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

Minutes of The First Meeting of 'Standing Expert Group' On IR's Unified Standard Schedule of Rates and Specifications for Works & Materials Held on 25th August, 2011 in Railway Board

Present :

1. Shri S.K. Garg, Sr. Professor/Works, IRICEN - Member
2. Shri S.M. Maheshwari, ED/Works, RDSO - Member
3. Shri V. Rama Manohar Rao, JD/F(X)-I, R. Bd. - Member
4. Shri K. Raveendra Babu, CGE, S.C. Railway - Member
5. Shri Alok Kumar, EDCE(G), Railway Board - Convenor cum Member Secretary

In reference to Railway Board's communication no. 2010/CE-I(Spl)/IRUSSOR/W&M /1, dated 11/8/11 for approved 'Standing Expert Group' on the above-mentioned subject, its first meeting was held on 25th August, 2011 in Railway Board's office and the following deliberations were made :

1. The **background** on the subject was explained to all the members. It is the outcome of the recommendations of Works Standards Committee (WSC), wherein on the recommendations of WSC, an Expert Group was earlier formed by Railway Board which, in association with M/s RITES, formulated Unified Documents for Indian Railways on the subject of 'Standard Specifications' and 'Standard Schedule of Rates' for Works & Materials. These documents alongwith related software were approved by Railway Board with the concurrence of Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways. These approvals were communicated to all the Zonal Railways/PUs etc. vide Railways Board's letter no. 2009/LMB/01/03, dated 14.01.10.

2. Accordingly, all the Zonal Railways were asked to generate and print their respective **'Standard Schedule of Rates'** after input of current market rates of various items mentioned in 'Basic Input Data Sheet' for material, labour, equipment etc. As per information available, the SORs have been finalized & printed by all Zonal Railways except CR, ECR, NER and SWR. PCEs of these Railways are being asked for necessary compliances in the next 15 days, as already instructed by Member Engineering vide his letter no. 2010/CE-I(Spl)/IRUSSOR/W&M/1, dated 25.04.11 to all the General Managers. Books of **'Standard Specifications'** in two volumes were, however, got printed by Railway Board and have already been distributed to all Railways/PUs etc.

3. In continuation to the above happenings and activities; for systemizing & further updation of these software-based documents, Railway Board nominated **'Standing Expert Group'** on the subject, as communicated vide letter no. 2010/CE-I(Spl)/ IRUSSOR/W&M/1, dated 11.08.11.

4. It was opined by the Group that **all Zonal Railways (PCEs & CAOs/C)** may be asked to suggest corrections, if any, to the already finalized and printed documents, including items for deletion, addition etc. Similarly, Zonal Railways should examine

the Non-Scheduled items being practiced on their systems and if similar items are appearing in Unified Documents, such NS item shall be stopped. In case, these NS items are not part of Railway Board's already approved documents, these with the details of description of item, analysis of rates and related specifications, if any, should be sent by the Railways/PUs etc. to the Standing Expert Group, based on their necessity, modernisation or technological developments/advancements. The **Analysis of Rates** for such items shall, however, be forwarded to the Standing Expert Group with the concurrence of Associate Finance.

5. The Standing Expert Group will examine those suggested items and a final **Correction Slip** will be issued with the approval of Railway Board by the end of November every year, so that necessary corrigendum to these documents may be generated through software by Railways and may be implemented from the month of January next year.

6. **Further Road-Map**, as envisaged and approved by Member Engineering :

   (a) These software-based documents are further to be used for preparation of estimates, tender schedule, measurement of works, billing & payments etc. through integrated IT & Instrumentation based development for uniform adoption on Indian Railways.

   (b) Similarly, a small palm-top type gadget to be developed for facilitating on-line measurement of executed works through login process at works site itself, so that measurement books and bills are automatically generated at remote location/office and payment process is also completed on-line.

   (c) Such an exercise would help both in faster measurement/billing/payment and would also eliminate mistakes and errors, thereby improving the productivity of the organization. The time, thus saved, could very well be utilized for better supervision at all levels at works sites and offices.

7. It came for discussion that few Railways already have excellences in above-mentioned fields and now; **web-based software 'IRPSM'** has also been developed and implemented on Indian Railways for sanctions and management of Projects on Indian Railways. Therefore, it would be worthwhile for the Standing Expert Group to get knowledge of those **excellences from field organizations** and items identified may be clubbed together in the form of a project, so that it could be sanctioned by Board in the ensuing Works Programme and development and implementation of the same may be done in next one year's time.

   Accordingly, it was agreed that all the GMs to be requested on the above subject and **presentations of such excellences by Railways** and field organisations to be made to the Standing Expert Group in Railway Board on 15th September, 2011 so that further course of action may be planned accordingly.

8. Also, while framing the Abstract Cost for proposals during sanction process through Works Programme, there are varied practices on Railways and lot of time is wasted by the Executives and Finance in framing and checking the Abstract Estimates.

   System of **'Unit Cost Books'**, which are the vetted documents prepared every year in the month of April, is prevalent in some Railways and proposals for the next Works Programme are formulated based on these vetted documents. It helps in avoidance of confusion and a lot of time of all associated officials is saved. Such an exercise has

also been thought to be unified for Indian Railways and a presentation on the subject should also be requested from the Railways on 15th Sept. 2011.

9. Standing Expert Group will have **meetings on quarterly basis**, so that the issues and suggestions referred to the Group by the field organisations are deliberated and decided accordingly.

(No. 2010/CE-I(Spl)/IRUSSOR/W&M/1, dated 29.08.11)

29.08.11

(आलोक कुमार)
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Distribution for information and necessary action to :

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- PPS/ME for kind information of Member Engineering
- AM/CE and Adv.F(X), Railway Board
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- Shri S.M. Maheshwari, ED/Works, RDSO, Lucknow
- Shri V. Rama Manohar Rao, Director Finance (X)-I, Railway Board
- Shri K. Raveendra Babu, CGE, S.C. Railway, Secunderabad