

Tour Note of Joint Secretary (HK), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region on tour of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) areas on 29th and 30th December 2005

Review of Progress of implementation of Projects sanctioned under NLCPR for BTC held on 29.12.2005 in Kokrajhar

29.12.2005: Meeting with the officers of BTC

I reached Kokrajhar early in the morning from Guwahati and had a meeting with the Secretary BTC and other officers who are implementing NLCPR projects in the BTC area. BTC areas are spread over four districts and the number of projects sanctioned in 2004-05 with indicative cost in these districts is given as under:

1. Baksha District 4
2. Chirang District 5
3. Kokrajhar District 6
4. Udalguri District 3

Reviewed the progress of the projects retained and sanctioned by the Ministry of DONER in the year 2004-05. Out of 18 projects for which 50% amount of the indicative cost was released by the M/o DONER, 17 have been cleared by the State level Committee (Annex I). However, in case of following three projects, higher cost has been approved by the State level project sanctioning authority.

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Cost approved by M/DONER	Cost approved by State Level Committee
1.	Improvement of Dhamdhama Tupalia Subankhata (DTS) Road in Baksha District	Rs. 5.89 crore	Rs. 13.72 crore
2.	Improvement of Kaurbaha-Nagrijuli Road in Baksha District	Rs. 5.71 crore	Rs. 14.50 crore
3.	Construction of Road from NH-31 Barama to Mushalpur in Baksha District	Rs. 10.86 crore	Rs. 14.43 crore

Details of these diversion from the cost as approved by the M/o DONER have not been known to the Ministry. Neither the approval was sought for. However, during the meeting, it was informed that enhancement in the cost has been due to change in scope of

work and inclusion of certain lengths of roads as well as some bridges/culverts. It was categorically told to them by the undersigned that such a big diversion from the cost as approved by M/o DONER should not have been made without approval of the Ministry. BTC and Government of Assam should bring the details of these two cases to the knowledge of M/o DONER and, if need be, request them for consideration of enhanced cost with proper justification.

Out of the 18 projects sanctioned by M/o DONER in 2004-05, one project, namely, Construction of 100 bedded Hospital at Kajolgaon is being executed by the NBCC and rest 16 are being implemented by BTC/State Government of Assam. One project, namely, Metalling and blacktopping of Gossaigaon to Saraibil Road, is yet to be sanctioned by the SLSC for which BTC Secretary was advised to approach the SLSC and get it sanctioned at the earliest. For these seventeen under implementation projects, the details of sanction, release of funds along with the status of progress of implementation are given in the Annexe I.

The officers were directed to increase the pace of implementation and to request the State Government for release of funds that have already been released by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. They were requested to implement and monitor the progress on the basis of CPM and PERT. It was also desired that no compromise with quality should be made.

Field visit to the Projects

Shri Carol Narzary, Secretary, BTC accompanied me on my visit to the projects. During the visit, I inspected all the 11 under implementation projects sanctioned by M/o DONER under NLCPR in 2004-05 in Chirang and Kokrajhar Districts. Out of these 11 projects, 7 belong to the Roads and Bridges sector, 2 to Water Supply, 1 Cultural Complex and one 100 bedded Hospital.

1. Visit to Road Projects

My field inspection observations about 7 Road projects that were visited are given as under:

- 1) Some of these roads (mentioned in Annex I) were traversed by me in their full length and some to a limited number of kilometers just to have a test check.
- 2) The physical progress of these roads as provided by the officers of BTC apparently looked to have been achieved.
- 3) Different roads had different status of implementation in their different sections of their lengths. Some portions of certain roads showed progress to the completion level, that is, upto premix carpeting and all portions indicated different levels of progress in their different sections of length. In the absence of technical inspections, I am not in a position to comment on their quality. However, as per layman's observations, they looked to be generally in order. The Secretary, BTC, Mr. Carol Narzary who accompanied me during the visit to these projects was requested to get the quality of these roads checked by independent technical experts and let the Ministry know about the result.
- 4) None of the roads had the 'Project Profile Board' affixed anywhere, neither at the beginning nor alongside the road. Officers were advised to get these Boards affixed as prescribed by the Ministry of DONER and report be sent to the Ministry of DONER by 15th January 2006.
- 5) In some of the completed portions, shoulders need to be properly done.
- 6) Bridges in most of the cases are either at initial stages of construction or not as yet started. To make these roads fully functional, the officers were advised to expedite the work of construction of bridges and culverts also simultaneously. Alongwith the bridges, work on the approaches should be planned and started in a way that the project completion is not delayed on account of bridges and their approaches.
- 7) Assam being a heavy rains area, the officers were advised to take special care of the cambers so that during rains, water does not stagnate to cause damages to them.

- 8) Wherever the roads are passing through towns and villages, proper drainage system should be worked out and laid so that stagnation of water on roads is avoided.

2. Visit to the sites of Kokrajhar Water Supply Scheme:

Project details are as under:

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|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Project Command area | The project area covers approximately 7.0 sq.km. of Kokrajhar town, encompassing 10 wards and surrounding area. |
| 2. Design period | Implementation year = 2007 AD
Intermediate period = 2019 AD
Ultimate period = 2029 AD |
| 3. Design population | Intermediate phase = 80674 souls
Final phase = 107577 souls |
| 4. Project Implementation Unit | Kokrajhar (PHE) Division No. 1, BTCA under Department of Public Health Engineering, BTC |
| 5. Source of raw water | Deep tubewell (approx. 10 Nos.) to be installed in different locations |
| 6. Target date of commissioning | March 2007 |
| 7. Approved project cost | Rs. 23.57 crore only |

Expected time of completion of the components as provided to me are given as under:

Job module	Expected time of completion of job
1. Deep tubewell	February 2006
2. Elevated Service Reservoir	December 2006
3. Treatment Plant	October 2006
4. Clear Water Reservoir – 2Nos.	September 2006
5. Site development	February 2006
6. Quarter Building Pump House	January 2007
7. Distribution Network	February 2007
8. Soil Testing & development of land	November 2005

Visited work site where treatment plants and reservoirs are being constructed. Project implementation schedule is annexed. Work has just started on these two sites. Officers were advised to start implementation of the independent components simultaneously by employing and PERT and CPM techniques so that project may be implemented in scheduled time.

3. Visit to Special Area Game Centre at Kathalguri, Kokrajhar

Details of the project are as under:

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|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Name of the project | Special Area Game Centre at Kathalguri, Kokrajhar |
| 2. Approved cost | Rs. 929.00 lakh |
| 3. Executing Agency | Kokrajhar PWD Bldg. Division |
| 4. Location of the Project | Kokrajhar, State PWD Assam, Assam |

Instalment released	Released by Government of India		UC submitted to M/o DONER	
	Amount in Rs. crore	Date of Release	Amount in Rs. crore	Date
1. First instalment	1.50	22.2.01	1.50	7.10.05
2. Second instalment	4.00	16.12.03	4.00	16.12.03

Progress was found to be very slow as the project was under implementation for the last 5 years. The State officials during the site visit promised that ... But for Indoor Stadium, other works shall be completed by 31.3.2006. Indoor Stadium is to be completed by 30.6.2006.

Physical progress of the project components is as under:

Sl. No.	Components of the project	Financial Progress		Physical Progress (% completed)
		Approved cost Rs. lakh	Expenditure Rs. lakh	
1.	Construction of Grand Stand	203.61	145.25	95%
2.	Construction of Indoor Stadium	163.58	66.50	60%
3.	Construction of Boys' Hostel (100 bedded)	95.67	63.82	93%

Sl. No.	Components of the project	Financial Progress		Physical Progress (% completed)
		Approved cost Rs. lakh	Expenditure Rs. lakh	
4.	Construction of Girls' Hostel (50 bedded)	60.79	50.00	92%
5.	Construction of Boundary wall	45.30	45.35	100%
6.	Construction of Coaches Quarters	28.04	24.48	85%
7.	Construction of Officers' Quarters – 1 unit	15.45	12.11	92%
8.	Construction of Type III Quarters – 3 units	16.61	11.13	80%
9.	Construction of Type IV Quarters – 6 units	23.73	18.87	82%
10.	Land Development	54.13	27.00	60%
11.	Construction of Road Parking	21.96		20%
12.	Construction of Drainage	37.59		60%
13.	External Water Supply	9.50		80%
14.	External Electrification/Internal Electrification	43.08	40.00	60%
15.	Development of Athletic Ground	47.76		55%
16.	Development of Approach	9.55	1.14	15%
17.	Gate Office (2 Nos.)	3.50		40%
18.	Telecom	0.45		
19.	Fire Extinguisher	0.34		
20.	DG Set 30 KVA	3.00		
21.	Furniture	4.00		
22.	Land Scaping	0.48		
23.	Consultancy Service	30.00	23.25	100%
24.	Soil Testing	2.67	2.67	100%
25.	Contingency	9.21	3.40	
26.	Anti-termite treatment	0.00	9.34	90%
27.	Preparation of Site Office	0.00	5.69	100%
	Total:	930.00	550.00	

4. Visit to Guwahati University Campus, Kokrajhar

It is the project that was sanctioned during Bodo Autonomous Council (BAC) Area days. The project was approved at a cost of Rs.5.00 crore. Against that Rs. 2.50 crore were released in 2002-03 against which works have been done. An academic

building is complete. Administration building is also constructed upto ground floor level. Rs. 2.12 crore were released in this financial year (2005-06) which apparently have not reached the BTC. The State Government may soon take adequate steps for releasing this fund to the BTC for execution of the project.

5. **Visit to Construction site of Bodofa Cultural Complex at Kokrajhar:**

M/o DONER sanctioned the project at a cost of Rs. 10.00 crore and released Rs. 5.00 crore on 7.2.2005 but the progress is very slow. The work has just started. It was surprising that though M/o DONER sanctioned the project at an indicative cost of Rs. 10.00 crore, the SLSC has approved the project at rs. 18.44 crore. BTC officers were advised to find out funds for completion of the project as M/o DONER has sanctioned Rs. 10.00 crore only as was indicated by the State Government.

In addition, they must ensure that the project is implemented using CPM & PERT so as to ensure its timely completion.

6. **Visit to the site of Drinking Water Supply Scheme, Gossaigaon**

It is a project that was sanctioned in 2000-01 at an estimated cost of Rs.3.63 crore. Rs.1.00 crore were released in the same year and Rs.0.75 crore in 2004-05. Surprisingly the progress of implementation was extremely tardy.

At the time of visit to the project site, it had grown dark and unfortunately power was off. Whatever could be seen in the light of vehicle, it was apparent that the work had not made any substantial progress. Secretary, BTC was requested to review the progress at his level and make visits to the site for expediting the pace of progress of works.

7. Visit to Kokrajhar University Campus

Dr. Shekhar Brahmo was present during the visit of campus. Subjects taught in the campus are History, Pol. Science, Maths, Economic, and English. Bodo and Assamese languages are also taught in the campus.

Out of Rs.2.50 Crore following constructions were visible:

1. Boundary Wall constructed.
2. Academic Block – 2 storeyed constructed.
3. Administrative Block – single storeyed constructed.

Rs.2.12 Crore released by DONER on 17.8.2005 not reached B.T.C. as yet. The State Government should be requested to release these funds for works. Following works are planned to be executed out of Rs.2.12 Crore released by the Ministry of DONER:

1. 3 Storey Academic Building
2. Canteen cum P.C.O.

30.12.2005

1. Visit to Construction site of 100 bedded Hospital at Kajolgaon:

It was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3779.82 lakh. The project is being executed by NBCC. Most of the main building components are reaching slab level. Some slabs have been laid. Looking at the pace of works, it may be hoped that the project might be completed in time.