

F.No DNER/NLP/6(CXXVI)/2014
Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
(NLCR-Coord)

Minutes of 127th Meeting of NLCPR Meeting held on 05.12.2014 at 12 hrs under Chairmanship of Secretary, M/o DoNER in Committee Room No. Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi.

Present

1. Shri R. Vijay Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of DONER---- in chair
2. Shri A.M Singh, Joint Secretary, M/o DoNER—Member Secretary
3. Shri Shambu Singh, Joint Secretary, M/o Home Affair (NE –Division)
4. Shri BK Pandey, Adviser SP (NE), Planning Commission
5. Smt Jhanja Tripathy, JS&FA, M/o DoNER
6. Shri R.C. Dhankar, Director, M/o DoNER
7. Smt Samita Arora, Dy Secretary,
8. Shri Atul Basumatary, Director, M/o DoNER
9. Shri B.N. Prasad, Director, M/o DoNER
10. Ms Mamta Sharma, Director, SPNE, Planning Commission
11. Shri K Dounge, Under Secretary, M/o DoNER

At the outset, Shri A.M. Singh, Joint Secretary after welcoming the representatives made brief presentation of the Agenda items of the day through power point presentation.

Item No.1 Confirmation of the minutes of 126th Meeting of the NLCPR Committee held on 22.09.2014.

The minutes of 126th Meeting of the NLCPR Committee held on 22.09.2014 under the chairmanship of Secretary, DoNER which was circulated on 20.10.2014 vide O.M. No.DNER/NLP/6(CXXVI)/2014 has been confirmed.

Item No.2: Review of Decision taken in 126th NLCPR Meeting under Item No.4 (i)-to focus only ongoing project and not to consider new project except critical projects that would require specific justification.

The Committee was informed that following the policy decision taken in the 126th NLCPR meeting held on 22.09.2014 to focus only on ongoing projects, the release of funds under the NLCPR Scheme has fallen and is far from satisfactory. In order to meet the requirement of meeting budgeted expenditure targets, the Ministry is required to spend an amount of Rs 285 crore by 31st December, 2014. This would only be possible by taking up retained and vetted new projects that were retained during earlier years along with the ongoing projects for consideration and disbursement before December 31st, 2014. Regarding the performance of States based on timely completion of the projects it has been decided that if the project is not completed on time or is delayed for

more than one year after the release of the last installment, the entire amount released to the project will be considered as penalty for the concerned state during the grant of new projects for the year and the sum of all penalties realised in new project amounts re-distributed to the States by the Committee based on the relative performance of States. Due weightage would therefore be given to better performing states at the time of approval and release of funds for new projects.

In regard to the projects pending for approval, retained lists and priority lists, etc., after due deliberation, the following decisions were taken:-

- (i) Retention of projects will be given up henceforth and only a small reserve list shall be maintained for each state which will lapse at the end of the year.
- (ii) Large projects of more than Rs. 10 crore related to Power, Bridges and Roads with Bridges will be considered on priority basis.
- (iii) Projects of less than Rs. 10 crore will not be considered under NLCPR at the time of finalization of the project proposals received from the states.
- (iv) To consider retained and vetted projects for approval and sanction. In case such DPRs are more than 2 years old they will be returned to states for revision and re-submission for consideration by the committee subject to availability of funds.
- (v) DPRs of retained projects which are not vetted and less than 2 years will be considered after vetting for approval subject to availability of funds.
- (vi) DPRs of retained projects which are not vetted but more than 2 years old shall be returned to the concerned State Government for revising DPRs as per current schedule of rates. These projects would not be treated as fresh project at the time of re-submission but sanctions will depend on availability of funds.
- (vii) Retained projects for which DPRs have not been received would be treated as cancelled.
- (viii) Only fresh projects of Rs. 10 crore and above shall hereafter be considered for grant under NLCPR in order to ensure proper monitoring and inspection.

Item No. 3: Monitoring of ongoing project

The Committee was informed that a monitoring system has been set up in the Ministry for NLCPR scheme. After discussions on the mechanism in the ADB projects, it was decided that apart from the existing mechanism, as a pilot, projects sanctioned in the States of Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya may be monitored through appointment of a Construction Supervision Consultant (CSC) from the date of award of project. In place of the Project Monitoring Consultant (PMC), the system of using existing staff of DoNER and NEC could be organized, utilizing available resources and with the available budget allocation. The working of the system may be reported to the Committee for review.

Item No.4: Mechanism for online submission of project papers, clarification of query and authentication of letters and project papers through digital signature etc.

Secretary, DoNER emphasized the need to accelerate sanction of projects and financial release under NLCPR. This would be possible only when a mechanism for online submission of proposals, UC and other mandatory documents authenticated through digital signature is developed. This will, apart from speeding up the process of project sanction and release of funds, also minimize physical interface between the Ministry, Consultant, and implementing State Department.

The issue of delays in vetting of project was also discussed and the Committee was of the considered view that in order to ensure speedy vetting of DPRs, external Consultancy Services such as availed from WAPCOS earlier or from some other competent Agency needs to be continued as the Technical Wing of the Ministry continues to be under staffed. The Ministry was advised to quickly flow limited tenders to CPSUs for this work. However, all projects vetted by the Consultant have to be verified and the NLCPR Committee has to be apprised of the technical soundness of the project by the officers of the Technical Wing of the Ministry. The Committee underscored the role of the Technical Wing of the Ministry as being responsible for sending proposals to the Consultant, coordinating work to ensure that critical aspects relating to proportions of expenditure on jungle clearance, earth work, retaining wall and so forth are adequately

and critically scrutinized, and formulating recommendations to the Screening Committee. Keeping in view the need for technical involvement in developing online submission of projects and papers and vetting of DPRs, the Committee decided that officers from NIC and Technical Wing may also be part of NLCPR Committee, as and when required, as co-opted members.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.
