

CALLING ATTENTION TABLED BY SHRI. ISIDORE FERNANDES, SHRI DIGAMBER KAMAT, SHRI. PRATAPSINGH R. RANE, SHRI. RAVI NAIK, SHRI. LUIZINHO FALEIRO AND SHRI. ALEIXO REGINALDO LOURENCO MLAs.

'FEAR AND ANXIETY IN THE MINDS OF RESIDENTS OF CANACONA TALUKA AS THE RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED RETAINING WALL ON THE NEW HIGHWAY/BYPASS ROAD COLLAPSED AT MAXEM IN CANACONA TALUKA ON 21.07.2019. THE STEPS THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO TAKE IN THE MATTER.'

The work of realignment of NH66 (old NH17) from Char Rasta at Canacona to Mashem in Canacona was tendered by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH), Government of India on 29th June 2015. The said project was begged by M/s M Venkatarao Infra Projects Pvt. Ltd. and they were issued work order on 4/12/2015.

The project consists of construction of 3 major bridges at Talpona, Galgibag & Mashem and 4 lane Highway for a length of

7.74 Kms at a total cost of Rs 189.88 crores. The work is awarded by the MORTH in EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) format as is done for all projects costing more than 100 crores throughout the country.

As per EPC (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) format, the contract incorporates complete package of Inspection, Survey, Investigation, Planning, Design, Construction & execution, complete with 4 years maintenance. Therefore it is the entire responsibility of the contractor to undertake all the Inspections, Surveys, Investigations, Planning and Design required for effective & successful execution of the project including all its components, bridges, culverts and roadways.

All these parameters are to be as per Indian Road Congress (IRC) codes in force or International best practices, to ensure adequate structural stability, geometrics, riding surfaces matching International standards & world class highways.

To ensure proper sequence and Methodology of proper standards being followed, the Ministry has envisaged team of

consultants to look after all the components of seamless engineering which are:-

- a) Design Director
- b) Proof Consultant
- c) Safety Consultant
- d) IIT
- e) Authority's Engineer .

All the Consultants except IIT and Authority's Engineer are selected mutually from consultants having relevant experience & expertise in the domain field. The Authority's Engineer is empanelled by the Ministry on State to State basis, whereas IIT is an Apex Government Institution having state-of- Art expertise in the domain of such Technology .

As far as the present collapse of Gabion retaining wall is concerned, it is one-off incident, the causes of which are being investigated into. The Said repair and restoration work will be attended and undertaken as soon as fresh approved design is issued by the said team of consultants, on top priority.

Regardless of above, in order to ensure that no such further incidents take place, the entire project on its completion will be inspected and audited by the team of consultants as mentioned above, before the said project is taken over, inaugurated and opened for traffic. It is also informed that as per the EPC contract, the contractor has 4 years of defect liability period in which he has to rectify any defect apparent or arising, free of cost, as he along with team of consultants are exclusively & entirely responsible for safety.

Therefore in the light of above information it is hereby informed and assured that all the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that full structural and other component's inspection & audit of entire project through expert panel of consultants as mentioned above to ensure full structural as well as all other aspects of safety of project in its entirety, before the project is inaugurated & opened for traffic.

Hence there is no apparent need for any fear and anxiety in the minds of people in general & road commuters in particular in view of above information and they can be rest assured.