



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Planning and Economic Affairs (RKI) Department– Reconstruction of LSG roads under RKI through PMU– Utility shifting of agencies such as KWA/KSEB/BSNL etc. – Mode of execution and payment– One time ratification of measures adopted– Approved – Orders issued.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (RKI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.401/2022/P&EA Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 22-10-2022

- Read: 1. G.O. (P) No.16/2018/P&EA dated 09-11-2018.
2. G.O (Ms)No. 25/2019/P&EA dated 13-08-2019.
3. G.O.(Rt)No.485/2019/P&EA dated 15-11-2019.
4. G.O. (Rt.) No.224/2020/P&EA dated 26-05-2020.
5. G.O. (Rt.) No.404/2020/P&EA dated 23-10-2020.
6. G.O.(Rt) No.62/2021/ P&EA dated 03-02-2021.
7. G.O.(Rt)No.348/2021/P&EA dated 15-08-2021.
8. G.O.(Rt)No.18/2022/P&EA dated 07-01-2022.
9. Letter No. E1/149/2022/PMULSGD dated 14-03-2022.
10. G.O.(Rt)No.300/2022/P&EA dated 02-08-2022.
11. Letter No. E1/149/2022/PMULSGD dated 20-09-2022.

ORDER

As per references cited as 2nd paper above, in-principle approval was accorded for the reconstruction of 614.6 Km of flood damaged LSGD roads with an estimated requirement of funds to the tune of ₹488 crore from the RKI. Subsequently, Administrative Sanction was issued as per Government Orders read as 3rd to 8th and 10th papers above for the reconstruction of 387.18 km road in various districts through the PMU-LSGD at a total estimated cost of ₹507.86 crore.

2. As per reference 9th above, Project Director, PMU-RKI-LSGD informed that, project execution is faced with considerable delay due to the delay in utility shifting pertaining to agencies such as KWA/KSEB/BSNL etc. As per the codal procedure regarding utility shifting, the implementation agency has to obtain an estimate from the authority with which the utility is associated and deposit this estimated amount with the former. Subsequently, the authority completes the utility shifting work and furnish completion/utilization certificate and repay

savings (if any) back to the implementing agency.

3. However, it is observed that the authorities are taking 4-5 months on an average to complete the shifting works by inviting tenders, which itself imparts considerable delay in project execution of PMU-RKI-LSGD.

4. In this context, the PD, PMU-RKI-LSGD suggested a second mode for shifting the utilities of agencies such as KWA/KSEB/BSNL etc. which constitute bulk of the utility shifting in connection with RKI works. In this mode, the contractor remits payment of shifting of utilities for a work in advance regarding the utilities of KSEB and furnish the KSEB cash receipts for reimbursement, which the related engineer of PMU-RKI-LSGD certifies. In case of utilities of KWA, the contractor shift the utilities and change the water supply lines, purchase necessary materials etc through his men in advance, and furnish vouchers for reimbursement which the related Assistant Engineer of PMU-RKI-LSGD certifies.

5. In order to reduce the delay in utility shifting and thus to ensure the earliest completion of the projects, PD, PMU requested to approve the above mode of utility shifting and settlement of associated claims. Further, he also requested to ratify the utility shifting done so far under various RKI road works in the manner noted in **para 4** above;

6. However, on examination, it is found that the practice should be discouraged in the following context:

(a) The practice is in considerable deviation with the existing codes/guidelines.

(b) The vouchers for reimbursements are certified by the related Assistant Engineer of the PMU-RKI-LSGD, and not by the appropriate authority of the utility concerned, who is technically qualified to do so.

(c) Difficulty in ensuring transparency and accountability as;

i. No records from the authority of utility (KSEB/KWA/BSNL etc) will be provided regarding the proper completion of utility shifting in the form of completion/utilization certificates; and

ii. It is unable to ascertain the know-how/technical competency of the contractor to shift the utilities in an effective and efficient manner.

7. In these circumstances, the Government, after having considered the matter in detail, are pleased to ratify the action of having done the utility shifting and settlement of associated claims till 20-09-2022 as detailed in para 4 above, in deviation to the codal provisions in that respect, as a one-time measure considering it as a *bonafide* action to keep the project timelines.

8. Notwithstanding the above, the manner of utility shifting proposed by the PMU, as detailed in Para 4 above, shall be strictly discontinued hereafter, in order to ensure transparency and accountability in the project execution of PMU-RKI-LSGD.

(By order of the Governor)
K SUNILKUMAR
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

To:

Additional Chief Secretary, Local Self Government Department.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department

Project Director, PMU-RKI-LSGD.

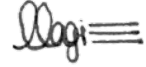
The Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit), Thiruvananthapuram.

Local Self Government Department.

Information & Public Relations (Web & New Media) Department (for publishing in Government website)

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Forwarded /By order



Section Officer