भारत सरकार Government Of India
रेल मंत्रालय Ministry Of Railways
(रेलवे बोर्ड) (Railway Board)

Record Notes of Discussion During Meeting of

Advisory Group of Experts

on

Upgradation of Technology and Leveraging 'Make in India' on Railways

Held on 23rd January, 2017 at RDSO, Lucknow

1. In terms of Railway Board's letter no. 2015/CE-I/Innov./6, dated 13.01.2017; meeting of Advisory Group of Experts (AGE) on "Upgradation of Technology and Leveraging 'Make in India' in the Railways" was held by Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Chairman/AGE and Member / NITI Aayog on 23.01.17 at RDSO/Lucknow.

2. Following officials were present :

A. Advisory Group of Experts :

1. Dr. V. K. Saraswat
   Chairman/AGE & Member/NITI Aayog
2. Shri P. K. Srivastava
   Director General, RDSO
3. Prof. N. S. Vyas
   Chairman, Technology Mission for IR
4. Prof. Prem Vrat
   Ex.Director/IITR & Pro-Ch, NCU
5. Dr. S.K. Salwan
   Chairman, Armament Research Board
6. Shri Jitendra Sondhi
   Former World Bank & Rail Expert
7. Dr. N.K. Gupta
   Ex. Project Director, ISRO
8. Shri Alok Kumar
   ***Convenor** and CE/Northern Railway*

B. Other Participants :

9. Shri J.S. Sondhi
   Addl. Director General/RDSO
10. Shri Shailendra N. Jaiswal
    ED (E&R)/R.Bd.
11. Shri V.K. Agarwal
    ED/Research/RDSO
12. Shri Anirudh Gautam
    GGM/RITES
13. Smt. Kalpana Dube
    ED (Fin.)/RDSO
14. Shri Anup Kumar
    Sr.ED/TI/RDSO
15. Shri H. Katiyar
    Sr.ED/VDG & CVO/RDSO
16. Shri Indrajit Singh
    ED/Carriage/RDSO
17. Shri Ashok Kr. Mishra
    ED (Works)/RDSO
18. Shri Brijesh Kumar
    ED/Geotech Engg./RDSO
19. Shri Sanjay Kumar
    ED/Wagon/RDSO
20. Shri Nasimuddin
    ED/PS&EMU/RDSO
21. Shri Sandeep Sharma
    ED (Track Design)/RDSO
22. Shri A.K. Dadarya
    ED/B&S/RDSO
23. Shri Om Prakash Kesari
    ED/SE(Co.)/RDSO
24. Shri H. Akhtar
    ED/Testing/RDSO
25. Shri C.M. Rao
    ED/MP/RDSO
26. Shri R.M. Pasi
    ED/Engine Dev./RDSO

3. In the meeting of 'AGE', main focus and discussion was on establishing "SRESTHA" (Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology & Holistic Advancement) on Indian Railways; which is the outcome of deliberation by Indian Railway's Advisory Group of Experts, constituted by the Ministry of Railways.

4. It was reiterated by Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Chairman/AGE that –

   (i) SRESTHA would give R&D focus for IR. It would be world class R&D centre which would be exclusively dedicated to research activities. It would be integrated with Productions Centres, Operation Centres and R&D Centres of Indian Railways with dedicated manpower, having their career path in research activities.

   (ii) SRESTHA will focus on directed research, i.e. translational research.

   (iii) Infrastructural research facilities need to be created at SRESTHA and these to be integrated with Production Units and Design Centres of Indian Railways. Therefore, full engineering report is needed for SRESTHA.

   (iv) There has to be passion, focus and career by people selected for SRESTHA.

   (v) For establishing SRESTHA, models of Atomic Energy Research, Space Research and DRDO need to be followed.

   (vi) The projects identified have to be technology projects, research projects and product projects.

   (vii) SRESTHA has to be a matrix organization in which technology available will have to be harnessed.

   (viii) CRRs need to be the extended arms of SRESTHA. Particular technologies would be anchored at different CRRs and notional teams would be formed for that particular technology from amongst other academic/research institutions as well.

   (ix) All full scale system testing will be done at SRESTHA and these facilities will also be the national facilities; while the lab level testing will be done at CRRs.

5. It was mentioned by Members of AGE that their parent organisations need to be advised that lot of time is being devoted by the nominated Members of 'AGE' in terms of orders from the Ministry of Railways. Therefore, letters to their organisational heads need to be written, so that their workloads, including teaching assignments in their academic / research institutions etc. may be reviewed and organised accordingly.

6. Concept Note as prepared by AGE and presented to Hon'ble MR by Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member/NITI Aayog and Chairman/AGE was again deliberated during the meeting. It was desired that roadmap to each vertical, identified in the Concept Note of SRESTHA for research & technological development be framed by the Committee, nominated by the Ministry of Railways for DPR preparation for SRESTHA.

   It was also suggested that a questionnaire may be prepared for future roadmap on each vertical of the Concept Note of SRESTHA and it needs to be circulated to all the DRMs and GMs for their feedback; so that it may accordingly be taken into account by the select core team, while preparing DPR for SRESTHA.

7. It was also suggested that for each vertical of the Concept Note, select group of officers, experts and consultants be made, with coordination by at least one Member of the AGE-SRESTHA Group; so that DPR preparation is facilitated.

   It was also suggested that the Concept Note be again re-circulated to all the Members of AGE and SRESTHA teams, other participants and the identified core team members for all the verticals, proposed for SRESTHA and to be finalised in the next meeting of AGE – SRESTHA.

8. It was further reiterated that the identified chapters of the proposed Interim Report of 'AGE' should be finalised by the nominated Members of AGE on priority; so that it may be submitted to the Ministry of Railways shortly.

(No. 2015/CE-I/Innov./6, New Delhi, Dated 06.02.2017)

06/02/17

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Distribution for information and necessary action :

1. The Chairman and all the Members of the Advisory Group of Experts.
2. The Chairman and all the Members of the 'SRESTHA' sub-group of 'AGE'.
3. The General Managers, All Zonal Railways.
4. Directors General – RDSO/Lucknow and NAIR/Vadodara.

Copy to :

- EDPG/MR and PS/MR for kind information of Hon'ble MR please.
- PS/MSR(S), PS/MSR(G) and ED/Innovation/MSR(S) for kind information of Hon'ble MSR(S) and Hon'ble MSR(G) please.
- PSO/Sr.PPS to CRB, ME, FC, MRS, MTR, MT, MS, DG/S&T and Secretary for kind information of CRB, ME, FC, MRS, MTR, MT, MS, DG/S&T and Secretary please.
- General Manager and Pr.CE, Northern Railway, New Delhi for information please.