

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the State Ganga Rejuvenation, Protection and Management Committee (State Ganga Committee), West Bengal under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal and Ex-officio Chairperson of the State Ganga Committee.

Held on: 30th August, 2019 at 11:00 A.M

Venue: Nabanna, 13th Floor

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

Agenda-1: Confirmation of proceeding of the 2nd SGC meeting of WBSPMG under erstwhile NGRBA setup held on 27th August 2018

The Minutes of the 2nd Ganga Committee Meeting (SGC) of the erstwhile WBSPMG under NGRBA framework were taken up point wise and the related progress was reviewed. Overall discussion on agenda points and status of action taken following the resolutions of the meeting held on 27th August 2018 were placed before the members for information and confirmed.

Agenda-2: Adoption of annual accounts of WBSPMG for the year ended 2018-19

The audited Annual Accounts for the year 2018-19 was placed before the house along with copy of the same to all the concerned members for perusal and that was approved and adopted. WBSPMG was advised to take consequent actions like inviting Pr.A.G. (G & SSA) for Transaction and Accounts Audit, Statement of Expenditure, Audit for World Bank financed projects and observed other relevant statutory compliances subsequent to adoption of accounts.

Demand for EAP fund (State share): PD, SPMG raised the issue of pending allocation of state share for an amount of Rs. 111.70 Crore in relation to projects under EAP. She also informed the house that proposal for releasing state share has already been sent through Dept. and urged for early its release by the Finance Dept. She also informed the house that the share of Govt. of India has already been received.

Agenda-3: Review of status of the completed projects

PD, SPMG briefed the House about physical as well as financial progress of all completed STPs in Kalyani, Gayeshpur and Bhatpara through powerpoint presentation for information of all. Component wise progress detail including the expected timeline for completion of the projects was placed before the house for information. The progress of house connection with relation to the STPs was also mentioned during the discussion. She also requested the departmental authority to direct the concerned ULBs to complete the targeted House to House

connections as early as possible for the purpose of optimum utilisation of the capacity of the executed STPs following NGT order.

Agenda-4: Review of status of the on-going projects

Program Director, SPMG informed that all the on-going projects at Halisahar, Budge Budge, Barrackpore and Nabadwip are running smoothly after resolving various issues which surfaced during the project execution. However certain issues pertaining to the land availability in connection with lifting stations at Barrackpore STP project and some local problems in relations to removal of encroachment and shifting of utilities from the route of proposed pipeline of Budge Budge STP project also were discussed for information of all concerned. The district authority has been requested to intervene to resolve such local administrative issues.

Agenda-5: Review of status of the projects for which AA & ES have been received

The status of all 25 (Twenty five) projects under different stages were explained by Program Director, SPMG to the members. She informed the house that Letter of Acceptance (LOA) for 4 (four) projects out of 25 (Twenty five) namely Howrah, Bally, Kamarhati & Baranagar and Kancharapara have already been issued and the work is now under progress.

She informed the house that 9 (Nine) projects along main stem of river Ganga and its tributaries are in the process of tender. 6 (Six) projects out of 9 have been taken up under HAM-PPP model and other three are in DBOT model.

Program Director, SPMG briefed about the 12 (Twelve) STP projects for renovation and rejuvenation to the members. 7 (Seven) projects out of the 12 belong to district Hooghly and rest 5 (five) have been taken up for existing schemes within North 24 Parganas district. All the projects are in the process of tender and the last date of submission of bids is 9th September 2019.

Agenda-6: Review of status of the river Ghat development projects

Program Director, SPMG informed about the physical as well as financial progress of the river ghats development projects in Kalna, Katwa, Agradwip and Dainhat taken up for execution by KMDA. She informed the house that some other projects have been undertaken by NMCG through EPIL under their direct supervision and monitoring.

Agenda-7: Ratification of extension of service of contractual employees / officers

The extension of services of the six employees and officers under contractual appointment as mentioned in the agenda were put up before the house and the decision of further extension of service for all 6 employees was ratified.

Agenda-8: Review of "Forestry Intervention to Clean Ganga (FIG)" project under execution responsibility of State Forest Department

The Forest Department described their projects under execution through their own presentation for information to all the members present.

Agenda-9: Current status of Trash Skimmer project initiated by NMCG in West Bengal

PD, SPMG informed the house that 2 (two) Trash Skimmers had been deployed in the State of West Bengal, one in proximity to Nabadwip town river ghats and the other in Howrah river ghats by NMCG. They are presently being utilised by the concerned ULBs for sieving floating and suspended solid waste materials from the river Ganga.

PD, SPMG briefed the House about the deployment and performance of the 2 trash skimmers.

Agenda-10: Strengthening of laboratories of West Bengal - separate presentation will be given by West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WBPCB)

The status report in connection with strengthening of laboratories in West Bengal was explained by WBPCB to the committee.

Agenda-11: Status of Bio-diversity by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) - separate presentation to be given by the Concerned Department

Committee was apprised on the status of Bio-Diversity study by WII as received from the Department. But detailed discussion could not be made due to absence of any representation from their end.

Other issue regarding Kestopur to Bagjola Canal -

The discussion for these two canals came up in the light of the NGT orders. PD, SPMG raised the issue of construction of STP to make the canals free from pollution up to the desired level following the NGT guideline, but given the present direction of the flow of the canals, the relaying of the sewerage system would involve stupendous investment in terms of

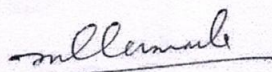
construction of Lifting Stations, Land acquisition and problems related to encroachments making the project economically non-viable.

To sort out all such problems PD, SPMG, suggested that the STP at Bagjola may be integrated with that of the Kestopur canal system since separate STP for Kestopur Canal System may not be viable. Already a joint inspection of the stretches by the Irrigation Department officers along with the officers from BMC, KMC and KMDA to chalk out an action plan has been made.

Suggestions came in this light that the capacity enhancement of the Bagjola may be required to accommodate the sewage of Salt Lake since space was available.

Presently Bagjola also works to drain storm water and tidal blockages. Restrictive measures to abate solid wastes like low height fencing along the canal and screening across the prominent outfalls were also discussed in detail. Preventive measures in the non-encroached areas have been taken up. Further action in this regard is to be taken up through the joint efforts between all the stakeholder departments and ULBs.

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



Chief Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal
&
Chairperson, State Ganga Committee
WBSPMG