

MINUTES OF THE STATE LEVEL MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING CONVENED BY CHIEF SECRETARY ON 14.09.2022 AT 3.30 PM (ONLINE MEETING) TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS OF LAND ACQUISITION FOR INDIAN RAILWAY DOUBLING PROJECTS IN THE STATE

The Meeting commenced at 3.30 PM. The Chief Secretary welcomed the participants and directed the Additional Secretary, Revenue (Land Acquisition) to present the progress of land acquisition for Railway doubling projects. The list of participants is attached.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – KANYAKUMARI DOUBLING

The Additional Secretary, Revenue (LA) informed that Thiruvananthapuram – Kanyakumari doubling is covered in 3 stretches viz. 1st stretch Thiruvananthapuram - Nemom (13.4127 Ha), 2nd stretch Nemom to Neyyatinkara (6.2361 Ha) and 3rd stretch Neyyatinkara to Parasala (7.8712 Ha) and some additional land acquisition cases covered in the 3 stretches.

I. Thiruvananthapuram – Nemom (1st stretch)

The Additional Secretary, Revenue (LA) informed that in the 1st stretch an extent of 13.4127 Hectares of land for the doubling of Thiruvananthapuram - Nemom Railway line needs to be acquired. The 19(1) Declaration was issued as per G.O.(P)No. 117/2022/RD dated 28.03.2022 and the BVR approved on 23.06.2022.

As directed by the Chief Secretary, the Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department had held a detailed meeting on land acquisition for railway projects in Kerala on 10.08.2022 and the Special Tahsildars were assigned the following targets for the 1st stretch.

- The balance 66 Hearing cases needs to be completed by the LAO within 3 days. (13/08/2022)
- The valuation of the pending 337 structures needs to be completed by the Railways within a week time. (17/08/2022)
- The additional staff if required may be hired from Special Tahsildar LA, Railway Unit No II & Unit II
- The balance 874 DVS needs to be passed within two weeks @ 50 DVS per day. (24/08/2022)
- All awards needs to be passed before 15.09.2022

The Additional Secretary, Revenue (LA) pointed out that as on 13.09.2022 the DVS has been approved in 84 cases even though structural valuation of 475 cases has been submitted by Railways. He added that a target given to them to pass the balance 874 DVS cases within two weeks @ 50 DVS per day has not been fulfilled. Also, out of the 903 awards, only 52 Awards has been passed by the LAO.

The comparative status of the progress in land acquisition for the 1st stretch as on 10.08.2022 and 13.09.2022 and the targets set by the Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department on 10.08.2022 are detailed below.

| ACTION | 10/08/2022 | 13/09/2022 | Progress | Pendency percentage | Deadline set by ACS, Revenue on 10/08/2022 |
|--|------------|------------|----------|---------------------|---|
| DETAILED VALUATION STATEMENT (DVS) | | | | | |
| Total | 903 | 903 | | 90.70 | Balance 874 DVS to be passed by 24/08/2022 |
| Approved | 29 | 84 | 55 | | |
| To be Approved | 874 | 819 | | | |
| STRUCTURES | | | | | |
| Total | 607 | 607 | | 21.75 | Railways to complete balance 337 valuations by 17/08/2022 |
| Valuation received | 270 | 475 | 205 | | |
| Valuation pending | 337 | 132 | | | |
| Note: 105 valuations received on 03/09/2022 and 100 valuations on 13/09/2022 | | | | | |
| HEARINGS | | | | | |
| Total required | 901 | 901 | | 3.88 | LAO to complete balance 66 hearings by 13/08/2022 |
| Conducted | 835 | 866 | 31 | | |
| Documents to be received | 167 | | | | |
| Pending | 66 | 35 | | | |
| Awards | | | | | |
| Total | 903 | 903 | | 94.24 | All awards to be passed by 15/09/2022 |
| Passed | 29 | 52 | 23 | | |
| To be passed | 874 | 851 | | | |
| LAND ACQUISITION (Ha) | | | | | |
| Total extend | 13.4127 | 13.4127 | | 93.83 | Possession percentage as on 13/09/2022 |
| Possession taken | 0.4180 | 0.8273 | 0.4093 | | |
| Possession to be taken | 12.9947 | 12.5854 | | | 6.17 |

The Chief Secretary mentioned that the Hon'ble Prime Minister's office is monitoring the progress of the land acquisition for railway projects and that PMO had written to the Chief Secretary on 19th October 2021. Subsequently, a commitment had been given by the State Government to PMO that the land for the 1st stretch would be handed over to the Indian Railways by 31st March 2022. As the target was not achieved, the Hon'ble Union Railway Minister had sought the kind intervention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister vide letter dated 17th May 2022. The Chief Secretary asked the District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram as to the reasons that the timeline has not been adhered to for the critical project.

The District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram informed that a reason for the delay is the frequent transfers of Tahsildars and the other delay is due to Onam Holidays. The Chief Secretary stated that

the frequent transfers of Tahsildars is not a valid reason and the Tahsildars are Revenue officers they are very much aware of the LA process. Moreover there are three Special Tahsildar Units working for the land acquisition. Even if the units had started working of passing DVS @ 50 per day after getting the notice for this meeting today, then the 874 DVS cases would have been approved by now.

The District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram informed that all the structural valuation reports have not been submitted by the Railways yet. The Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Southern Railway informed that the entire structural valuation report will be submitted within a week (22.09.2022).

The Chief Secretary noted that in the review convened by ACS, Revenue on 10.08.2022, the Railways had been given a target for submitting the valuation of the pending 337 structures within a week (17/08/2022). However, the target has not been achieved. The Chief Secretary stated that the laxity on the part of the officers of the Railways, which is also contributing to the delay in land acquisition, would be brought to the notice of the Chairman, Railway Board. He stated that a more proactive approach is expected from the Railways.

The Chief Secretary directed the District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram to closely monitor the work of all three Special Tahsildar Units which are part of the Thiruvananthapuram – Kanyakumari doubling work, which has significant public interest. He further directed that all the targets set at the meeting chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department on 10.08.2022 (refer table above), including passing of all awards, shall be completed before 30.09.2022, without fail and that the salary bills of the officers working in the units shall be processed only after the targets are achieved.

II. Nemom to Neyyatinkara (2nd stretch)

In the 2nd stretch an extent of 6.2361 Hectares of land in Pallichal, Balaramapuram, Athiyanoor, Perumpazhuthoor & Neyyatinkara Villages for the doubling of railway line from Nemom to Neyyatinkara needs to be acquired. The 4(1) notification has been issued as per G.O(P) No 225/22/RD dated 25.08.2022 entrusting the SIA study with Planet Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and the SIA agency is yet to submit the final report.

The Chief Secretary commented that in this stretch 4(1) Notification has been initially issued as per G.O(P) No 23/22/RD dtd 12.01.2022. Since the SIA agency failed to submit the report within 6 months, 4(1) Notification issued had been cancelled. Now a fresh notification has been issued in this stretch which had delayed the acquisition proceedings. He stated that instances are noticed of SIA agencies which are failing to submit the report within the prescribed time limit being entrusted for conducting SIA studies again. Hence a general direction needs to be issued to all District Collectors stating if the SIA agencies fails to submit the report within the prescribed time limit or submits incomplete reports, then the said agency may be black listed and further studies need not be entrusted to them.

III. Neyyatinkara to Parasala (3rd stretch)

In the 3rd stretch an extent of 7.8712 Hectares of land in Neyyatinkara, Kollayil, Parasuvaikkal & Parasala villages of Thiruvananthapuram district for the doubling of railway line & .9407 Hectares of land in Kollayil Parasuvaikkal & Parasala villages for the construction of ROB No 94, 99, 108 & 120 in the Neyyatinkara to Parasala stretch (3rd stretch) needs to be acquired.

The 4(1) Notification issued as per G.O.(P)No 214/2021/RD dated 29.12.2021 entrusting the SIA study with Centre for Management Development, Thiruvananthapuram. The SIA Report has been

submitted and the Expert Committee constituted. Sanction as per sub-section (2) of section 8 of LARR Act, 2013. Draft 11(1) Notification to be submitted by District Collector.

The Chief Secretary stated that the progress of land acquisition in Thiruvananthapuram District has been slow and that none of the targets decided in the meeting convened by ACS, Revenue on 10.08.2022 has been achieved. He directed that officers who are not doing their work properly should be suspended immediately.

The Chief Secretary directed that the progress of acquisition of the additional land portions in Thiruvananthapuram District need not be reviewed at present and that the same can be taken up after 30.09.2022.

ERNAKULAM - AMBALAPPUZHA RAILWAY DOUBLING

Item No 1: (b) Doubling between Ernakulam - Kumbalam (7.7 Kms)

An extent of 5.87 Hectares of land in Ernakulam district needs to be acquired. 4(1) Notification has been issued. Expert Committee has been constituted and 11(1) Notification issued. The R&R package has not been finalized since the structural valuation of buildings possessed by 7 encroaches in the puramboke land has been submitted by Railways only on 27.08.2022. In the review meeting convened by ACS, Revenue on 10.08.2022 the CE(Construction), Southern Railways had assured that structural valuation of all buildings will be completed within a week (17/08/2022), which was not adhered to.

It was noted that no officer from the Railways who could respond to the question on the reason for the delay in handing the structural valuation attended this meeting. The Chief Secretary reiterated that the officers of the Railways should adhere to the timelines committed.

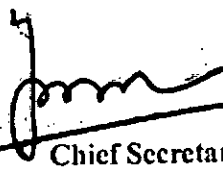
The District Collector, Ernakulam informed that draft R&R package of Rs. 2.36 crores is under preparation. Then the Hearing Notice will be issued and public hearing will be completed before 20.10.2022 and the draft R&R submitted to CLR. The Chief Secretary directed the District Collector, Ernakulam to strictly adhere to the timelines committed.

Item No 1: (c) Doubling of Track between Kumbalam – Thuravur (15.6 Kms)

An extent of 10.30 Hectares of land in Alappuzha District for doubling of track between from Kumbalam to Thuravoor (1st stretch) as part of Ernakulam & Ambalappuzha Railway projects needs to be acquired. The 4(1) Notification was issued as per G.O(P) No 186/2022/RD dated 24.06.2022 entrusting the SIA study with Centre for Management Development, Thiruvananthapuram and the timeline given to the SIA agency to complete study within 21 weeks.

The Chief Secretary directed all concerned to speed up the land acquisition proceedings and adhere to the time lines and ensure that land is handed over to the Railways at the earliest.

The meeting ended at 4 PM.


Chief Secretary

List of participants

| Sl.No | Name | Designation |
|-------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Dr. A. Jayathilak IAS | Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) |
| 2 | Sri. Abdul Nasar B. IAS | Additional Secretary, Revenue (LA) |
| 3 | Sri. Geromic George IAS | District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram |
| 4 | Smt. Renu Raj IAS | District Collector, Ernakulam |
| 5 | Sri. Chandra Prakash | Deputy CE (Construction), Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram |
| 6 | Sri. Santhosh Kumar | ADM, Alappuzha |
| 7 | Sri. Sunilal P B | Deputy Collector (LA), Ernakulam |