

Minutes of the Annual Zonal Review Meeting with the CVOs held on 25th February 2009 at New Delhi.

The list of participants is at ***Annexure-A***.

CVC in the Chair. The meeting started with introductory remarks by CVC and the Vigilance Commissioners. This was followed by presentations by CTEs on the inadequacies observed in the CTE examination of the works and procurement contracts of the organizations present in the meeting. Copy of the CTE presentations was provided to the CVOs for reference. The Commission made some observations during discussion with CVOs. The observations needing follow up action are indicated in the minutes later.

2. Introductory remarks:

2.1 CVC:

- i) CVC at the outset stressed the importance of cohesive working between the CVO of the PSUs and the Ministries concerned.
- ii) He noted that the complaint handling mechanism in the Ministries remains a weak area. There are a large number of complaints in the Ministries and the response time is longer. Due to deficient systems, the organisations under the Ministries also suffer. It has been observed that no response is received for a long time and in such cases, when the Commission invokes the provision of direct inquiry on account of delay by CVOs, the report of CVO is immediately submitted.
- iii) CVC also pointed out that regular monthly reports from part-time CVOs are not being received. He directed that the part-time CVOs should send monthly reports on a regular basis.
- iv) He observed that the monthly reports being received in the Commission are very routine and lack application of mind and attention of CVO. There is a need for making monthly report an important and dynamic communication tool.
- v) CVC highlighted the fact that the Commission has been stressing on CVOs for holding regular structured meetings with the CEO (CMD or Secretary in case of Ministry) for which minutes should be recorded.
- vi) CVC desired that there is need for monitoring mechanism for plugging the delays of any kind. Analysis of delays in progress of inquiries and disciplinary proceedings need to be done and the Commission needs to be kept informed.
- vii) Proper follow up of vigilance advice at the Appellate Authority stage should be done and in case of deviation from advice, CVO should seek review.

viii) CVC also mentioned that there is large scope for system improvement in DDA and there is an urgent need for plugging the deficiency in the existing system.

2.2 VC(S)

i) VC (S) expressed dissatisfaction over no or little sign of improvement in vigilance activities of the CVOs.

ii) He laid stress on the fact that issues relating to contract management and quality are the serious issues in technical department and a large number of complaints is being received on these issues on a regular basis. There is a need to pay special attention to the contract violations, quality problems and delays in the execution of contracts. CVOs should constantly work towards the objective that, in cases where such lapses have been observed the accountability should be fixed.

iii) He emphasized the need for tangible outcome in cases so that the culprits are held. He pointed out that there is no quantum improvement visible in this area.

iv) He indicated that there is an inherent weakness in preliminary inquiry mechanism. There is a need to address this issue by focusing on the aspect of fixing accountability for time and cost overruns and granting favours in placement of contracts.

v) He also noted that most of the organizations have technical capability to evaluate the quality, but, it does not seem to be working in an effective manner. The reason could be that there is situation of total non-empowerment.

vi) He expressed displeasure over total apathy shown by the CVOs towards repeated reminders being sent from the Commission. The response time is generally very long and there are also cases of no response.

vii) He raised the issue of identifying jurisdiction of PWD/CPWD and Ministry in respect of attending to complaints, inspection of projects and follow up action.

2.3 VC(R)

i) She emphasized that complaint handling mechanism in most of the organisations is faulty. CVO has to ensure that all the complaints reach him and not Administration or Public Relation Departments. Vigilance angle in the complaint is to be decided by the CVO only.

ii) She pointed out that the quality of charge sheet is very important. CVO should constantly keep a watch on this aspect. It needs to be ensured that all the allegations are covered properly with supporting documents.

iii) CVO should also keep a watch on the quality of work done by the Inquiry Officer.

iv) She observed that sometimes while forwarding the recommendations of DA with regard to punishment, the recommendation of CVO is not available. CVO should analyze and give recommendation while forwarding the case to the Commission.

3. Presentation by the participants:

3.1 Leveraging of technology:

In most of the Organizations and Ministries, phase I has been completed, but, phase II has not progressed much except HUDCO.

3.2 Pending cases of sanction for prosecution:

There is no pendency of CBI cases of sanction for prosecution.

3.3 Structured Meetings between CVOs and the CMD:

It was observed that DDA, NBCC, HUDCO, M/o Urban Development, NHAI, have no practice of holding periodical structured meeting with the CMD/CEO of the organization with proper agenda items and minutes.

3.4 CTE type inspection by CVOs:

It was observed that DDA, CPWD were carrying out CTE type inspection NHAI, BRDB, were not carrying out CTE type inspection. CVOs need to conduct CTE type inspection and send a sample report to CTE.

3.5 Agreed List:

All organizations are maintaining the Agreed List, except DDA.

4. Action Points:

i) The Commission noted that there has been delay in processing of complaints by the DDA. The Commission desired that the lag time in processing the complaints needs to be reduced substantially.

(Action: CVO, DDA)

ii) VC(S) desired that DDA should list out few activities which could be taken up for vigilance audit.

(Action: CVO, DDA)

iii) DDA should make a presentation on system computerization for the Commission.

(Action: CVO, DDA)

iv) A system needs to be put in place for holding regular structured meetings with the CEO with structured agenda and minutes.

(Action: CVO, DDA, NBCC, HUDCO, M/o UD, BRDB)

v) CVO/Chief Engineer, QC, should be asked to do CTE type of Inspections and a few of these Inspection Reports may be sent to the Commission.

(Action: CVO, DDA, CVO-CPWD, NBCC, NHAI)

vi) It was observed that Agreed list has not been prepared in DDA. Immediate action should be initiated for the preparation of Agreed List.

(Action: CVO, DDA)

vii) A detailed report on the status of leveraging of technology should be submitted to the Commission by CVO-CPWD.

(Action: CVO, CPWD)

viii) Reconciliation of figures of pending references- 1st, 2nd stage and further information needs to be done.

(Action: All CVOs)

ix) CVO HUDCO mentioned that the irregularities in the recruitment policies of the employees have been reported by him to the management, but to no avail. The Commission desired that CVO, HUDCO may send a detailed report on the transfer policy.

(Action: CVO, HUDCO)

x) CVO, HUDCO was asked to prepare a status report on internal audit system existing in HUDCO.

(Action: CVO, HUDCO)

xi) The Commission also desired that a meeting of CMD and CVO of HUDCO may be convened after preparing Agenda Note.

(Action: BO/Vig. VIII)

xii) The Commission desired that CVO should make a presentation on vigilance aspects to the Board of Directors of HUDCO.

(Action: CVO, HUDCO)

xiii) The Commission desired that CVO, NHAJ may explore the possibility of any criminal angle in pending cases especially where the officers are now working with the State Government.

(Action: CVO, NHAJ)

xiv) CVO, BRDB indicated that as a part of new initiative, a manual is under preparation. The Commission desired that a copy of the manual may be sent to the Commission for the perusal.

(Action: CVO, BRDB)

xv) The Commission desired that CVO, NPCC should send a detailed report on the pending cases.

(Action: CVO, NPCC)

Annexure-A

List of the participants:

- 1 Shri R.C.Mishra, Addl. Secy. & CVO, M/o Urban Development
- 2 Shri V.K.Sadhu, Pr.Commissioner & CVO,Delhi Development Authority
- 3 Shri Nikhilesh Jha, CVO, CPWD.
- 4 Shri Ravinesh Kumar,CVO,National Building Construction Corporation
- 5 Shri T.K.Sanyal, CVO,HUDCO
- 6 Shri S.K.Dash, Jt. Secretary & CVO, D/o Road Transport & Highways
- 7 Shri R. Mukundan, CVO, National Highways Authority of India,
- 8 Shri Subhash Sharma, Secretary, Border Roads Development Board
- 9 Shri R.M.Mishra, Joint Secretary and CVO, M/o Water Resources
- 10 Smt Shyamalima Banerjee, CVO,National Project Construction Corpn. Ltd

Commission's officers

1. Shri K.S. Ramasubban, Secretary
2. Shri Vineet Kumar Gupta, Addl. Secretary
3. Smt Jaya Balachandran, Addl. Secretary
4. Shri A.Bhatnagar, Addl. Secretary
5. Shri V. Ramachandran, CTE
6. Shri V.K.Gupta, CTE
7. Smt Shalini Darbari, Director
8. Shri K.L.Ahuja, Director
9. Shri Surendra Mohan, Director
10. Shri K.Subramaniam, OSD
11. Shri Rakesh Goyal, Dy.Secy
12. Shri J.Vinod Kumar, Under Secretary