

CHAPTER X : MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Delhi Development Authority

10.1 Premature award of work resulting in blocking of funds of ` 9.41 crore

Commencement of the work by the Delhi Development Authority without ensuring the availability of clear site resulted in blocking of funds of ` 9.41 crore.

Section 15.2.1.3 of Central Public Works Department (CPWD) Manual stipulates that before approval of Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), Department should ensure availability of site.

The Executive Engineer, Northern Division-8, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) awarded (July 2007) the work of "Construction of 7.00 Meter wide carriage way on both sides of central verge for 80/60m R/W road from Alipur-Narela Road to Western Yamuna Canal" to M/s Tomar Construction Co. at a tendered cost of ` 15.15 crore on the basis of certification of the Executive Engineer regarding availability of site. The stipulated dates of start and completion of work were 9 August 2007 and 8 November 2008 respectively.

Audit scrutiny revealed that the proposed site was not free from hindrances, as there existed 1158 trees, a Senior Secondary School, 69 electric poles with High Tension electric lines and three water lines in the alignment of road. The contractor started the work at places where hindrance free site was available for execution of work. By February 2010, the contractor could only complete a total length of 2.42 km of road whereas 2.63 km length was yet to be constructed. Even this length of 2.42 km lacked continuity as it was constructed in patches due to existence of intermittent hindrances at the site. The contractor accordingly requested (February 2010) Executive Engineer to foreclose the contract on the ground that the DDA had failed to provide a hindrance free site. The Superintendent Engineer finally recommended to Chief Engineer in March 2010 for foreclosure of the work. It was further noticed that ` 9.41 crore had been paid to the contractor as of December 2010 for the work executed (13th running bill).

DDA admitted (July 2011) the fact that at the time of floating the tenders, complete site was not available. However, tenders were invited since it was anticipated that the DDA may be able to get the hindrances cleared within a

span of 3-6 months. It was further stated that the balance work could not be completed due to the following hindrances at the site of work: -

- Existence of trees in the alignment of road (forest).
- Existence of Sarvodya Sr. Secondary School at Sannoth Village (Education).
- Existence of Electric poles & H.T. lines in the alignment of road (NDPL).
- Existence of water lines of 600, 700 and 1000 mm dia coming in the alignment of road (DJB).

It was further informed that for removal of hindrances DDA had taken the following steps: -

- Matter had been taken up with the Forest Department for removal of trees.
- Alternative land had been allotted to the school by Education Authority of Delhi and matter had been taken up with the Director (Education) for shifting of the school to a new site.
- Executive Engineer/ED-7 and Chief Engineer (Elect.) had taken the matter with NDPL for shifting of electric poles and high tension lines which were coming in the alignment of the road.
- DJB had awarded the work for shifting of the water lines and the work was under progress.

Thus, it is clear from the above that though the DDA was well aware of the fact that the site was not free from hindrances, yet it had prematurely awarded the work in violation of the prescribed codal provisions. Further, the imprudent decision of the DDA resulted in unfruitful expenditure of `9.41 crore and deprived the general public of intended facilities.

The matter was reported to the Ministry in December 2011; their reply was awaited as of January 2012.

10.2 Blocking of fund of ` 4.39 crore

Award of work of providing and laying rising main without construction of SPS resulted in blocking of ` 4.39 crore.

The work of preparation of architectural drawings for construction of Sewerage Pumping Station (SPS) at Lok Nayak Puram, Bakkarwala, was entrusted to a consultant in December 2005, who submitted the same in January 2006. The revised drawings were submitted in April 2006. The structural drawing was submitted by Chief Design Officer (CDO) in September 2006 and the same was forwarded to the consultant in September 2006 with request to submit the detailed estimate along with Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and tender document. Due to change in the structural design by Engineer Member (EM) in November 2006, estimates could not be finalised. The revised structural designs were submitted by CDO in November 2008 after a delay of 24 months and detailed estimates were prepared in May 2009 by the DDA.

The work of construction of SPS was awarded in December 2010 with stipulated date of completion by June 2012. The work of construction of SPS was incomplete as of October 2011.

However, work of providing and laying rising main from Sewerage Pumping Station (SPS) to Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) was awarded (March 2006) to M/s K.R. Anand at a tendered cost of ` 3.83 crore against the estimated cost of ` 2.12 crore and was completed on 30 June 2011 at a cost of ` 4.39 crore. The same could not however be made functional due to non-completion of SPS.

The Management (November 2011) confirmed the delay in utilization and stated that the rising main shall be made functional after completion of SPS which is expected to be completed by June 2012.

Thus, delay in finalisation of tender of SPS as well as the failure of the Authority to co-ordinate the various activities of a project as the work of rising main was awarded much before awarding of work for SPS resulted in blocking of funds of ` 4.39 crore.

The matter was referred to Management/Ministry in October 2011; their reply was awaited as of January 2012.

10.3 Non recovery of license fee

Delhi Development Authority could not recover license fee of ` 30.43 lakh from Central Bank of India for the space occupied by it at the DDA premises.

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) requested Central Bank of India (the bank) to open an extension counter at its DDA Project office, Manglapuri and also allotted an area of 65 sqm in the building to the bank for the purpose. The bank started its extension counter in the Project office in February 1993.

On being pointed out by audit (July 2008) that DDA should charge rent from the bank in accordance with the instructions of Government of India, Ministry of Urban Development, Director of Estates from time to time, DDA took up the matter with the bank authorities (May and November 2009) to enter into an agreement for the use of the premises and levy of license fee.

According to the space occupied by the bank and prevailing rates of license fee being recovered from other banks at Vikas Sadan, Vikas Minar as well as Rohini Office Complex, DDA worked out provisionally, an amount of ` 54.51 lakh from 14 February 1993 to 30 April 2010 as recoverable from the bank as license fee. DDA reported (December 2011) that the bank had deposited an amount of ` 24.08 lakh on this account in May 2010 and had not paid the balance amount of ` 30.43 lakh despite repeated claims by DDA.

Thus, non-adherence to the instructions of the Government of India as well as inconsistent implementation of its policies with different banks resulted in short recovery of license fee of ` 30.43 lakh from the bank.

The matter was reported to the Ministry in October 2011; their reply was awaited as of January 2012.