A NOTE ON TRANS-ARUNACHAL HIGHWAY

(Submitted to Secretary to Governor on 13.3.2008)

The **Trans-Arunachal Highway**, a trunk route of about 1811 km in length, would be developed to 2-lane NH standards to link Tawang in north-western tip of Arunachal Pradesh to Kanubari in south-eastern end of the State and finally ending on NH-52 near Akajan on the right side of Bogi Beel bridge near Dibrugarh in Assam. The Highway, passing through the mid belt of the State, will inter-connect 12 out of total 16 district headquarter towns of the State and would thus provide improved connectivity to the state capital and important locations of population concentration and economic activities including the sites of major hydro electric power projects. Within Arunachal Pradesh, the Highway will connect the district headquarters and other important places such as Tawang, Bomdila, Nechipu, Seppa, Sagalee, Yupia, Yazali, Ziro, Daporijo, Along, Pasighat, Roing, Tezu, Mahadevpur, Bordumsa, Namchik, Changlang, Khonsa, Longding, Kanubari etc. and help greatly in reducing isolation of the people of the state. Out of about 1811 Km of the Highway, about 290 km forms part of NH-52 and 10 Km of NH-153. The whole length of about 1811 Km, including the link roads in Assam, would be declared as a separate National Highway the process of which is already on in the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highway, Govt. of India. The tentative cost of Highway is estimated to be about Rs 5500 crore as mentioned in the Prime Minister's Package.

The on-going bridge project viz. **Bogi Beel Rail-cum-Road Bridge** across the Brahmaputra river near Dibrugarh in Assam is likely boost regional connectivity between the northern and the southern districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Keeping this in view, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has agreed to extension of the Highway beyond **Kanubari**, the terminal end in Arunachal Pradesh, to **Bogi Beel** bridge and further **to** NH-52 near **Akajan** in Dhemaji district of Assam.

From the strategic locations on NH-52, running along the north bank of the Brahmaputra and NH-37 and NH-38 in the south bank in Assam leading to the district headquarters in Arunachal Pradesh, mostly under GS programme of BRO, shall be linked laterally with the Trans Arunachal Highway through 2 lane standard highways under another programme viz. Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in NE Region (SARDP-NE).

On the other hand, the section of the road from Balipara to Nechipu, which originally formed a part of the earlier proposal of Trans-Arunachal Highway, has now been kept outside the final alignment of the Highway. However, this section is being improved to 2 lane standard highway under SARDP-NE Phase-B programme.

Considering the mega size of the project, the magnitude of investment required and compressed time frame, it is going to be a mammoth task for the state. Then again, in view of the limited contracting capacity of local contractors and general lack of experience of the state agency there would be a need for capacity enhancement of PWD and fast track growth of local contract industry. A Technical Assistance package for capacity building of the state agency and local contract industry could be considered as generally done in the case of externally aided projects. The possibility of Joint Venture

option under PPP mode could also be considered in selective sections especially those leading to major HE power projects.

The programme for completing the project is proposed tentatively with 2013 as the horizon year. The State PWD has initiated collection of preliminary ground data for preparing Project Reports. The time line for completing the pre-construction activities is given in the statement enclosed as **Annexure-A**. Sketch map of the Trans Arunachal Highway and is enclosed as **Annexure-B**.

Annexure-A

Schedule for Pre-construction Activities

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No.	Activities	Milestones
1.	Inviting Expression of Interests (EOI) and Short-listing of Consultants for Survey & Investigation, Preparation of broad Master Plan for Construction Programme, Bid papers and Quality Control Manual, Engineering and preparation of DPR.	31 st May,2008
2.	Issue of Request for Proposal (RFP) to short-listed Consultants.	30 th June,2008
3.	Recruitment of Consultants.	15 th July,2008
4.	Submission of Field Data, Draft Project Reports (DPRs) and Master Plan for Construction Programme for different section of the Highway, Bid Documents, Quality Control Manual etc. by Consultants.	15 th October,2008
5.	Acquisition of land and quarry sites.	30 th Oct'2008
6.	Submission of final DPR by Consultant and further submission to MOSRT&H.	31 st December,2008
7.	Sanction of DPRs by MOSRT&H.	31 st Jan'2008
8.	Invitation of bids.	15 th Feb'2009
9.	Award of works and Signing of Agreement for initial priority sections.	31 st May'2009

