

**Minutes of the meeting of the National Steering Committee for the North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme held under the Chairmanship of Shri Navin Kumar, Secretary (UD) on 30.08.2010**

\*\*\*\*\*

The Second Meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) was held on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Urban Development) at 3.30 PM in the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Urban Development. List of the participants is placed at annex 'A'.

2. At the outset, the Committee was briefed of the programme and its objectives. Secretary (UD) desired that the work done till date be presented in brief. Joint Secretary (Urban Development) informed that the North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme was an ADB assisted project for strengthening basic urban infrastructure and capacity development in the capital cities of North Eastern States. The programme was being launched in two phases, the first phase covered Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and the second phase covered Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. The first phase has been launched while phase II was yet to be negotiated. He informed that the ADB had fielded the project preparatory technical assistance in 2004 and LEA had prepared the urban sector road map for infrastructure investment requirement in the cities. The priority sectors identified were water supply, sewerage and solid waste management. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region was the national executing agency initially but they transferred the project to Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) in October, 2007. The project cost was M1371.4 crore of which ADB was to finance 70% and the remaining 30% was to be financed by Govt. of India. Of the total cost, 90% was to be extended as a grant to the States and 10% was to be a loan.

3. Explaining the monitoring and implementation mechanism JS (UD) informed that the project was being monitored at the national level by the NSC which was headed by the Secretary. A small cell had been set up in the Ministry for monitoring the project. At the State level the project was being overseen by the State Steering Committee. For actual execution, State Investment Programme Monitoring and Implementation Units (SIPMIU) consisting of 8 to 9 experts had been set up in all States and in each State these implementing units were supported by Design Construction, Supervision and Management Consultants.

4. After the presentation of the status of execution of different projects, the head of SIPMIU, Kohima informed that in Tranche I there were two projects, the first was water supply project for Kohima which involved repairing of the water treatment plant and 19 Zonal reservoirs. This project had been bid out and the bid was expected to be opened by the first week of September. The contract was likely to be awarded by mid October. He informed that due to the small size of the project, the State was facing difficulty in finding parties interested in bidding for the project. After discussions, it was decided that business opportunities seminar as advised by the ADB could be organized in consultation with the States. JS (UD) informed that the State Government had been asked to complete repairs of the water treatment plant by December, 2010 and repairs of the Zonal distribution tanks by March, 2011. It was further informed that remaining water supply project was for strengthening of the distribution network and the proposed sewerage project would be taken up only if the issue of water supply source for Kohima could be resolved. The NSC was informed that a water supply augmentation project for Kohima was sanctioned in the year 2004 but could not be completed because there was a dispute about the ownership of land of the proposed water source. It was further informed that another DPR for tapping another water source had been proposed but the DPR required modification before it could be considered for approval. The head of SIPMIU, Kohima informed that the matter regarding finalization of the source for capturing water was under active consideration of the State Government. He further informed that the second project was for providing solid waste management system for Kohima. He stated that the solid waste management project would be more effective if it covered the entire urban agglomeration of Kohima rather than just the Kohima Municipal Area which was a part of the overall urban agglomeration. This would help in ensuring desired impact on the ground. It was decided that the solid waste management project being undertaken for Kohima could cover the master plan area of Kohima, provided the State Government would provide an assurance that the Kohima Municipal Corporation (KMC) would undertake solid waste management for the entire area covered under the project and the State Government would authorize the KMC to collect any user charges that were levied for O & M of the solid waste management project from the entire area covered under the project.

5. The representatives from Mizoram informed that the the first tranche of the project in their State involved a water supply scheme under which installation of chlorinator in the water treatment plant had been completed and reconstruction of Zonal reservoirs had commenced. It was expected that the civil works would be over by December, 2011. He informed that work on Tranche II project was under way and the State expected that DPRs would be ready and other formalities completed by November, 2010 in time for beginning negotiations for Tranche II projects.

6. The representatives from Sikkim explained that in Tranche-I, there was a water supply project for covering new areas in Gangtok whose total costs have been approved at M14 crore. He explained that DPR had been submitted and certain observations raised on it by the CPHEEO would be clarified shortly so that the project could be bid out for execution.

7. The Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Finance), Meghalaya explained that for Shillong, a solid waste management project had been planned in Phase-I. The State had to identify short-term land fill and a long-term land fill site for the solid waste of the city. The State Government was in the process of identifying and finalizing the long-term land fill site and the Government was negotiating with the traditional local leadership in this regard. He informed that the condition imposed by ADB did not allow work for the short-term land fill to commence till the long-term land fill site had been acquired. Director, SIPMIU, Shillong informed that the State Government was hoping to be able to resolve the issue by 20<sup>th</sup> September.

8. Tripura was not represented in the meeting. The NSC was informed that in Tranche-I, there was a water supply project for Agartala. The project had been bid out and the State Government was likely to open the bids by the month end.

9. Secretary (Urban Development) stressed that the State Governments must ensure that various time lines were met. The State Government authorities must prepare concrete plans for the purpose. He stressed that the State Governments should also pay due attention to capacity building and reform measures incorporated in the projects and move towards achieving the various related goals.

10. Joint Secretary (UD) stressed that the States should take due care in preparation of budget and should draw the amounts they have committed for the year so as to avoid levy of commitment charges for amounts not drawn. They should not fall behind identified targets. The State Government representatives were informed that accounts of the projects duly audited and certified by the State AGs must reach ADB before 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 for the project to remain eligible for funding. They were requested to get in touch with the Auditors and ensure that accounts were audited and certified with speed. He also highlighted the reforms that were to be completed under the programme like implementation of 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, reduction of NRW, Property Tax, user charges, gender action plan, City Sanitation Plans, Service Level Benchmarking, GIS, e-Governance, etc. and emphasized that action plan for implementation of these reforms must be drawn up immediately.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Meeting of the National Steering Committee held on 30.08.2010**

**List of Participants**

1. Shri. A.K.Mehta, Joint Secretary (UD), MoUD
2. Ms. Sudha Krishnan, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoUD
3. Shri. Ashutosh Joshi, Director (UD), MoUD
4. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Director (NURM-I), MoUD
5. Shri J.B. Kshirsagar, Chief Planner, TCPO, MoUD
6. Shri. Sankaranarayanan, Dy Adviser, CPHEEO, MoUD
7. Shri .V.K. Chaurasia, Dy Adviser ,CPHEEO, MoUD
8. Shri N.S. Samant, Commissioner & Secretary, Finance, Meghalaya
9. Shri P. Lianhrima, Secretary, UD&PA, Mizoram
10. Shri J.D. Bhutia, Project Director, SIPMIU, Sikkim
11. Shri. B.Dutta, Project Director, SIPMIU, Meghalaya
12. Shri.Valbuanga, Project Director, SIPMIU, Mizoram
13. Shri. K.Haralu, Program Director, SIPMIU, Nagaland
14. Shri P.R. Meshram, Director, MDoNER
15. Shri Moti Lal, DS (Budget), MoUD
16. Shri R. Srinivas, TCP, TCPO, MoUD
17. Shri Gajanand Mali, RO, Planning Commission

\*\*\*\*\*