KSEB on Kuttanad flood resilience package to the tune of Rs.42.6 Cr was approved vide G.O(Ms)7/2020/P&EA dated 07/03/2020. The KSEB submitted the DPR of the project and the same was placed before HLEC for its consideration.

Decision taken

HLEC approved the DPR for the project and directed RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the same.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

3. Agriculture Department's Project on Strengthening Market Network in Kerala.

The project proposal to the tune of Rs.15 crore was recommended by HLEC on 21/11/2029 for issue of Administrative Sanction, subject to Council's approval, and was subsequently approved in-principle vide G.O. (Ms) No.34/2019/P&EA dated 12/12/2019. However, the Department later informed that the proposal needs to be modified in certain aspects. Since the revised DPR furnished by the Department varies considerably from

the original proposal, the revised DPR was placed for the consideration of the HLEC.

Decision taken

HLEC approved the DPR, and directed RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the project.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

4. Agriculture department: -Improved Infrastructural facilities to overcome flood and drought in Thrissur Ponnani Kole Lands

The Agriculture Department had submitted a DPR for the project titled 'Improved Infrastructural facilities to overcome flood and drought in Thrissur Ponnani Kole Lands (Phase 1)' for an estimated cost of Rs.102 cr. before HLEC on 21/11/2019. The HLEC considered the proposal and was of the view that the large number of the proposed elements will require significant collaboration and convergence with the Water Resources Department and that prior scientific hydrological studies be done to ensure resilience of the interventions proposed. Prospects of sourcing funds from other sources also require to be assessed. The Committee therefore directed that revised proposal incorporating the above should be submitted to the RKI for subsequent placing before the HLEC. Consequently, Agriculture Department submitted the revised proposal for the project which is proposed to be implemented in 4 phases at a total cost of Rs.298.38 crore. The RKI-IC in its meeting held on 17/03/2020 has examined the revised DPR recommended the same to be placed before the HLEC for its consideration. The DPR was placed before the HLEC.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved the DPR presented by the Agriculture Department and directed RKI to place the same for in-principle approval of Council of Ministers and subsequently, to issue Administrative Sanction to the project.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

5. Agriculture Department:- Infrastructure development works of Pampoorichal padasekharam in Ramamangalam panchayath, Ernakulam

The Agriculture Department had submitted a DPR for the project titled 'Infrastructure development works of Pampoorichal padasekharam in Ramamangalam panchayath, Ernakulam' for an estimated cost of Rs.5 cr. before HLEC on 21/11/2019. The HLEC considered the proposal and directed the department to examine the prospects for convergence with relevant Departments (Irrigation, Water Resources, LSGD, etc) and also to explore, the prospects for utilization of funds from alternate sources. The RKI-IC in its meeting held on 17/03/2020 examined the revised DPR submitted by Agriculture Department and recommended the same to be placed before the HLEC its consideration. The DPR was placed before the HLEC.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved the DPR presented by the Agriculture Department and directed RKI to place the same for in-principle approval of Council of Ministers and subsequently, to issue Administrative Sanction to the project.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

6. Agriculture Department:- Athirappally Tribal Valley Agricultural Project

The proposal for Athirappally Tribal Valley Agricultural Project was earlier placed before HLEC on 21/11/2019 and the HLEC decided that in-principle approval may be accorded for project proposal and the RKI will place the same before the Council of Ministers. Subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers, Detailed Project Report shall be submitted to RKI for placing the same before the HLEC, detailing the strategies for convergence, operational models, and other relevant details. Consequently, in-principle approval was accorded, vide G.O.(Ms) No.34/2019/P&EA dated 12/12/2019. Now the Department has furnished the DPR incorporating the changes suggested by HLEC.

The RKI-IC examined the DPR and advised that the Project Management Expenses shall be limited to Rs.1 crore. Subject to such revision, the DPR

was recommended to be placed before HLEC for its consideration. The DPR was placed before the HLEC.

Decision taken

HLEC approved the DPR, and directed RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the project, limiting the Project Management Expenses to Rs.1 crore.

7. LSGD roads:- 25 roads from 4 districts.

Reconstruction of flood damaged LSGD roads were taken up under RKI and the list of roads under the first phase of the same was approved vide G.O.(Ms.)25/2019/P&EA dated 13/08/2019. Now, the Project Management Unit (PMU)-LSGD has submitted the DPRs of 25 roads from this list, for an estimated cost of Rs. 53.14 Cr. The same was placed before HLEC for its consideration.

Decision taken:

HLEC approved the DPRs submitted by the PMU-LSGD, and directed the RKI to issue Administrative Sanction to the same.

[Action: CEO, RKI]

8.Public Works Department:- DPRs of 21 roads under 4 packages

Reconstruction of flood damaged PWD roads were taken up under RKI and the list of roads under the first phase of the same was approved vide G.O(Ms)25/2019/P&EA dated 13/08/2019. The PWD furnished DPRs with respect to 21 roads under 4 packages. The list of roads under four packages is placed as Annexure 7. Secretary (PWD) informed that the DPRs submitted by KSTP for RKI are final in terms of cost estimates for issue of Administrative sanction. As per the ToR for DPR preparation, there are other items like Environmental and social impact assessments which have to be submitted along with tender schedules, rate analysis and tender documents in final DPR after incorporating the comments from World Bank/KfW/RKI. He assured that these would be taken into account while issuing technical sanction for the projects. He therefore requested to consider all the 21 DPRs for issue of AS.

Decision taken:

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

[Action: CEO, RKI]

9. PWD:- DPR of Alappuzha – Changanassery road

The PWD has submitted a DPR for the upgradation of Alappuzha-Changanassery road (24.140 KM) for an estimated cost of Rs. 624.48 cr. The proposed upgradation is in light of the principles of resilience, especially in the context of the frequent flooding of the mentioned road in the monsoons. The project was decided to be taken up under RKI vide GO(Ms)No.212/2019/rev dated 02/07/2019, under the title 'construction of Alappuzha- Changanassery Elevated Highway'. The amount estimated for the project as per the same was to the tune of Rs.325-350 crores, significantly less than the budget estimated now. The DPR for the project is placed for the consideration of HLEC.

Decision taken

HLEC approved of the DPRs presented by the PWD and directed RKI to place the same for in-principle approval of Council of Ministers for the revised budget, and subsequently, to issue Administrative Sanction to the project.

10. PWD: - DPR for Restoration of Airport-Sanghumugham beach road in Thiruvananthapuram district.

The PWD has submitted a detailed estimate for the Restoration of Airport-Sanghumugham beach road of Thiruvananthapuram district for an estimated cost of Rs. 4.29 crores. In-principle approval for the project for inclusion under RKI was accorded vide GO(Ms)No.212/2019/rev dated 02/07/2019 for an estimated cost of Rs. 4.5 crore. Further Administrative Sanction for the project was issued by the PWD vide GO(Rt)No.5/2020/PWD dated 01/01/2020 and the steps are being taken by the PWD for tendering of the project. The detailed estimate and the project were placed before the HLEC for its consideration.

Decision taken

HLEC ratified the estimate submitted by the PWD and directed RKI to issue a comprehensive Administrative Sanction to the project.

11. Revenue Department: -Reconstruction and renovation of flood damaged village offices- Approval of revised list of village offices in Phase-I

Project proposal of Revenue Department for the reconstruction/ renovation of flood damaged village offices across the state for an estimated cost of Rs.35 crores was approved vide GO(Ms)28/2019/P&EA dated 15/11/2019. Later the department decided certain changes in the approved list of village offices. The department has submitted the revised list of village offices and the same was placed before the consideration of HLEC.

Decision taken

HLEC approved the revised list of village offices submitted by the Revenue Department, and directed the RKI to take necessary steps to amend G.O.(Ms.) No.28/2019/P&EA dated 15/11/2019 accordingly.

12.Project proposal for reconstruction (180 no.s) and renovation(41no.s) of flood damaged village offices as phase-2

The Revenue Department has submitted a project proposal for the reconstruction (180 no.s) and renovation(41 no.s) of flood damaged village offices across the state for an estimated cost of Rs. 173.49 crores. The project has been proposed as the phase-2 of the similar project already approved to be taken up under RKI vide GO(Ms)28/2019/P&EA dated 15/11/2019. The proposal was placed before the HLEC for its consideration.

Decision taken

HLEC approved the project proposal submitted by the Revenue Department and directed RKI to place the same before the Council for its approval.

13. Proposal for amendment in operational guidelines of RKI to expedite implementation of project taken under RKI

The 7th meeting of HLEC, held on 21/11/2019, decided the following:

"Principal Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department shall submit a proposal on changes that are to be brought in the operational guidelines of RKI so as to expedite implementation of projects."

The 8th HLEC meeting, held on 29/01/2020 further directed the Principal Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department to expedite the preparation of such a proposal and submit the same to HLEC urgently. The Member Secretary, State Planning Board who is also the Principal Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department, furnished a proposal regarding the modifications that are to be incorporated in the operational guidelines of RKI.

The RKI-IC examined the proposal in detail and the IC's comments/remarks on the said suggestions were also placed before the HLEC for discussion.

On the comments/remarks placed by the RKI-IC, the Member Secretary, State Planning Board who is also the Principal Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department has made item wise comments which is summarised as follows;

Item no.1. Kerala is a typical geographic region comprising of hill area, midland and coastal area. Hence, we suggested location specific standards in the sense that disaster resilient programme may be implemented in tune with specific location to location. Moreover, the nature of some disaster is unlike between urban and rural areas.

Item no.2. At present the Local Self Government Department have guidelines for implementing various projects which is not enough to ensure the RKI standards and specifications. The standards and specifications mentioned in the existing guidelines of RKI for implementing multidisciplinary projects should strictly followed by LSG departments. Hence for ensuring the quality of work, the existing norms may be updated with the RKI norms.

Item no.3. Inter disciplinary approach to RKI will be a multi-sector programme with the involvement of several government departments and agencies over certain period of time. Hence appropriate multi-disciplinary and institutional arrangements are very crucial for the success of RKI. Hence, it is essential that the stakeholder perspective can be brought into these institutional arrangements at all levels of implementation.

Item no.4. For the effective implementation of RKI projects, scrutinizing as to economic viability and feasibility check is a must. If Advisory Council (AC) of RKI is not dealing with such scrutiny a separate committee may be constituted in which three members of State Planning Board may be included.

Item no.5. The remarks of RKI may be agreed to.

Item no.6,7 and 8. Detailed discussions may be arranged with Member (Decentralised Planning Division), State Planning Board. DPC level monitoring of implementation mechanism for RKI projects can be initiated at District with the help of PLANSPACE.

Item no.9. A workshop may be arranged for collecting inputs for scrutinising the draft guidelines prepared by RKI through which concrete procedures for approval of schemes can be evolved.

Item no.10. Draft remarks on suggestion may be accepted.

Item no.11. The criteria for selection of individual beneficiaries may be in tune with the criteria of implementing agencies Eg., Kudumbashree., which should include both eligibility criteria and prioritisation.

Item no.12. State Plan Schemes at present are being concurrently evaluated at various levels such as Secretaries level in the meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, HoDs level by the Secretary of Administrative Department, District level implementing officers' level at DDC etc. using online plan monitoring software - PLANSPACE. Similar mechanism may be instituted for the concurrent evaluation of RKI schemes also. Once such an arrangement is made, the concurrent evaluation of schemes under RKI may be done. If the implementation progress of RKI schemes is incorporated in the PLANSPACE, the concurrent evaluation of such schemes can be done along with other plan schemes at various levels.

Item no.13. The Joint Secretary (Co-ordination) of DPC may be made convenor of the District Level Implementation and Monitoring set up, as he/she already has the responsibility of Co-ordinating plan schemes of Local Self Governments.

*Item no.14.*Even though RKI plan schemes are not regular plan schemes, monitoring of RKI schemes is possible in PLANSPACE by customizing it as per the requirements of RKI.

Decision taken

Discussion on the matter deferred to the next meeting of HLEC. Notwithstanding this, the Principal Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Department shall submit, in next HLEC meeting, a concrete proposal on changes that are to be brought in the operational guidelines of RKI, with the specific objective of expediting the implementation of projects.

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. T K Jose	Addl. Chief Secretary, PWD
4.	Sri. D.K. Singh	Addl. Chief Secretary, Agri. Dept.
5.	Sri. R. K. Singh	Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance & CEO, RKI
6.	Dr. Venu V.	Principal Secretary, Revenue & Member RKI-IC
7.	Smt. Sarada Mualeedharan	Principal Secretary, LSGD
8.	Sri. M Sivasankar	Secretary to Chief Minister
9.	Sri. K M Chandrasekhar	Member, HLEC
10.	Dr. K M Abraham	Chairman, RKI-IC
11.	Sri. T.K.A. Nair	Member, HLEC
12.	Sri. Aravintha Babu	Law Secretary