

Report on ADB Review Mission in Agartala on 20th June 2012
By Mr. Yogesh Goel (Investment Program Manager-IPCC)

Morning started with site visit under WS project Tr-I. Four tube well sites could be visited. Two of them are complete in all respect. At one, roof is under casting and on the other, roof has been just cast but shuttering has not been removed. In both these, internal plastering remains. In the evening after review I had some time and so I visited the remaining two sites also. Here at one site roof is yet to be cast and at the other, only tube well has been dug and no brick work has yet started (there is some structure which needs to be dismantled for which owning agency is being consulted). However, five TWs under Lot-I are expected to be commissioned by end July'12 complete with pump installation and electrical paneling etc. The sixth one could be ready by Aug end.

On return from visit, review meeting was held. All the covenants of FFA and reform measures were discussed and were found to be satisfactory. DSMC has promised to submit **GAP by end June 2012. Web site of project will be ready by August 2012.** Lot-2 and 3 which were under re-assessment of ADB have been rejected by ADB and two options have been given – either funds it through other source or rebid. It has been mentioned by Mr. Shige during the course of discussion that the bidders of these lots will not be eligible in the re-bid. He mentioned that some irregularities were observed and advised SIPMIU to be more careful in evaluation. He didn't elaborate on it.

Regarding Tr-II package wise details are as follows:

14 OHT: fin. Bids were opened on 18.06.12. They were in two lots – one for 9 and the other for 5 OHTs. The former quoted about 45% higher than the estimated approved cost and the later is 8% higher. Financial Evaluation to be completed by end Jun'12

7 GWTPs: fin. Bids were opened on 18.06.2012 it was 67% higher than estimated approved cost. Financial Evaluation to be completed by end Jun12 *[Shige has asked PD to submit recent DWS rates along with evaluation report.]*

Distn system: TE approved by ADB on 18.06.12 finance bid to be opened by end Jun'12 and contract signing by mid-Aug'12

DI pipes: bid is about 10% lower and LOA has been issued on 13.6.12 (approved by ADB). Contract signing by end June 2012.

Bulk meters: bid was about 35% lower. LOA has been issued on 13.6.12 (approved by ADB). Contract signing by end Jun'12.

Rising mains: bid is in two parts – procurement and civil works. Bid issue targeted for Dec12

Rehab of 2 old steel tanks: bid issue targeted for Dec12

After some discussions PD and DSMC agreed to issue these two bids by mid July 2012 and contract signing expected by mid-December 2012.

Reforms:

1. Devolution: 14 of 18 functions already with AgMC. DWS (Agartala Devn) assets physically verified.
2. PSP: PSP document in SWM is given to AMC. Old site has been closed. Temporary new site has been identified for which bids are to be issued by the GoAg on its own. Another site has been identified for T-3.
3. Vehicle tracking system prepared and installed on two vehicles initially
4. Draft regulations prepared and will be placed before SEC after review by AgMC (by mid Jul'12)
5. Legal amendment draft for DEAS ready and will go to SEC by mid-Jul12
6. GIS survey completed in 33 of 35 wards. AgMC is verifying it. 10-20% verification will also be done by IDC. Unit area method of property tax implementation will go to cabinet in mid-jul'12
7. Tax collection efficiency is about 85%.
8. User charges: WS draft under discussion. Expected to be finalized by August 2012. For SWM, action plan developed and likely to be implemented by end 2012.
9. As a part of DSMC ToR T-3 came up. DSMC and PD stated that DPR would be submitted to MoUD when it asks for it.

In the evening we met Secretary (UD), GoTr. He was also apprised with the progress. He was however, concerned about T-3. He was informed of NSC decision.

Date of submit: 28-06-2012