

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the State Ganga Rejuvenation, Protection and Management Committee (State Ganga Committee), West Bengal

The meeting held on 15th December 2017 at 5-00 PM at Conference Hall, Nabanna, 13th Floor under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal and Ex-officio Chairperson of the State Ganga Committee.

List of participant: As per list enclosed (Annexure-1)

Agenda -1: Confirmation of proceeding of the 4th Governing Council meeting of WBSPMG under erstwhile NGRBA setup held on 8th February'2016.

The Minutes of the 4th Governing Council Meeting of the erstwhile WBSPMG under NGRBA framework were confirmed with overall discussion on actions taken and progress made against resolutions dated 8th February 2016.

Agenda - 2: Confirmation of 'Resolution by Circulation' dated 9th August'2017 in connection with adoption of Annual Accounts, 2015-16.

The "Resolution by Circulation" dated 9th August 2017 on the above subject was confirmed.

Agenda- 3: Review of status of the on-going projects: Externally Aided Project (EAP) and Non-Externally Aided Project (Non-EAP) projects.

The progress of the three projects under Externally Aided Project (EAP) category namely (i) Sewerage System & STP at Halisahar, (ii) Sewerage System & STP at Budge Budge and (iii) Sewerage System & STP at Barackpore was discussed in detail. The following decisions were taken:

- (a) PD, SPMG informed that Sewerage System & STP at Halisahar, Budge Budge and Barackpore Projects are to be completed within December, 2018, January, 2019 and October, 2019 respectively. A regular and close monitoring of all these projects was advised to preempt any further time overrun.
- (b) All execution-related problems including land availability need to be sorted out early in coordination with respective authorities. Intervention of superior authority is to be sought as and when required for the purpose.
- (c) Various agencies including Line Departments and Central Govt. agencies are to be approached for the requisite assistance, permission, NOC et al in time for ensuring timely-execution of the projects.



Out of three Non-EAP Projects, two projects at Gayeshpur and Kalyani have been completed. The Bhatpara Project is to be operational by June, 2018. The House was informed about allocation of Rs. 65 crores by the Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department for provisioning of house connection with the STPs. The house connection work has already been taken up by the concerned municipal authorities and is likely to be completed within a year. PD SPMG informed that the estimates for house connections are being prepared for the ongoing EAP projects and shall soon be placed to the Department for approval.

Agenda - 4: Review of status of the projects for which Administrative Approval & Expenditure Sanction (AA & ES) have been received and present state of condition for execution of these projects.

Three new projects have recently been sanctioned by NMCG for execution in West Bengal. They relate to construction of STP and I&D networks at Kolkata (Tolly Nullah), Howrah and Bally. The House was informed about the progress made with respect to the signing of the four-party Agreement amongst NMCG, TA, SPMG and executing agencies including KMDA and KMC as required by NMCG for execution of the newer projects.

DG Tolly Nullah, KMC informed that KMC shall soon send the signed document to SPMG. KMC was reminded to identify the required piece of land as required for execution of the Tolly Nullah project as also emphasised by the National Green Tribunal from time to time.

Agenda - 5: Review of 36 RFD/Beautification/Ghats and STP projects undertaken under Namami Gange Programme.

The House was informed that from amongst the 36 projects (including 14 projects for construction of STP and I&D networks in municipal towns along river Ganga), some of the projects have already been taken up under State Plan including three crematoria (at Budge Budge, Bansberia and Chinsurah) and RFD at Dakshineswar, Belur and Nabadwip. The Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department has already commissioned KMDA to prepare a comprehensive DPR for river front development covering all the municipal towns/cities along the river Ganga. The DPR is likely to be submitted in next six months. M/s Atkins has been appointed by NMCG to do a detailed study of the 14 STP/I&D projects submitted by SPMG, West Bengal and they are likely to submit their report by mid-January following which NMCG may take a call upon sanctioning these projects.

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Agenda – 6: Ratification of extension of service of contractual employees/officers under WBSPMG.

The extension of services of six employees and officers under contractual appointment as mentioned in the agenda paper was ratified with effect from the date as proposed.

Agenda – 7: Adoption of Annual Accounts of WBSPMG for the year ended 2016-17.

The Annual Accounts for the year 2016-17, as audited by the external auditor M/s Mukherjee Biswas and Pathak, Chartered Accountants were approved and adopted. The WBSPMG was advised to take consequent actions like inviting Pr. AG (G&SSA) for Transaction and Accounts Audit, Statement of Expenditure Audit for World Bank-financed projects and observe other relevant statutory compliances subsequent to adoption of Accounts.

Agenda – 8: Status of EPIL and EIL assigned projects under Namami Gange Scheme.

The House noted with concern the slow pace of execution of the ongoing 'Ghats' and 'Crematoria' projects as being executed by EPIL. The House was also informed about new RFD projects at Dakshineswar, Belur and Nabadwip being awarded to EPIL by NMCG directly for which 'NOC' was not granted by the concerned municipal bodies. The Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Department, Govt of West Bengal has already commissioned KMDA and MED to take up these works. The House was informed about NMCG having been requested about all such works/projects to be entrusted to the state agencies for execution in future.

Agenda - 9: Status of Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) projects with Private-Public Partnership (PPP) ownership in West Bengal under NMCG financing.

The projects at Kolkata, Howrah and Bally are to be executed on Public Private Partnership through a Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) for which NMCG has appointed a Transaction Adviser (TA) namely M/S A T Kearney for overall study of the projects and helping the SPMG towards preparation of RFP documents and tender agreements towards eventual processing of tender formalities.

The House noted with concern the long time horizon within which the TA has been functioning due to which the above projects may not be grounded before April-May next year. It was felt that the RFP documents/tender terms and conditions, as and when they are framed by the TA, should be placed before the competent authority for their examination and decision.

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Agenda – 10: Miscellaneous :-

10. (a) Review of “Forestry Intervention to Clean Ganga (FIG)” project under execution responsibility of State Forest Department.

The Forest Department has been requested to place before the UD & MA Department a specific format for their requirement regarding land and other administrative help for implementing the “Forestry Intervention to Clean Ganga (FIG)” project.

10. (b) Change of address of WBSPMG from ‘Nagarayan’ to ‘Unnayan Bhawan’

The change of address of the registered office of WBSPMG as proposed in the agenda note was approved post facto.

10. (c) Current status of Trash Skimmer project initiated by NMCG in West Bengal.

- The House was informed about the status of the two trash skimmers deployed in the State of West Bengal and the Tripartite Agreements for deployment of Trash Skimmer in the two municipal towns namely Howrah and Nabadwip having been signed. The House was informed about the proposal to procure 10 new Trash Skimmers for selected municipal towns along the river Ganga for ensuring better riparian sanitation and hygiene under the State funding. The proposal was approved in principle. The UD & MA Deptt. to take further action accordingly.

During the discussion, Chief Engineer, PHE advised to further explore the technical feasibility of the proposed sewerage network at Berhampur, Murshidabad. A joint survey was proposed before the actual grounding of the work. An alternative mechanism for operation and maintenance of STPs at Kalyani and other municipal towns needs to be evolved in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Principal Secretary, Environment Department pointed out the issue of direct discharge of sewage into Ganga and networked canals without any treatment. He was apprised of the various initiatives and projects undertaken by KMDA, KMC and KEIIP for renovation and construction of new STPs along Ganga

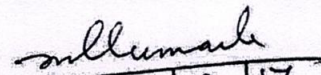
Principal Secretary, Irrigation raised the issue of cleaning of Bagjola and Kestopur canals including construction of STP, desiltation and rehabilitation. He was apprised about the development in this regard. KMDA has already invited proposal for preparation of a comprehensive DPR which would be submitted within next six months. The issue of early dredging and desiltation of these canals by the Irrigation Department was emphasised.



Principal Secretary, Forest stressed upon the need for better sanitation facilities in urban areas. He also proposed organised plantations under the relevant component of Namami Gange Programme subject to availability of land. A specific format in this regard shall soon be circulated by the PCCF, West Bengal.

Chairman, State Pollution Control Board, West Bengal suggested that the discharge from the Bagher Khaal may be connected to the already operational Gayeshpur STP. Irrigation Department may explore the feasibility of the same.

There being no other agenda, the meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair.


28/12/17
(Malay Kr. De)

Chief Secretary
West Bengal &
Chairperson, State Ganga Committee
WBSPMG

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