

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the National Steering Committee for the North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sudhir Krishna, Secretary (UD) on 28.09.2011

The sixth Meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) was held on 28th September, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Urban Development) at 11:00 AM in the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Urban Development. List of the participants is placed at Annex 'A'.

2. Secretary (UD) welcomed the participants and desired to know the progress of the scheme. In the first instance States apprised the Committee with the status of Reforms. With consensus of the Committee, the Secretary (UD) conveyed the following :

- a) The Ministry is serious on the reforms agenda. PPP models need be prepared in respect of SWM, Sanitation, etc. in consultation with people, local leaders, concerned NGOs, etc. The time lines for implementation of reforms need be drawn up by the SIPMIU/IDC in consultation with the concerned departments of the State Govt. like Finance, PHED, ULB, etc. and submitted to the MoUD after it is vetted by them by December, 2011.
- b) Periodic workshops to create awareness in respect of measures like property tax, user charges, strengthening of ULBs, etc., including issues related to municipal elections, should be held in the states inviting all the stake holders, local leaders, traditional institutions, NGOs, Women Organisations, etc. by the IDC with the assistance of PMMC.
- c) Planning Commission too expressed that most of the projects/programmes/national and international assistance are linked with these reforms and unless these are not seriously pushed , it may create problems in approval of development programmes in the States.
- d) The Govt. of Meghalaya, in particular, need be serious about municipal elections for SMB and draw up a workable model acceptable to the local traditional institutions, NGOs, etc. so that SMB has an elected body to comply with the provisions of 74th CAA. This process should be expedited by the State.
- e) PMMC to draw a standard format for reporting of progress on reforms to be submitted to the Secretary, MoUD on quarterly basis.
- f) All states should adopt self assessment system for property tax which could be verified randomly by the implementing agency. PMMC to work out a simple model/format for self assessment.
- g) GIS mapping should be used. Available property records should tally with it and updated accordingly to include unlisted properties.

- h) Water charges should be volumetric with slab rates. Hence water connections should be metered so that volumetric charges could be levied. Planning Commission also supported slab-rates for fixing such charges so that high-end consumers pay more. The collection too could be managed by local institutions under PPP.
- i) SWM - States may like to create bin-less city. Community workers could be appointed for door-to-door collection of waste at a reasonably fixed charge to be paid by the households. Some small amount could be collected along with the property tax to cover O&M of waste disposal facility. Also, for operation and maintenance of Compost Plant, PPP model should be used involving local and traditional institutions. Proposals could be invited to convert waste into energy.
- j) Land costs have to be met by the State Govt. and not charged under the project.
- k) For accrual based double entry accounting system, MoUD is working on development of a common integrated software to have uniformity in reporting. However, till such a system is developed, States may continue to use systems developed locally through DSMC or NIC.
- l) A proper and comprehensive City Development Plan should be prepared which should also include neighbouring agglomerations so that there is no haphazard development in the peripherals of the ULB. The CDP should depict on a city map plans for WS, SWM, Waste treatment, storm water drains, etc. in graphics and survey number-wise following Town Planning Guidelines and related Act. Steps taken in this direction may be brought forth in the next NSC meeting.

3. Secretary (UD) desired that the SIPMIUs should make a crisp presentation of not more than 5 minutes in future NSC meetings, each slide readable and not having more than 7-8 lines. Video clippings and graphics should be presented highlighting achievements and good work.

State-wise Status of Projects under Tranche-I

4. Agartala

- a. Reforms : Double Entry Accounting System in use. GIS procured. Survey started and to be completed by Dec'11. IDC has prepared concept paper on user charges, to be discussed with the State Govt.
- b. Term of IDC Consultants is expiring in Dec'11. PD, SIPMIU desired to extend their term for another 4-5 months without any financial implication to enable them to complete certain training programmes. PD to submit the proposal.
- c. Water Supply Tranche – I : Contractors awarded Lots 1 and 3 are expected to mobilize their teams by 20th Oct'11. The works are expected

to be completed by Jun'12. Allotment of Lot-2 among one of the contractors will be decided by Nov'11 after review of their performance.

5. Shillong

- a. Reforms : Double Entry Accounting System software is being developed by NIC. Training is being provided to the concerned staff. Property tax is already in force. Need be GIS based. Water charges are presently on % basis. To be use based. For water supply and sewerage and sanitation, an independent agency is being mooted. Draft has been prepared and sent to the Govt. for comments.
- b. SWM Tranche – I : The matter regarding Forest Deptt. clearance is being settled.

6. Aizawl

- a. Reforms : Secretary (UDD), Mizoram informed that new volumetric water charges are expected to be levied by Dec'11. Also, waste management and property tax are being transferred to the Aizawl Municipal Committee. Regarding waste collection, local councils have been authorized under PPP model, who collect Rs 20 per household per month. Charges for Govt. and commercial establishments are a little higher. Initiative has been taken on e-governance.
- b. Water Supply Tranche – I : Construction of reservoirs and installation of water meters to be completed by Dec'11.

7. Kohima

- a. Reforms : 33% reservation for women in municipal elections was opposed by the people and no consensus could be arrived at inspite of public consultations. The matter is in Guwahati High Court. Door-to-door waste collection is being done by community workers on payment basis under PPP model. WIPRO to develop double accounting system software. AILSG-PRUDA have been recruited as IDC Consultants to help in implementation of reforms. Secretary (UD), Govt. of Nagaland informed that there is no tax regime in Nagaland and IDC will assist in holding public consultations for creating awareness regarding user charges and property tax. PD, SIPMIU informed that an officer has been sent abroad on a study tour on waste management.
- b. Water Supply Tranche – I : Contract to be signed in early Oct'11 and mobilization by end Oct'11
- c. SWM Tranche-I : SEIAA/MoEF to be informed about adopting 'deemed approval' route for EC. State to issue notification.

8. Gangtok

- a. Reforms : IDC Consultants have been finalized. ADB's approval is awaited. The RAP would be drawn up thereafter with the assistance of IDC.
- b. Water Supply Tranche – I : Sikkim could not be represented due to natural calamity there. However, PD, SIPMIU has informed that the work contract has been signed and the team was supposed to be mobilized by 27th Sep., 2011.

State-wise Status of Projects under Tranche-II

9. PD, SIPMIU Agartala informed that DPRs for Agartala water distribution (South Zone) are yet to be approved inspite of four visits of their Hydraulic Engineer and three revisions of DPR based on observations made by CPHEEO. He also referred to his representation (ref : Annex-III of the Agenda Item) that on his request of revision of cost estimates approved in the DPR for WS project which were quite below tender rates for similar works in Tripura, a meeting was held with CPHEEO at the behest of JS(UD) on 2nd Sept., 2011 and certain increases were agreed to. However, instead of approving the revised costs more queries are being raised now on the already approved DPR.

PD, SIPMIU, Shillong also expressed his anguish at the type of queries made by CPHEEO e.g. showing the location of bins on a city map even after several rounds of clarifications and additional information provided to CPHEEO, which is unduly delaying the approval of DPR and subsequent activities.

In addition to these, Gangtok SWM DPR is also yet to be approved by the CPHEEO inspite of several rounds of discussion and visits by SIPMIU/DSMC, Gangtok engineers.

In view of above, Secretary(UD) desired that

- a. PMMC should look into it and all these pending projects should be approved by CPHEEO within 15 days i.e. by 14th Oct., 2011. PMMC to organize a meeting between 10-14th Oct'2011 to be chaired by Secretary (UD) with CPHEEO and SIPMIUs to sort out issues related to these pending projects.
- b. For future projects all observations on DPRs should be made in one step and DPR so modified should then be approved. To facilitate this process, PMMC would prepare a check list based on CPHEEO guidelines on technical and financial aspects and get it finalized by CPHEEO. The SIPMIUs while submitting DPRs for approval to the Ministry need to obtain State's authentication of the compliance with the checklist.

- c. Future projects could be designed on 'design, build, operate and transfer (DBOT)' model integrating O & M for 5-7 years. The O&M charges would be borne by the States and not claimed under the project. However, such contracts should be vetted by the State Finance or Law departments.
 - d. PMMC to hold capacity building technical workshops in the states periodically. States should encourage Sr. Engineers to participate. Suppliers and contractors could be invited to propagate new technologies.
 - e. More study tours for project officers should be organized to acquaint them with projects in similar regions/hilly areas. Such tours within the country should be organized by Dir(UD) and through DEA in nearby countries like Philippines, Malaysia, etc.
 - f. Rainfall is a problem in NER for its long season and frequent downpours. There is a need to innovate by interacting with other agencies, states, stakeholders and local people as well. Technologies like pre-fabricated structures wherever possible/feasible could be adopted.
10. The assets created particularly Reservoirs and treatment plants should have surroundings beautified with greenery, gardens, etc.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair and the participants.

List of Participants – 28.09.2011

1. Shri Sudhir Krishna, Secretary, MoUD
2. Shri Neihu C. Thur, Secretary, UD, Nagaland
3. Shri R. Lalrinawna, Pr. Secretary, UD&PA, Mizoram
4. Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Director, Planning Commission
5. Shri Ashutosh Joshi, Director, UD, MoUD
6. Shri Dinesh Chand, Jt. Advisor, CPHEEO, MoUD
7. Shri Moti Lal, Director (Budget), MoUD
8. Shri K. Ramachandran, Dy. FA, MoUD
9. Shri SK Singh, US(ADB), DEA
10. Shri ML Meena, US, HUPA
11. Shri Valbuanga, PD, SIPMIU, Mizoram
12. Shri B. Dutta, PD, SIPMIU, Meghalaya
13. Shri. K. Haralu, PD, SIPMIU, Nagaland
14. Shri. RK Majumder, PD, SIPMIU, Tripura
15. Shri P. Kapur, PMMC, MoUD
16. Shri SS Narula, PMMC, MoUD
17. Shri, Jaidev Nansey, PMMC, MoUD
18. Shri, Rajesh Sangi, PMMC, MoUD
19. Shri Satyapal Dabas, PMMC, MoUD