

**Subject:- Calling attention tabled by Shri Churchil Alemao, MLA.**

**Calling Attention :-**

“Fear and anxiety in the minds of the people of Benaulim and Sinquetim villages regarding the incomplete bridge between Benaulim and Sinquetim even after having all the environment and other clearances. The measures government intends to undertake to complete the said bridge at the earliest, so that the local villages can utilize the bridge.”

**Answer:-**

The work of “Construction of bridge connecting Benaulim-Sinquetim including approaches in Navelim Constituency” was awarded to M/s M.Venkata Rao Infra Projects Pvt.Ltd. vide work order no. 175/WO/SDI/MR/09-10 dated:- 5.8.2009 amounting to Rs 9,55,14,461.05 with stipulated date of commencement and completion being 20.08.2009 and 19.08.2010 respectively.

The construction of Benaulim –Sinquetim bridge was in progress and the work had reached upto sub structure level which was approximately around 30% until the then Late. Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa Shri Manohar Parrikar visited the Benaulim – Sinquetim bridge site on 29/03/2012 who was also accompanied by former Benaulim MLA Shri Caetano D’Silva & former Navelim MLA Shri Avertano Furtado and directed to keep the work on hold.

Subsequently, meeting was convened at the Secretariat by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa and instructions were given to put the bridge work on hold till further directives. Thereafter meeting was conducted by the PCE in his chamber regarding progress of three bridges in Navelim Constituency on 8/11/2012. Directions were given to submit report for Government approval regarding holding up of work of construction of Benaulim – Sinquetim bridge and the Executive Engineer vide his report No. PWD/WDVI/Accts/F-51/2012-13/174 dated 22/11/2012 submitted the proposal to prohibit the heavy vehicles on the bridge as discussed in the chamber of PCE.

The proposal to prohibit heavy vehicles was rejected by the former Navelim MLA Shri Avertano Furtado and a meetings was conveyed at site along with PWD officials and former MLA of Benaulim Shri Caetano D’Silva in the 3rd week of January 2013. Thereafter, vide note no. MIN/Lab&Emp/Notes/2012-13 dt.20/01/2013, the former Minister Shri Avertano Furtado conveyed to recommence the bridge work with

provision for movement of only two wheelers with gantries on either side of the bridge so that four wheelers cannot cross the bridge.

Accordingly, consultant was directed to submit revised drawings to allow only two wheelers. The drawings were submitted by consultants on 30.07.2013 to PCE, which were approved by Government and conveyed to this office.

Accordingly Executive Engineer VI directed the agency M/s. M. Venkata Rao Infra Projects Pvt Ltd to recommence the work vide letter No. PWD/WDVI/Accts/F-AG/13-14/2084 dated 17.01.2014 and the bridge work was recommenced as per the revised drawings submitted by consultants and duly approved by Government.

While the work was in progress former MLA of Benaulim Constituency visited the site on 3.07.2014 and asked the contractor to stop the work once again. This matter was reported by this office vide Report No. PWD/WDVI/SD-I/F-02/14-15/01 dated 4/07/2014.

Accordingly the subject matter was discussed with the then late Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar in the Month of August 2014 and the decision was taken to provide cut outs in the deck slab of end spans. In response to the above, consultants M/s Madhav Kamat & Associates forwarded the drawings showings the arrangements for cut outs on end span of deck slabs through e mail dt. 20.08.2014 sent to office of PCE This proposal was also rejected by both the former MLAs of Navelim & Benaulim Constituency.

To resolve the issue, once again a meeting in the chamber of then Chief Minister in presence of both MLAs was held on 10.09.2014. Consultant M/s. Madhav Kamat & Associates represented by Mr. Dilip Kamat requested for one day time to come out with an amicable solution. Again meeting was held with former Chief Minister on 12.09.2014. Consultant suggested that end spans super structure may be deleted and staircase be provided in place of end spans on either side to reach deck slab of central navigational span which was already completed and to use the bridge as footbridge. Then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa Shri Manohar Parrikar approved the suggestion of the consultants which was also agreed upon by both the MLAs with the condition that staircase shall be in concrete.

However, the locals objected to construction of staircase on either side and to use the bridge as footbridge, as height of staircase to reach the top of bridge was around 7.5mts on either sides. There was no consensus between the concerned MLAs as a result no decision was taken to provide the staircase on either side as agreed upon by

both the MLAs in the chamber of then late Hon'ble Chief Minister. In view of the above, the staircases are not constructed and the work is at standstill till date, except the central span which is completed.

In the meanwhile, the agency M/s M.Venkata Rao Infra Project Pvt.Ltd has submitted a letter dt:- 26.5.2017 informing that they are not interested in continuing with the work and further stated that they are compelled to invoke provision of clause GCC 52(a) and terminate the bridge work, and as such it was directed by higher authorities to terminate the present contract under relevant clauses of the agreement.

Now the present Hon'ble MLA of Benaolim Constituency Shri Churchill Alemao vide letter no.CHBEN/CMO/215/2018 dt:-20.06.2018 to the then late Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar has requested to start the pending work of Benaolim-Sinquetim Bridge.

Accordingly a fresh estimate is prepared by the consultants M/s. Madhav Kamat and Associates for balance bridge work and the same is submitted for accord of Technical sanction and Administrative Approval from Government.

Executive Engineer - VI