

## **Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the High-Level Empowered Committee (HLEC) of Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI)**

**06<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Chief Secretary's Committee Room**

The meeting started at 11:00 AM with the Chief Secretary in the Chair. After the introductory remarks of the Chair, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), RKI presented the agenda items. The Committee deliberated upon the agenda items, and the following decisions were taken:

### **Agenda Item 1: Action Taken Report on decisions of 21st HLEC meeting - 17th August 2023**

The RKI presented a report on actions taken in response to the decisions of the previous HLEC meeting. The Committee took note of the same.

### **Agenda Item 2: Project proposals submitted by departments - New Proposals and Ratification**

#### **Agenda Item 2.1: LSGD - Incremental Performance Incentive Grant under DLI 5**

The Deputy CEO, RKI presented to the Committee a proposal submitted by the Local Self Government Department as a Performance Incentive Grant (PIG) for the local bodies (LBs) in the Pamba basin with an estimated cost of ₹102 crore. The provision for PIG to eligible LBs is emphasized in the Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR) framework, and it is intended for incentivizing the LBs in appreciation of their initiatives to align the local body's overall yearly plans to the objectives of mainstreaming disaster and climate risk.

ACS, P&EAD explained the cross-cutting benefits of incentivization, and the way an assessment is carried out by LSGD using a tool, viz., Disaster Risk Management and Climate Action Tracker (DCAT), developed by the LSGD for the purpose of evaluation of the LBs. She added that two tiers of thresholds are identified for the incentivization, one would be as a baseline allocation, and another would be for additional allocation for LBs.

While considering the large quantum of eligible LBs as per current threshold, the Committee recommended that LSGD recalibrate the threshold so that it will be beneficial for the exceptionally well performing local bodies. CEO, RKI remarked that performance incentivization to local bodies is a maiden attempt of the Government, and this would be a much impactful intervention; however, due to the fixation in the plan size prevailing in the present financial year, the PIG allocation needs to be limited.

The HLEC deliberated on the proposal in detail, and decided to recommend earmarking the amount required for disbursing PIG, by limiting the requirement to ₹50.00 crore from the present financial year's RKI budget allocation for the consideration and approval of the Council of Ministers.

### **Decision Taken:**

1. The Committee recommended the proposal for disbursement of Incremental Performance Incentive Grant under DLI 5 to eligible LBs, by sourcing funds, limited to ₹50.00 crore, from the budget allocation of the RKI for the present financial year (2024-25), for the consideration and approval of the Council of Ministers. [**Action:**

**RKI]**

2. The Committee suggested that LSGD shall re-calibrate the thresholds and finalise the fund apportionment for the distribution of incentive grant. **[Action: LSGD]**
3. The Committee authorised LSGD to devise a suitable mechanism to ensure that the funds distributed will be utilised by the respective LBs by aligning their overall yearly plan to the objective of mainstreaming disaster and climate risks. **[Action: LSGD]**

**Agenda Item 2.2: LSGD - LiDAR survey in the Greater Pamba River Basin under KfW grants**

The PIU under LSGD for Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) 4 & 5 of RKP PforR presented the proposal before the Committee. The PIU informed the Committee that for formulating flood risk management measures for prevention, mitigation, and preparation, it is essential to have accurate and reliable terrain data. The available terrain data, mostly available as open source, are on a larger scale and are not suitable for accurately predicting floods and thereby providing sufficient mitigation measures to build resilience. For preparing a reliable precise flood forecasting and effective flood management plan, granular terrain data must be obtained. An accurate Digital Elevation Model (DEM) and Digital Terrain Model (DTM) will be a potential data to formulate strategies for various sectors and to detail out mitigation projects accurately. The present proposal intends to develop Digital Elevation Model (DEM) by conducting LiDAR survey in the greater Pamba river basin. The project area comprises the watersheds of Pamba, Manimala and Achenkovil rivers that span the districts of Idukki, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha with an extent of 4,500 sq.km. Out of this, four towns, namely Pathanamthitta, Adoor, Haripad and Mavelikkara, which have been separately surveyed and having a total area of approximately 75 sq.km. will be excluded. The LSGD PIU emphasised that granularity of the output (accurate terrain data) will enable development of precise flood models, derive mitigation strategies and enforcement of land use regulations. The estimated cost of the project is ₹8.80 crore (exclusive of GST). ACS, P&EAD highlighted the need for precise spatial data for preparation of risk-informed master plans, and the benefits of watershed-level approach since it will consider both fluvial and urban flood.

CEO, RKI informed the Committee about the available fund to accommodate the proposal under *KfW grant provision as Accompanying Measures to the Climate Loan Kerala, in-lieu of the 'Consultancy Services for Institutional Governance Reform and Business Planning for Kerala Water Authority'*, which is currently put on hold at the contract negotiation stage due to non-consensus on the scope of work.

The Committee appraised the cross-cutting benefits of the project to the other core areas of the RKP PforR, such as Development of Integrated River Basin Management Plan (under DLI 7) and Core Road Network (under DLI 9).

The HLEC considered the proposal, and recommended to drop the *'Consultancy Services for Institutional Governance Reform and Business Planning for Kerala Water Authority'*, and to take up the present proposal under KfW grant, at an estimated cost of ₹8.80 crore (exclusive of GST) in lieu of the dropped consultancy.

**Decision Taken:** The Committee recommended to drop the *'Consultancy Services for Institutional Governance Reform and Business Planning for Kerala Water Authority'*, and

to take up with the KfW the proposal for LiDAR survey in the Greater Pamba River Basin at an estimated cost ₹8.80 crore (exclusive of GST) in-lieu of the dropped consultancy. [Action: RKI]

### **Agenda Item 2.3: LSGD - Funding for activities under DLI 4 & 5 of the Resilient Kerala PforR for the period from July '23 to June '24.**

Two of the Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI 4 & 5) of the Resilient Kerala PforR framework are 'Urban local bodies developed and sanctioned risk informed urban master plans and priority action plans' & 'Climate risk information integrated into local body DRM plans' respectively. The LSGD is the nodal Department for DLI 4 & 5, and the LSG (Planning) Department and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) are the implementing agencies. The activities outlined under these DLIs include reforms related to risk-informed master planning by ULBs, incentivizing adoption of risk-informed urban master plans and priority action plans, and training and capacity building of ULBs on risk informed planning and investments, DRM Plans for LSGIs in Pamba Basin districts, developing technical tools and training, supporting investment planning integrating climate risk information at the local level, and developing the DCAT tool to track local investments. Considering that timely achievement of targets envisaged under these DLIs are critical for the success of the Program, a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU) was established based on the recommendation of the HLEC in its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

To meet the expenditure towards the activities in pursuance to DLI 4 & 5 for the period July 2023 to June 2024, LSGD had submitted a proposal for an amount of ₹11.36 crore. The RKI-Implementation Committee (RKI-IC) meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 had considered the proposal in detail. The Committee considered that timely achievement of yearly targets under DLI 4 & 5 would make the state eligible for a disbursement of approximately INR 790 crore (USD 95 million). Considering the quantum of funds associated with these DLIs, the expenses to be incurred in connection with the activities of the Department, including the PIU, were relatively nominal. Further, it would not be possible to identify new budget heads under the LSGD and earmark funds at that point of the financial year. Considering the rationale, the RKI-IC recommended the proposal for funding activities under DLI 4 & 5 for the period July 2023 to June 2024 at an indicative cost of ₹11.36 crore under the budget heads of the RKI. Based on the recommendation, the RKI accorded sanction, as per G.O.(Rt)No.419/2023/P&EA dated 30-10-2023, to pursue DLI 4 & 5 activities at an estimated cost of ₹11.36 crore from the RKI funds.

The matter was presented before the HLEC for considering the ratification of the action.

#### **Decision Taken:**

The Committee ratified the action of the RKI having issued sanction for ₹11.36 crore from the RKI funds for the activities in pursuance to DLI 4 & 5 for the period from July 2023 to June 2024.

### **Agenda Item 2.4: LSGD - LiDAR survey to develop Drainage Master Plans as part of DLI 4 of the Resilient Kerala PforR**

The Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) - 4 of the Resilient Kerala PforR framework envisages 'Urban local bodies developed and sanctioned risk informed urban master plans and priority action plans' in Pamba river basin. Since inundation is one of the key

vulnerabilities assessed in the Pamba basin ULBs, drainage plan has a vital role in the risk informed master plan preparation. For preparing a reliable drainage management plan in the towns, along with knowledge on Hydrometeorology, accurate information on the existing drainage system and an accurate surface model of the towns are essential. LiDAR based survey supported by necessary supplementary surveys such as topographical surveys, Hydraulic surveys, Drainage mapping survey, Bathymetric surveys would be helpful to collect the necessary information. Inter alia aims of the proposal is to develop an efficient storm water management system, forecast flood scenarios for different return periods, mitigate flooding of the town thereby minimise occurrence of damages to public/ private properties and public life, identify measures to improve ground water recharging etc.

In the above context, the LSGD had submitted a proposal for conducting a LiDAR survey to develop Drainage Master Plans for the towns of Harippad, Mavelikkara, Adoor and Pathanamthitta at an estimated cost of ₹ 3 crore as part of activities in pursuance of the DLI-4. The proposal was considered and recommended by the RKI-Implementation Committee (RKI-IC) in its meeting held on 27-09-2023, based on which, the RKI, as per G.O.(Rt) No.420/2023/P&EA dated 30-10-2023, issued administrative sanction for LiDAR survey to develop Drainage Master Plans at an estimated cost of ₹ 3.00 crore from the RKI funds.

The matter was presented before the HLEC for considering the ratification of the action.

#### **Decision Taken:**

The HLEC ratified the action of the RKI having issued administrative sanction for LiDAR survey to develop Drainage Master Plans at an estimated cost of ₹ 3.00 crore from the RKI funds.

#### **Agenda Item 2.5: WRD - Engaging Institute for Climate Change Studies (ICCS) for developing specific components of the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Plan for the Pamba Basin in connection with DLI 7 of Resilient Kerala PforR.**

The formulation of an Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) plan of Pamba Basin is the target of the third year which ends in June 2024, under DLI & of the Resilient Kerala PforR. As per G.O (Ms) No.12/2023/WRD dated 16-02-2023, the Water Resources Department (WRD) constituted the Mission Directorate for DLI 7 & 10 related activities under the Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR) and Additional Financing Program to facilitate expeditious planning, management and implementation of coastal protection works across the 9 districts and flood management activities in the Pamba Basin districts. The Mission Director submitted a proposal to the RKI requesting sanction to engage the Institute for Climate Change Studies (ICCS), Kottayam (an autonomous research institution under the Department of Environment, Government of Kerala), for developing specific components, viz., Climate Change Modelling and River Basin Modelling, of the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Plan for the Pamba Basin, in collaboration with the Irrigation Department, with an anticipated timeline of 6 months, and at a cost of ₹20.06 lakh (inclusive of all taxes).

The matter was considered by the RKI-Implementation Committee (RKI-IC) in its meeting held virtually on 28-02-2024. The RKI-IC, considering the short timeline for submitting the IRBM plan, acknowledged the necessity of services of a specialised consultancy and approved the proposal, and directed the RKI to issue necessary orders in this regard sourcing funds from the RKI. Subsequently, as per G.O.(Rt) No.97/2024/P&EA dated, 11-

03-2024 sanction was issued to the Mission Directorate to engage the Institute for Climate Change Studies (ICCS), Kottayam as the consultant for developing specific components of the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Plan for the Pamba Basin, viz., Climate Change Modelling and River Basin Modelling, by meeting the cost of ₹20.06 lakh (inclusive of all taxes), in this regard from the RKI funds.

The matter was placed before the HLEC for considering the ratification of the action.

**Decision Taken:**

The HLEC ratified the action of RKI in having issued sanction for engaging the Institute of Climate Change Studies (ICCS), Kottayam for developing specific components of the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Plan for the Pampa Basin, under DLI 7 of Resilient Kerala PforR, for an estimated amount of ₹20.06 lakh.

**Agenda Item 2.6: WRD- Administrative Sanction for the setting up of Mission Directorate for DLI 7 and DLI 10**

As per G.O (Ms) No.12/2023/WRD dated 16-02-2023, the Water Resources Department (WRD) constituted the Mission Directorate for DLI 7 & 10 related activities under the Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR) and Additional Financing Program to facilitate expeditious planning, management and implementation of coastal protection works across the 9 districts and flood management activities in the Pamba Basin districts.

The Mission Director submitted a proposal to the RKI requesting funds to the tune of ₹ 99,94,707/- (including GST) for the establishment of office for the Mission Directorate at the Dam Safety Headquarters Building at Thiruvananthapuram.

The proposal was considered by the RKI Implementation Committee (RKI-IC) held virtually in February 2024, and the Committee approved the budget of ₹ 99,94,707/- (including GST 18%) for setting up the office of Mission Directorate for DLI 7 and DLI 10. The RKI-IC further directed the RKI to issue necessary orders in this regard sourcing funds from the RKI; however, with the instructions that the overall expense of RBCMA related activities and the Mission Directorate should be limited to ₹ 8 crore, which had earlier been sanctioned, as per G.O.(Rt) No.918/2019/WRD dated 07-12-2019, under RKI for meeting the initial operation and consulting expenses related to the functioning of the proposed River Basin Conservation and Management Authority (RBCMA). Subsequently, as per G.O.(Rt)No.96/2024/P&EA dated, 10-03-2024, the RKI issued administrative sanction for setting up the office of Mission Directorate, at an estimated cost of ₹99,94,707/- by meeting the expenses from the RKI funds.

The matter was placed before the HLEC for considering the ratification of the action.

**Decision Taken:**

The Committee ratified the action of RKI having issued sanction to set up the office of Mission Directorate at an estimated cost of ₹99,94,707/- by meeting the expenses from the RKI funds.

**Agenda Item 3: Review of RKP Program for Results (PforR) and Additional Financing**

The Deputy CEO, RKI presented the status of all Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs),

and the next steps for the same.

**DLI 1:** The Debt Management Plan (DMP) has been drafted and placed before the Hon'ble Finance Minister for approval.

**DLI 2:** The DLI targets and the Study for the Social Protection Delivery Platform is on track.

**DLI 3:** The targets of the first and third year are achieved. The second-year target viz. *'Adoption and notification of institutional mechanism and implementing arrangements for disaster risk financing'* is pending. The draft structure for the institutional mechanism for Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) is currently under the consideration of the Hon' Finance Minister.

**DLI 4:** The DLI targets achieved till third year, and activities are on track.

**DLI 5:** Year 1 & 2 targets under the DLI have been achieved. The Year 3 target is also on track, and the DCAT assessment report on the local bodies, as part of achievement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year target, is ready.

**DLI 6:** Year 1 & 2 targets have been achieved. The development of a joint outbreak investigation protocol, as part of Year 3 activities, is on track.

**DLI 7:** The CEO, RKI informed that the World Bank has expressed concern about the delay in constituting the River Basin Conservation and Management Authority (RBCMA), and added that this delay has affected the satisfactory rating of the PforR program which has now got downgraded to moderately satisfactory rating. Moreover, CEO, RKI informed the committee that based on the assurance given by the Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department (WRD), he had assured DEA that the RBCMA would be formed by June 30, 2024. The Principal Secretary, WRD updated that the stakeholder consultations are in progress and upon receiving the comments from all Departments, the draft would be submitted to the Chief Secretary, and then to Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources. The Institute for Climate Change Studies (ICCS), Kottayam has been engaged to develop specific components, viz., Climate Change Modelling and River Basin Modelling of the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) Plan for the Pamba Basin. Further, the Department is yet to finalise the list of 30 interventions, which will have a bearing on the timely achievement of Year 3 target.

**DLI 8:** The targets for the DLI 8 have been achieved on a timely basis, and the DLI is on track. The Implementing Agency has submitted the Detailed Action Plan (DAP) for achieving the 5<sup>th</sup> year target, which is being examined by the RKI.

**DLI 9:** Year 1 target was achieved. The notification for recruiting assisting staff in the RMMS is issued. The budget allocation for the activities under the DLI is seen to be insufficient.

**DLI 10:** CEO, RKI highlighted the importance of DLI 10, which brought around ₹1600 crore of additional financing for implementing 30 interventions along the Kerala coastal line and informed that the Water Resource Department is in the process of selecting and finalising the interventions. Principal Secretary, WRD updated that steps to engage National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai for formulating the Shoreline Management Plan are in progress. Principal Secretary, Finance & CEO, RKI instructed the Water

Resources Department to examine supporting documents like work orders earlier issued to NCCR to ensure rate reasonability as a substantiating document, and for demonstrating their past experience as in formulating the Shoreline Management Plan in some other State.

**DLI 11:** The Government of Kerala published the Environment Budget for 2024-25. However, the Finance Department is yet to develop and notify Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) methodology and guidelines for conducting the tagging exercise in the subsequent years, for which discussions are ongoing with stakeholders.

#### **Decisions taken:**

1. Approval may be obtained from the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for finalising the Debt Management Plan under DLI 1, and the DRFI institutional mechanism structure under DLI 3 of the Resilient Kerala PforR. [**Action: Finance Department**]
2. The LSGD shall formulate and issue a comprehensive guideline for eligibility of local bodies for the Incremental Performance Incentive Grants. [**Action: LSGD**]
3. The processes involved in the formulation of draft RBCMA Bill shall be completed without further delay, and the draft bill shall be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval, at the earliest. [**Action: WRD**]
4. The Water Resources Department shall complete the preparation of an integrated river basin plan for Pamba Basin, without further delay, and shall also finalise the list of 30 interventions identified as part of achieving the Year 3 target under DLI 7, at the earliest. [**Action: WRD**]
5. The Public Works Department shall take immediate steps for approval of Forward Works Program (FWP) for at least 6000 km of Core Road Network (CRN) with sufficient budgetary allocation in the head of account related to climate-related maintenance works. Further, the recruitment process for capacitating the RMMS cell needs to be completed on an immediate basis. [**Action: PWD**]
6. The Water Resources Department shall finalise the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Shoreline Management Plan at the earliest. The Department shall also complete due procedure to engage agency for the formulation of SMP after examining substantiating documents regarding rate reasonability and its credentials and experience. [**Action: WRD**]
7. The Finance Department shall develop and notify the methodology and guidelines for conducting the Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) exercise. [**Action: Finance Department**]

#### **Agenda Item 4: New proposals for Technical Assistance from World Bank under RKP**

##### **Agenda 4.1: Study and development of an Externally Aided Project (EAP) Repayment Module**

The CEO, RKI explained to the Committee the need for a dashboard highlighting details on all EAPs and loans that have been availed by the Kerala Government till date. This dashboard would help monitor and plan for current and future obligations of the state w.r.t these loans, thus improving the fiscal sustainability of GoK. He apprised the Committee

that the proposal was discussed in the Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Resilient Kerala Program held in January-February 2024, the RKI and the Finance Department jointly considered to initiate discussions with the World Bank team to obtain technical assistance for the study and development of an Externally Aided Project (EAP) Repayment Module. The module will act as a dashboard for all EAP availed, and will contain the following data points:

1. Number of EAPs till date
2. Value and duration of each loan availed.
3. The interest rate associated with each loan (if applicable)
4. The currency in which the loan is denominated.
5. The payment schedule of each loan, along with history of past payments made.
6. The currency exchange rate prevalent at each payment and expected exchange rates for future payments (if possible, dynamic).
7. Any other data points that may be relevant.
8. Additionally, the WB was also to help develop measures to mitigate foreign exchange risk associated with loans, within the constraints of the GoK.

CEO, RKI added that such technical assistance can be undertaken within the same framework of the Program, without having to prepare and submit a separate Preliminary Project Report seeking additional external financing for the tasks.

The matter was placed before the HLEC for perusal and recommendations.

**Decision taken:**

The HLEC took note of the proposal, and advised to proceed with further steps in this regard, observing due procedure.

**Agenda 4.2: Fiscal sustainability of local self government institutions**

The Deputy CEO, RKI informed the Committee about a proposal for a technical assistance from the World Bank and other funding partners on fiscal sustainability of local self government institutions in association with LSGD. One of the key result areas of the ongoing Resilient Kerala Program for Results (RKP) is strengthening transversal systems for resilience of the state of Kerala, including fiscal sustainability, through strengthening revenue mobilisation of the state. The study intends to formulate strategies to achieve fiscal autonomy of local government institutions. It includes a rapid review of the statewide intergovernmental fiscal system, detailed landscape review of public finances of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) and creditworthiness assessments of city corporations etc.

The matter was placed before the HLEC for perusal and recommendations. The Committee deliberated on the complementing nature of this initiative and the newly constituted Urban Policy Commission.

**Decision taken:**



The HLEC took note of the proposal, and advised to proceed with further steps in this regard, observing due procedure.

### **Agenda Item 5: Value Capture Financing: Proposal for conducting a study through RKI**

The CEO, RKI, presented a proposal for conducting a study on the Value Capture Financing (VCF) tools in Kerala. Value Capture Financing is a mechanism used to recover a portion of the value generated from the public on implementation of infrastructure projects. Such an exercise was already conducted in smart cities across the country, and now, the GoK is considering implementing the same for the upcoming Outer Ring Road Project in Thiruvananthapuram City.

The proposal envisages a study of the various VCF instruments used, their relevance in the State of Kerala and the current and required guidelines, acts and amendments to be considered for implementation. The study can be conducted in 2 phases, with the first phase focusing on the preliminary assessment of “As-is” Scenario and creating an enabling policy and regulatory framework for VCF adoption through a State level VCF Policy, while the second phase focuses on a Detailed Assessment of VCF tools for the selected Infrastructure Project on Pilot Basis.

Considering the relevance of such an exercise to strengthening the fiscal sustainability of the state, the VCF can be leveraged as a mechanism to manage debt, and hence, it was proposed to conduct the first phase of the study as part of the DLI 1 (“*Strengthening fiscal sustainability of GoK to cope with disease outbreaks and natural disasters*”). The Phase 1 includes two work streams, viz., WS-1 (*Preliminary Assessment of 'As Is' scenario*) and WS-2 (*Create an enabling policy and regulatory framework for VCF adoption through a state-level VCF Policy*). For Phase 1, the required experts are proposed to be engaged through the existing engagement of Project Management Support Services (PMSS) at an estimated cost of ₹1.16 crore.

The Committee took note of the same, and approved the proposal. Further, the Committee suggested that a core group shall be formed to oversee the study and implementation of the VCF. The core group may also include some of the newly inducted IAS officers and other middle-level officers of the Finance Department, who can take the learning under the program forward.

#### **Decision Taken:**

1. The HLEC approved the proposal to conduct Phase 1 of the study as part of the DLI 1 by engaging necessary resources through the existing engagement of Project Management Support Services (PMSS), at an estimated cost of ₹1.16 crore. **[Action: RKI]**
2. The HLEC also recommended creation of a core group to oversee the study and implementation of the VCF. The core group may also include some of the newly inducted IAS officers and other middle-level officers of the Finance Department, who can take the learning under the program forward. **[Action: Finance Department and RKI]**

### **Agenda Item 6: Proposal for KfW Loan Period Extension**

The Deputy CEO informed the Committee of the existing engagement of the state with the KfW, materialised on 30-10-2019 for a total loan amount of 170 million Euros, i.e., Phase I – 90 million Euros & Phase II – 80 million Euros & a financing agreement for an amount of

3 million Euros, as Grant for Accompanying Measures to support the state in the rehabilitation and climate resilient reconstruction of flood-damaged infrastructure. The disbursement deadline as per loan agreements and financing agreement is December 30, 2024.

The KfW funded project envisaged reconstruction of 17 flood affected roads, comprising 370 kilometres. Total project outlay is ₹ 2,100 crore, including consultancy services. All the 17 works contracts were awarded by July 2022. However, several factors contributed to delays in the timely completion of the project as originally envisaged, including Covid-19 pandemic, procurement delays, right-of-way issues, public demands for road widening/lowering road levels etc., extended monsoon seasons, shortage of funds and contractor delays. In spite of these challenges, the overall physical progress under the project is 54.10%, including the completion of 5 works contracts, and another 5 projects which are expected to be completed by December 30, 2024. However, the remaining 7 works require additional time for completion. Further, the consultancy services for accompanying measures have also faced certain procurement delays, and hence, will be closed only by October 2026. In this context, the KSTP and the PWD have requested for a two-year extension of the loan term, i.e., till 30-12-2026. The Committee was further informed that when the matter was informally taken up with the KfW, the Bank had conveyed its concurrence; and thus, the state has to officially approach the DEA requesting for its support for extension of the loan term.

**Decision Taken:**

The Committee took note of the matter and directed the RKI to take further steps towards extension of the term of the loan, and thereby the disbursement deadline, by 2 years, i.e., till 30-12-2026. [Action: RKI]

**Agenda Item 7: Approval of Biannual Implementation Progress Report (BIPR) of the Resilient Kerala Program for Results (PforR): (a) Ratification of approval of the 4<sup>th</sup> BIPR and (b) Approval of the 5<sup>th</sup> BIPR**

The RKI is responsible for reporting progress on the implementation and achievement of results under the Resilient Kerala PforR, while the Implementing Agencies (IAs) under the Program are responsible for tracking progress related to their respective results areas. The information derived from the PMS and from the IAs are captured in Biannual Implementation Progress Reports (BIPRs). These reports are shared with the World Bank and other funding agencies after review and approval by the HLEC headed by the Chief Secretary. The 4<sup>th</sup> BIPR for the period March 2023 to August 2023 had been shared with the funding partners after approval by RKI-IC, in its meeting held on 23-12-2023, and obtaining subsequent orders from the Chief Secretary in file, since convening of HLEC was not feasible at that time. Now, the 5<sup>th</sup> BIPR for the period September 2023 to March 2024 is also prepared, which was also presented to the Committee.

The 4<sup>th</sup> BIPR for the period from March 2023 to August 2023 and 5<sup>th</sup> BIPR for the period from September 2023 to March 2024 was presented to the Committee for approval.

**Decision taken:**

The Committee ratified the approval of the 4<sup>th</sup> BIPR and approved the 5<sup>th</sup> BIPR with

direction to share the same with the World Bank and other funding partners. **[Action: RKI]**

### **Agenda Item 8: RKI: Allocation vis-à-vis Expenditure**

The Deputy CEO of RKI apprised the Committee that the RKI has so far issued Administrative Sanction for 110 projects at a total project cost of ₹8675 crore under 14 departments. He also presented the fund allocation and expenditure for the period from year 2019 to May 2024. Further he added that even though the expenditure of RKI crossed ₹1400 crore for the Financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24, the allocated amount for this current financial year was only ₹1000 crore, which may not be sufficient for the anticipated expenditure, in which case, additional fund allocation needs to be made to meet project related expenditure during the remaining months of the financial year.

**Decision taken:** The Committee took note of the same.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 PM

### **List of Participants**

1. Dr. Venu V., Chief Secretary & Chairman, HLEC
2. Mr. K M. Chandrasekhar, Former Cabinet Secretary & Member, HLEC
3. Ms. Sarada Muraleedharan, Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & EA
4. Mr. Rabindra Kumar Agarwal, Principal Secretary, Finance & CEO, RKI
5. Ms. Tinku Biswal, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department
6. Dr. B Ashok, Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary, Agriculture.
7. Mr Ashok Kumar Sigh, Principal Secretary WRD
8. Mr. Biju K, Secretary PWD & Tourism
9. Mr. Mohammed. Y Safirulla, Deputy CEO, RKI
10. Ms. Anukumari, Director, KSITM
11. Ms. Dharmalasri, Mission Director, PforR (DLI 7 & DLI 10)
12. Dr. Joy Elamon, Director General, KILA
13. Mr. K. G. Sanal Kumar, Law Secretary
14. Ms. Nirmala Cicily George, Project Director, SFAC Kerala
15. Mr. M. Sivadasan, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department
16. Ms. Beena Thankam, Deputy Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department
17. Mr. Maneesh M, Assistant Engineer, Irrigation department.
18. Ms. Bindu C P, Deputy Director of Agriculture, BDM Cell

18. Mrs. Bindu C F, Deputy Director of Agriculture, PPM Cell
19. Mr. Suresh C, Assistant Director of Agriculture, PPM Cell
20. Mr. Ramachandran Urban Consultant, PIU (DLI 4 & 5)- LSGD

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DR VENU V I A S  
CHIEF SECRETARY