OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of 9th meeting of Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) on North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)-Reg.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith the minutes of 9th Meeting of the Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) as approved by the Competent Authority on North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DoNER on 19th December, 2018 at 3.00 pm in Committee Room - A, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

Encl. as above:

(Ravindra Choudhary)
Director
Tel:011-26107147

To
1. Shri Rajiv Bora, Addl. Chief Secretary, T & D Dept. Govt. of Assam
2. Ms. Jhanjha Tripathy, JS & FA, M/o DoNER, Govt. of India
3. Shri S.N Pradhan, JS, M/o DoNER, Govt. of India
4. Dr. J.B. Ekka, Principal Secretary, T & D, Govt. of Assam
5. Shri R. Kemprai, Comm. & Special Secretary, PWD, Govt. of Assam
6. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Director, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India
7. Shri Gyan Bhushan, Economic Adviser, M/o Tourism, Govt. of India
8. Smt. Priya Nair, Dir. ED & States Div. M/o External Affairs, Govt. of India
9. Shri Gunsagar Jain, SE, TW, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
10. Pankaj Aggarwal, SE, M/o Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India
11. Smt. Kim Changloi, Deputy Secretary, M/o Tourism, Govt. of India

Copy to:
1. PS to Hon’ble Minister of DoNER (I/C)
2. PS to Secretary, Ministry of DoNER
3. PS to Chief Secretary, Assam/Meghalaya/Sikkim
4. Director (VLRK), M/o DoNER
5. Director (BNP), M/o DoNER
6. DS (IFD), M/o DoNER
7. SE, Technical Cell, M/o DoNER
8. Web Manager for uploading of the minutes of the meeting in the project portal.
   Director (BNP), M/o DoNER
9. Guard file
Sub: Minutes of 9th Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC)/ NESIDS committee meeting held on 19th December, 2018 at 3.00 p.m in the Committee Room-A, Vigyan Bhawan Annexe, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DoNER.

The list of participants is at Annexure.

The meeting of 9th Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on NESIDS was held on 19th December, 2018 to discuss proposals for selection/sanction the projects of Assam and Meghalaya for funding under NESIDS apart from other issues relating to ongoing projects under NLCPR scheme as per recommendations made by the SLECs of the State Governments.

2. At the outset, Secretary, DoNER welcomed the members of NESIDS Committee, representatives of the State Governments and the line Ministries of Government of India after a brief round of introduction. Thereafter, JS (NLCPR) made a brief presentation about the status of implementation of the NESIDS scheme spelling out the details of projects selected so far and the funds released against them. At the end of the briefing he placed following Agenda Items before the Committee for discussions and appropriate decisions:-

(A) **Under NESIDS:-**

- Proposals for selection of projects of Assam
- Proposals for sanction of projects of Assam
- Proposals for sanction of projects of Meghalaya

(B) **Under NLCPR State**

- Proposals for modification of cost/scope of work of 3 ongoing projects of Assam;
- Proposals for foreclosure of 4 ongoing projects of Assam
- Proposal for modification of cost/scope of work of one ongoing NLCPR project of Sikkim.
Accordingly, the representatives of the State Government of Assam made project-wise presentation. After detailed discussions, the Committee made following recommendations:-

3. Selection of Projects of Assam under NESIDS:-

(i) Double-laning of Lanka to Khandong Road via Umrongso:

During the presentation the representative of the State Government explained that the project starts at Lanka and ends at Khandong (Meghalaya border) which connects Haflong, Nagaon and Karbi Anglong to Meghalaya border. The total length of the entire stretch is 90 k.m. which the State Governments proposes to improve by double laning to attract tourists to the two important tourist destinations of Umrongso lake and a lake at Panimur at the proposed cost of Rs.221.00 crore. The State Government showed some pictures of the proposed road and the two lakes lying in the way. It was explained that the lake at Panimur is 10 k.m. away from the existing Lanka-Khandong road which is a village road and is presently in a very bad shape. During the presentation, the Committee felt that given that the entire stretch may not be completed within the project period of March 2020. In line with the guidelines of the NESIDS underlining support to connectivity to or between tourist destinations the Committee recommended double-laning the portion of the road connecting Diyungmukh to Umrongso via Panimur which comes to around 64 k.m. (including the length of 10 k.m. road to Panimur from the existing Lanka-Kandong road) broadly at the pro-rata cost of Rs.153.00 crore.

Concluding the discussions, the Committee finally recommended the project “construction-cum-double laning of the 64 k.m. of road from Diyungmukh to Umrongso via Panimur” for selection at the cost of roughly Rs.153.00 crore.
(ii) Restoration & Improvement of SH-6 [Barpeta Road to Bashbari Road leading to Manas Wildlife Sanctuary from L-1.50 k.m.]

The representative of the State Government explained to the Committee that the Bashbari Road is the only major route which connects NH-31 to Barpeta township leading to Manas Wildlife Sanctuary. It was stated that the road is also a route to international Indo-Bhutan border at Northern side of Manas Wildlife Sanctuary hence the road is very important from tourist point of view. However, due to change in course of Beki river (lying in the way), the major flow has shifted towards the road during the last two years and restoration work is needed in the proposed segment of the road to deflect the course towards the original channel. It was briefed that the total length of the Barpeta to Bashbari road is 21 k.m., out of which 7.5 k.m. is already improved and the 1.5 k.m. stretch from 8.0 k.m. to 9.5 k.m. is proposed to be improved through proposed NESIDS funds as the balance portion of the road from 7.5 k.m. to 8.0 k.m. and from 9.5 k.m. to 21 k.m. has already been sanctioned under the State Plan. It was explained to the Committee that the proposed 1.5 k.m. of road needs to be protected from erosion due to changed course of the Beki river through river training and road works at a cost of Rs.47.46 crore.

In view of the potential of national and international tourists visiting to Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and Bhutan through the Barpeta to Bashbari Road, the Committee recommended the proposal for "Restoration & Improvement of SH-6 [Barpeta Road to Bashbari Road leading to Manas Wildlife Sanctuary from Length-1.50 k.m.]" for selection in-principle at a cost of Rs.47.46 crores. However, in the interest of the long-term viability of this project which could be a vital lifeline to the world famous sanctuary, the selection was subject to technical vetting of the project by institutes with contextual domain expertise like North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute.
(NEHARI), Guwahati and Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune under the MoWR, RD and GR.
(iii) Construction of Majuli Bongaon (Dakhinpat Satra) Road, Majuli:

Representatives of Government of Assam briefed that the project, which was earlier sanctioned by NEC and discussed in the Project Identification Committee would improve the connectivity between Salmara ghat, Afalamukh Ghat and Sumaimari Ghat in the Majuli island and would also provide connectivity to other states via Lakhimpur. The representatives of the State Government stated that retaining walls needs to be strengthened in the proposed section of the road to protect its erosion from the Brahmaputra river. On the proposed improvement of the existing road, the inland water connectivity with outside world would also improve. Majuli being a famous tourist destination of the State, the Committee felt the construction/improvement of the Majuli Bongaon (Dakhinpat Sattra) Road was reasonable and justified subject to the condition that the DPR including the widening the existing bridges must be checked/vetted thoroughly by SLEC.

Considering the tourism potential linked to the proposal, the Committee recommended the project for selection subject to the vetting of DPR including the widening of the existing bridges through SLEC.

(iv) Eco-Resort, Kajalgaon, Chirang District:

The representative of the State Government made the detailed presentation of the proposal. During the discussion, the representative of the Ministry of Tourism stated that the project is covered under one of their existing schemes of the Ministry. The representative from NITI Ayog opined that the proposal was focused more on developing destination amenities like accommodation etc which was not the focus of NESIDS. Therefore, the Committee did not recommend the project for selection
under NESIDS and suggested the State Government to pose it to the Ministry of Tourism to explore the possibility of funding.
4. Sanction of Projects of Assam under NESIDS:-

The Committee was briefed that four projects were selected for funding under the scheme of NESIDS in the 5th meeting of IMC/NESIDS Committee held on 17th August, 2018. It was informed to the Committee that the SLEC of the State Government of Assam has vetted the DPRs of these four projects in their meeting held on 16.11.2018 and 15.12.2018 and has recommended them for sanction. The State Government has submitted the recommendations of the SLEC with the request to sanction the projects. After due discussions the NESIDS Committee recommended the following projects for sanction subject to furnishing of mandatory certificates:-

i. Water Supply Project in Tinsukia Town (Phase-III) – cost Rs.28.74 crore;
ii. Construction of RCC Bridge over river Aie at the Aie Powali including approach and protection work in Chirang District – cost Rs.69.74 crore;
iii. Infrastructure Development of Greater Kheroni Piped Water Supply Scheme – cost Rs.22.54 crore;
iv. Improvement/Special Infrastructure Development of JSB Civil Hospital at Kajalgaon in Chirang District – cost Rs.23.00 crore.

5. Sanction of Projects of Meghalaya under NESIDS:-

i. Greater Sohra (Cherrapunjee) water supply Scheme with estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 crore.

The project, “Greater Sohra (Cherrapunjee) water supply Scheme” was taken up for funding at the estimated cost Rs. 25.00 crore on the recommendation of 4th IMC Meeting for NESIDS held on 20th July, 2018 for which the State Government subsequently submitted the SLEC’s recommendations after vetting of DPR. After detailed deliberations, the Committee considered the SLEC recommendations in the project at the vetted cost of Rs. 25.00 crore and recommended for sanction subject to furnishing of all regulatory and statutory clearances like forest & environment, land acquisition, non-duplication certificate, availability of stone quarry etc.
Laying of new feeder mains under Tura Phase-I&II Water Supply Scheme with an estimated cost of Rs. 34.99 crores.

The project, “Laying of new feeder mains under Tura Phase-I&II Water Supply Scheme” was also selected for funding at the estimated cost Rs. 34.99 crore on the recommendation of 4th IMC Meeting for NESIDS held on 20th July, 2018 for which the state government subsequently submitted the SLEC’s recommendations after vetting of DPR. After detailed deliberations, the Committee considered the recommendations of SLEC in the project at the vetted cost of Rs. 35.00 crore and recommended for sanction subject to furnishing of all regulatory and statutory clearances like forest & environment, land acquisition, non-duplication certificate, availability of stone quarry etc.

6. Proposal for modification of cost/scope of work of ongoing NLCPR projects of Assam:

(i) Construction of 220/132 KV, 2x50 MVA and 220/33 KV, 2x40 MVA Azara Sub - Station with 220 Kv LILO line from one circuit of 220 KV DC Agia - Sarusajia line along with construction of 132 KV SC line to Boko with terminal bay at 132/33 Boko Sub-station

It was briefed to the Committee that the project was sanctioned at an approved cost of Rs.3622.07 lakhs on 26.09.2007 out of which Rs.2607.89 lakhs has already been released in two installments and the State Government has submitted the Utilization Certificate of the entire released amount of Rs.2607.89 lakh. Before the third installment could be released in the project, the State Government informed that one of the component i.e “132 KV S/C line in DC tower from Kukurmara to Boko” costing Rs.512.00 lakhs could not be executed due to the problem of Right-of-Way and this component was replaced by the work “LILO of ‘220 KV D/C BTPS-Boko-Sarusajia line at 220/132 kv Kukurmara S/S’ costing Rs.142.00 lakh. During the discussion the representative of the State Government stated
that the cost of the project has escalated from Rs.3622.07 lakh to Rs.4800.00 lakh, therefore, the release of third instalment may be considered as per earlier approved cost ignoring the reduction of cost due to incorporation of new component because the escalation in overall cost of the project has also to be met by the State funds. The State Government has also informed that SLEC has recommended for the change in the scope of work.

However, the Committee suggested that the matter may be revisited by the SLEC as prima facie, the total approved cost may be reduced to the extent of the difference between the costs of the old component and the new component. The savings from the project could be used by the State Government for other projects including under NESIDS.

Accordingly, the Committee recommended to process the release of third instalment taking into account the total approved cost as **Rs.3252.00 lakh** \([Rs.3622.07-(Rs.512.00-142.00)]\) *subject to concurrence of IFD*.

(iii) **Improvement of Roads in Biswanath Chariali Town**

The Committee was briefed that the project was sanctioned on 22.02.2011 at the approved cost of Rs.1174.43 lakh for improvement of 31 roads in Biswanath Chariali town. Out of this Rs.812.83 lakh has already been released against the central share and the State Government has submitted the Utilization Certificate of Rs.414.35 lakh. State Government has submitted the recommendation of SLEC to reduce the approved cost of the project from Rs.1174.43 lakh to Rs.936.79 lakh by dropping two roads namely; Pandit Hemchand Goswami Road and Nabin Chandra Bhatacharjee Road as both these roads were constructed from the State fund of PWD (R&B) and savings from other components of remaining 29
roads. The State Government informed that SLEC has recommended the proposal for dropping these two roads and downward revision in the approved cost.
After discussions and taking the opinion of the representative of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), the Committee recommended to agree to the request of the State Government to reduce the approved cost of the project from Rs.1174.43 lakh to Rs.936.79 lakh subject to concurrence of IFD.

(iii) Construction of RCC Bridge No. 24/1 on Morigaon Moirabari Road in Morigaon District

The Committee was briefed that the project was sanctioned at an approved cost of Rs.315.54 lakh on 25.01.2011 out of which Rs.223.84 lakh has already been released towards the central share and the State Government has submitted the UC of entire released amount of Rs.223.84 lakh. Now, the State Government has submitted the recommendation of SLEC to modify the tendered cost of the project from the earlier value of Rs.303.51 lakh to Rs.310.82 lakh. The State Government argued that the enhancement in the modification of the tendered cost, which is well within the approved cost was due to increase in length of bridge approach, the increase of abatement wells from 20.00 mt. to 22.00 mt. and expansion of scope of protection work as Brahmaputra river is directly connected to bridge. The State Government informed that SLEC has recommended the proposal for modification in the cost and change in the scope of work.

After discussion and taking the opinion of the representative of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRT&H), the Committee recommended the modified cost of the project from Rs.303.51 lakh to Rs.310.82 lakh subject to concurrence of IFD.

7. Ongoing NLCPR Projects of Assam for foreclosure:

(i) Belsiri Lift Irrigation Scheme
It was informed to the Committee that the project was sanctioned in 2006-07 at the approved cost of Rs.217.42 lakh out of which Rs.68.48 lakh have been released and UC of the released amount has already been received. The State Government has indicated the physical progress of the work as 55% and desires to close the project on as is where is basis due to problems of land acquisition and bank erosion by Belsiri river. The State Government has submitted the recommendation of SLEC for foreclosure certifying that the assets created against the expenditure is being utilized.

After due consideration the Committee recommended the project for foreclosure on as is where is basis subject to concurrence of IFD.

(ii) 89 minor irrigation schemes

The representative of the State Government briefed the Committee that the project was sanctioned during 1998-99 against which an amount of Rs.2520.00 lakh has already been released as per then scheme guidelines and the UC for the same has already been received. The physical progress in the project was informed as 95% as four projects out of 89 projects could not be completed due to cost escalation and delay in energization by ASEB. Therefore, the State Government have desired to close the project on as is where is basis. But, the representative of the State Government was not be able to clearly indicate the pro rata estimate for the remaining 4 projects from the total approved cost of the project. Therefore, the Committee recommended to send the proposal of foreclosure for reconsideration by SLEC and suggested to examine the proposal as per records.

(iii) Improvement of Roads and Natural Drainage System within Greater Tezpur Town

The representative of the State Government briefed the Committee that the
project was sanctioned during 2006-07 at an approved cost of Rs.2551.78 lakh against which an amount of Rs.348.13 lakh has already been released and the UC of the released amount has already been received. The physical progress in the project was informed as 15%. The State Government further informed that the SLEC has recommended to foreclose the project on as is where is basis because the project was badly delayed due to court case and the contractor was reluctant to carry out the work at old SOR. The State Government further informed that the assets created against the expenditure is being utilized.

After due consultation the Committee recommended the project for foreclosure on as is where is basis subject to concurrence of IFD.

(iv) Construction of super market complex at Moran revenue Town at Moran (Public works Building Deptt.)

The representative of the State Government briefed the Committee that the project was sanctioned during 2012-13 at an approved cost of Rs.683.80 lakh against which an amount of Rs.246.03 lakh has already been released and no UC against the released amount has been received so far. The physical progress was also reported as NIL. The State Government further informed that the SLEC has recommended to drop the project and to refund the entire released amount of Rs.246.03 lakh to Ministry of DoNER as the project could not be executed due to the problems being faced in land acquisition.

Based on the recommendation of the SLEC submitted by the State Government, the Committee recommended to drop the project and recover the released funds subject to approval of IFD.
8. Projects of Sikkim for revision of Cost :-

(i) “Construction of pre-stressed Bridge over River Rangit on Legship Tashiding road in West Sikkim”

The Project, “Construction of pre-stressed Bridge over River Rangit on Legship Tashiding road in West Sikkim” was sanctioned on 30/9/2008 with estimated cost of Rs. 13.92 crore and an amount Rs. 940.68 lakh has already been released in two installments. The State government’s proposal for revision of cost necessitated due to natural calamities was placed before NLCPR committee in its 151st meeting, which recommended revision of the project to Rs. 2213.69 lakh subject to concurrence of IFD of the Ministry on file. Thereafter, the matter was referred to Revised Cost Committee (RCC) of Ministry of Finance and on its recommendation for revision of cost from Rs. 1392.45 lakh to Rs. 2186.80 lakh (minus contingency) due to change in scope and on condition that there would be no change in Schedule of rates, no further revision would be allowed and payment for contingencies would not be allowed, the Committee considered the matter and approved the recommendation of the RCC in toto.

9. GENERAL DECISIONS IN VIEW OF THE NEED FOR TIME-BOUND IMPLEMENTATION BEFORE MARCH, 2020:

The Addl CS Assam Shri Bora informed the Committee that given the tight timelines available for pending NLCPR projects in the State, he has reviewed all such projects and prescribed definite timelines/deadlines. For projects which were pending for 10 years or more the deadline for completion or foreclosure as the case may be was fixed as March, 2019. Similarly, for projects pending for more than 5 years (up to 10 years) the deadline for completion or foreclosure as the case may be was fixed as July, 2019. For all other projects under NLCPR/NESIDS the eventual deadline is already pronounced as March, 2020 being the end of plan period. The Committee felt that while States may well be in a position to complete the respective projects as per or before such deadlines, in the interest of time-bound implementation these deadlines should be followed by all NER states and as a communication on these lines may be sent to all NER states.

10. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
Annexure

List of Participants of 9th IMC/NESIDS Committee meeting held on 19.12.2018

1. Shri Rajiv Bora, Addl. Chief Secretary, T & D Dept. Govt. of Assam
2. Ms. Jhanjha Tripathy, JS & FA, M/o DoNER, Govt. of India
3. Dr. J.B. Ekka, Principal Secretary, T & D, Govt. of Assam
4. Shri Gyan Bhushan, Economic Adviser, M/o Tourism, Govt. of India
5. Shri R. Kemprai, Comm. & Special Secretary, PWD, Govt. of Assam
6. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Director, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India
7. Smt. Priya Nair, Dir. ED & States Div. M/o External Affairs, Govt. of India
8. Smt. Banti Devi, Additional Director, Govt. of Assam
9. Smt. Samita Arora, Deputy Secretary (IFD), M/o DoNER, Govt. of India
10. Shri Gunsagar Jain, SE, TW, Ministry of DoNER, Govt. of India
11. Pankaj Aggarwal, SE, M/o Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India
12. Shri Amitabh Choudhary, General Manager, AEGEL, Govt. of Assam
13. Shri Nagan Kalita, Director (i/c) Town Country Planning, UDD, Assam
14. Smt. Kim Changloi, Deputy Secretary, M/o Tourism, Govt. of India
15. Shri K.M. Chakrakarty, Nodal Officer, Planning, AEGEL, Govt. of Assam
16. Ms. Khushboo Priya, Consultant, Govt. of Assam
17. Shri Prakash Sharma, Consultant, ATDC, Govt. of Assam
18. Shri Bhashan Phubasi, AD, ASSAM Tourism Dev. Corporation
19. Shri H. Sen, Chief Engineer, PWD (R), Govt. of Assam
20. Shri L. Pator, SRO, T & D, Dept., Govt. of Assam