

**Minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Project Appraisal & Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC)**

30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Project Appraisal & Approval Committee (PAAC-EPC) for utilization of EPC funds, chaired by Chairman, CPCB, was held on September 18, 2024 via video conferencing. List of participants is placed at Annexure - I.

02. AQM division briefed the Committee about the status of EPC funds. Rs. 437.92 crore has been accrued in the EPC fund account as on 29.08.2024, out of which Rs. 102.8 crore has been spent with a total committed expenditure of Rs. 170 crore (estimated). Further, a corpus of Rs. 150 crore has been proposed to be earmarked for utilization through gap funding support for NCR cities for implementation of Clean Air City Action Plan, leaving Rs. 117 crore available for further utilization.

Subsequently, AQM division apprised the Committee about the agenda of the meeting, involving taking decisions on 04 proposals related to road construction/repair/paving works and procurement of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSM) and Anti-smog guns (ASG), which were kept abeyance in view of Hon'ble NGT in OA 638/2023, and one proposal received recently from MC Alwar for on-ground mitigation of air pollution.

03. PAAC was briefed that vide its recent order dated 03.09.2024, the Hon'ble NGT in IA No. 408/2024 in OA No. 638/2023 has expressed that no restraint has been put upon CPCB in respect of utilization of EPC funds. Accordingly, the projects which were kept in abeyance in view of the Hon'ble NGT orders are being taken up in the meeting.

04. The observations and decisions of the Committee are summarized below:

**A. Approval of 03 project proposals from ULBs for road construction/repair/paving works and procurement of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) and anti-smog guns (ASGs):**

The Committee was apprised that three proposals were received from ULBs in Delhi-NCR seeking funding for road construction/repair/paving works and procurement of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) and anti-smog guns (ASGs). These were forwarded to CAQM for examination and CAQM had recommended the proposals, and these are given below:

Name of ULB	Work/Activity	Estimated Cost
Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation	Procurement of 5 Anti-Smog Guns (ASGs)	Rs. 2.25 crore



<b>Municipal Corporation Faridabad</b>	Procurement of 5 Mechanical Road Sweeping Machine (MRSMs) and 5 ASGs, and 18 road construction works (16 km) and 2.5 km paving works	Rs. 31.125 crore
<b>Meerut Municipal Corporation</b>	16 roads (13.38 km) road construction/repair work	Rs. 19.4 crore

PAAC approved the proposals as per the estimated cost indicating above, subject to the following:

- A declaration to be provided by the concerned ULB that these specific works are not being undertaken from any other Central/State Govt. Scheme such as SBM2.0 or funds available with the ULB and that no fund is available for the same.
- ULBs to ensure that MRSMs and ASGs are procured with 5 years O&M cost of which is to be borne by ULBs.
- Maintenance of roads to be undertaken by ULBs and to ensure compliance of construction quality norms by the same.
- 50% of funds to be released after issue of work order and remaining 50% on completion of works/procurement.

PAAC expressed that the funds being provided for road construction/repair or for procurement of MRSM & ASGs is not be construed as a budgetary support, as same is only being supported as a one-time measure for gap funding. Regarding the proposals submitted for road stretches, it was expressed that the ULB should conduct an assessment to list the priority roads (major intersections/hotspot areas/areas having heavy traffic movement) where works are to be carried out, and clearly indicate the priority road stretches where work has been taken up from central/state/ULB funds, and that the proposal submitted under EPC is only for consideration of remaining roads for which funds are not available. PAAC further expressed that CPCB should also come out with guidelines for consideration of road stretches for funding under EPC funds.

PAAC expressed that the above road projects are sanctioned however the ULBs must conduct a quick assessment of these in terms of priority roads (major intersections/hotspot areas/areas having heavy traffic movement) in parallel and in case, the road stretches identified at present need to be changed, the ULB can submit the revised proposal to CAQM. PAAC authorized MS, CPCB to approve the revised proposals, if any, based on the recommendation of CAQM. In case the existing roads are priority roads, the same may also be communicated to CPCB for further issue of sanction letter.

 

**B. Approval for revised cost of procurement of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) by NDMC:**

PAAC was briefed that a proposal for procurement of 5 nos. of MRSMs was sanctioned to NDMC in the 27<sup>th</sup> PAAC meeting at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.61 crore. PAAC was apprised that NDMC vide letter dated 06.06.2024 has revised the proposal, proposing CNG engines for suction instead of diesel engines proposed earlier, being procured as part of CNG operated MRSMs, and the revised cost is Rs. 14.30 crore.

PAAC accepted the revised proposal of NDMC and sanctioned the same at a revised cost of Rs. 14.30 crores, subject the conditions prescribed at the time of sanction as outlined in the preceding paras.

**C. Proposal of Municipal Corporation Alwar for reducing air pollution:**

PAAC was briefed that a proposal regarding procurement of vehicles for collection of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), development of vertical garden and installation of water fountains at intersections, at a cost Rs. 5.6 crore has been received from Municipal Corporation Alwar. The proposal was forwarded to CAQM for examination. Sh. RK Agarwal, Director, CAQM informed that procurement of vehicles for collection of MSW may be considered for funding, as it may help in waste management and thereby reduce air pollution due to open burning of waste.

PAAC agreed with the recommendation of CAQM and sanctioned Rs. 4.5 crore to Municipal Corporation Alwar for procurement of MSW collection vehicles, provided that there are no funds available from Swachh Bharat Mission or any other central/state govt. scheme or with the ULB for these specific works as detailed in the preceding paras.

Regarding the other components of the proposal, it was expressed that the ULB may like to consider submitting a proposal for plantation, if funds are not available for the same, instead of the other works proposed at present.

05. PAAC expressed that the mechanism indicated today may be communicated to any ULB/agency which seeks gap funding from CPCB road construction/repair and paving works in the future. The proposal from the ULBs should be accompanied with an assessment clearly indicating the expected impact on air quality and the justification in terms of prioritization of road stretches using available funds, as EPC funds are only meant for gap funding support for priority road stretches and should subscribe to the conditions mentioned in the preceding paras.

Meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.

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## Annexure - I

### List of PAAC Members:

1. Sh. Tanmay Kumar, Special Secretary, MoEF&CC and Chairman, CPCB
2. Sh. Bharat Kumar Sharma, Member Secretary, CPCB
3. Sh. Suresh Kumar, Director, IFD, MoEF&CC
4. Sh. R.K. Agarwal, Director (Technical), CAQM
5. Sh. Vivek Roy, CEO1, UPPCB
6. Dr. Pradyot Koley, Scientist D, DST
7. Sh. Nilesh Tagad, Scientist B MoRTH
8. Sh. Prasoon Tripathi, Under Secretary, MoEF&CC (CP Division)
9. Dr. Jayshree Kala, SSO, RSPCB
10. Dr. Rashid Hasan, Senior Advisor, SIAM
11. Representative, HSPCB

### Invitees:

1. Sh. Amit Chaudhary, Assistant Engineer, MCF
2. Ms. Ayushi Agarwal, Consultant, MCF
3. Sh. Brajesh Tripathi, NCAP Consultant, MCF
4. Sh. Chhotelal Verma, Assist. Engineer, MMC
5. Representative, MMC (through VC)
6. Representative, GMC (through VC)
7. Representative, Nagar Nigam Alwar (through VC)

### CPCB Officials:

1. Sh. Pankaj Agarwal, Scientist F & Head, AQM Division
2. Sh. Ankush Tewani, Scientist E, AQM Division
3. Sh. Gautam Kumar Sharma, Scientist C, AQM Division
4. Sh. Toshesh Bhargava, SRF, AQM Division
5. Sh. Amit, IT Division