

ROADS & BRIDGES

A. STATE PLAN:

Road is the backbone in the state of Meghalaya. Being landlocked, with no other means of communication, the overall development of the State depends mostly on road communication and hence utmost importance should be given for speedy development of this vital infrastructure.

The total road length of the state as on March 2010 is 9152.00 Km, of which 5625.00 Kms is blacktopped and 3527.00 Kms is graveled. The road density is 40.81 Kms/100 Sq. Km. During the current year 2010-11, 101 Km of road is targetted to be completed. Thus the total road length at the end of the year i.e. upto 31-03-2011 is anticipated to be 9253.00 Kms of which 6041.00 Kms will be blacktopped and the remaining 3212.00 Km gravelled, covering a road density of 41.25 Km /100 sq Km.

Upgradation of existing infrastructures: -

Meghalaya is very rich in agriculture and mineral resources. Upgradation of existing roads by way of improvement, widening, strengthening, metalling and blacktopping is very essential to cater to the increasing load and intensity of the present day traffic for transportation within as well as outside the State .Further, the State is having about 13.21 Km of Semi Permanent Timber (SPT) bridges for which their conversion into permanent Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) Bridges is also of prime importance.

The Department is having 532 nos of on-going schemes including RIDF comprising 7th, 8th, Rolling Plan, 9th, 10th & 11th Plan schemes with a total Bank of Sanction of `28729.405 Lakhs. Maximum stress has been given to complete as many of these schemes as practicable within the Plan Outlay. During the current year 2010-11, the anticipated expenditure for implementation of these schemes is ` 7246.48 Lakhs and about 311 nos of schemes are targeted to be completed. Further, 15 nos. of RIDF XV schemes were also sanctioned during the year 2010-11 amounting to ` 2207.57 Lakhs. Thus, the total no. of schemes at the end of the financial year is anticipated to be around 236 with a total bank of sanction of ` 23690.495 Lakhs.

In addition to State Plan, the Department is also taking up schemes for new construction as well as upgradation under different programmes of the Central Government namely Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), North Eastern Council (NEC), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Central Road Fund (CRF), Interstate Connectivity (ISC), Economic Importance (E&I) and Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development of Exports (ASIDE).

Mechanisation:-

The construction of state road in the State of Meghalaya is predominantly labour oriented. However, usage of modern machineries like hot mix plant, paver finisher with electronic sensor and vibratory rollers have been adopted in the National Highways and other Central schemes. Switching over to mechanised road construction in the State using modern machineries and equipments is required. However, due to financial constraints, the process of procurement of these machineries and equipments are being done in phased manner.

Capacity Building: -

With the demand for latest technology and to equip the officers and staff with modern technical knowledge, skills and information, the Department is deputing in-service engineers for training in Central Road Research Institute (C.R.R.I) and National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers (NITHE). During the current year, the Department organized a Training programme at Shillong imparted by CRRI. Efforts are being taken to provide more training facilities for in-service engineers in the near future.

Computerization & E-Governance of the Department is also being taken up for which an agreement was signed on the 19-3-2010 with C-DAC, Pune under Phase-I. Work has commenced and it is targeted to complete within 15 months. Second Phase work which includes networking etc will be taken up after completion of Phase-I.

Further, efforts are also being taken by the Department for upgradation of Road Research Laboratory and improvement of Sectional Assistant Training Centre at Laitlyngkot.

Village Connectivity:-

As per 2001 census, there are 6026 Nos. of villages in Meghalaya, of which 2991 Nos. have been connected by road as on 31-03-10 and 5 Nos. of villages are proposed to be connected during 2010-11. Hence, at the end of the 4th year of the 11th Plan (2007-12) i.e 31-03-2011, the total no. of villages anticipated to be connected will be 2996. The remaining no. of villages that are yet to be connected also comprise of small, isolated and remotely situated villages, having population of 250 Nos. and below. These villages are targeted to be connected. However, habitations with 250 and above population will be connected under PMGSY and Bharat Nirman in phases.

The proposed outlay for the year 2011-12 of Rs. 38570.00 (L) includes Common Outlay and Channelisation to Community and Rural Development Department and Special Plan Assistance (SPA). The physical targets are as follows:-

1.	New Construction	78 Kms.
2.	Metalling and Blacktopping	406 Kms
3.	Upgradation	158 Kms.
4.	Bridges	1338 Running meter
5.	Village connectivity	5 Nos.

Roads and Bridge sector plays a vital role for the socio-economic progress of the State. The overall development of the State depends mainly on the improvement of road infrastructure since there is no alternative mode of communication in the State. Other developmental activities namely – health, education, power, marketing centers etc... will follow when road infrastructure is in place.

Considering the basic needs and facts as stated above, the proposed outlay for roads and bridges sector for Annual Plan 2011-12, amounting to Rs. 39887.00 (L) may be considered and recommended.