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Before the Hon'ble Lokayukta, Arunachal Pradesh, Nitivihar

Misc. Case No.01/2021

In mater of enquiry arising out of collapse of the bridge on the river **Shu** in the district of Papumpare, allegedly for profound dereliction of duty on the part of the officers/ staff of the agency / agencies, entrusted with the construction of the bridge on the river Shu and also for misappropriation of fund, earmarked for the project aforesaid.

PRESENT:

Hon'ble Justice (Retd) P K Saikia , Chairperson , Lokayukta, Arunachal Pradesh,

Hon'ble Sri Yeshi Tsering , IAS (Retd) , Member, Lokayukta, Arunachal Pradesh,

ORDER

08-12-2021 We have perused the note of Sri Opak Gao , IAS , Secretary, Lokayukta , Arunachal Pradesh having regard to the reports / documents on the basis of which the Secretary, Lokayukta prepared his note dated 07-12-2021.

It may be noted here that the Lokayukta, Arunachal Pradesh took notice of the editorial of the Arunachal times, 13th September, 2021 edition. The editorial of the newspaper aforesaid alleged severe dereliction of duty on the part of the officers/staff of the agency / agencies entrusted with the construction of the bridge and also for misappropriation of fund, earmarked for the same which ultimately resulted in collapse of the bridge while it was still under construction. On the perusal of the editorial, the Lokayukta, Arunachal Pradesh made following observations:

OBSERVATIONS

*On perusal of the editorial under caption "**Roads, bridges require effective monitoring**" published in the local daily "The Arunachal Times dated 13th September, 2021 (Copy enclosed), the Lokayukta Arunachal Pradesh has taken a serious view of the issue. The Editorial of the said Newspaper strongly suggested the siphoning off huge amount of govt. fund, earmarked for construction of Bridge over the Shu River between Mensoro and Geram villages in Papum Pare's Toru Circle which unfortunately led to midway collapse through the construction of the bridge. The issue also raised a question about the monitoring of the construction work.*

The Lokayukta, therefore, called for a detailed report from concerned authority regarding the facts and circumstances leading to collapse of the bridge on the river Shu while the construction of the same was still in progress. In due course, concerned authorities/ departments conducted an enquiry to ascertain the cause(s) leading to collapse of the bridge midway through the construction and submitted their reports including the report, prepared on the basis of the inspection of the site on 12 of September, 2021.

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On perusal of the reports including the "**Site Inspection Report dated 12/09/2021**", we have found that bridge on the river Shu collapsed due to technical problems. More importantly, since the bridge got collapsed while it was still under construction, as per the concession agreement, restoration of the bridge is to be done by the Concessionaire and entire cost of the restoration of the bridge is to be borne only by the Concessionaire and, equally importantly, there will be no financial impact on the Ministry of Roads and Highways (MORTH) or on Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh or its Public Exchequer.

Consequently, we find it necessary to accept the report, submitted before us by the authorities / departments concerned. This proceeding accordingly stands closed.

However, in fitness of things, we also find it necessary to call upon all concerned to carry out the restoration work and subsequent construction work strictly in accordance with various specifications, made in the approved drawing of the bridge.

Here, we also hasten to add that this order closing this proceeding will in no way come in the way of conducting any fresh inquiry into the incident under consideration by any authority or agency having jurisdiction over the matter.

A copy of this Order be sent to all concerned for their information.

[Signature]
Sri Yeshe Tsering, IAS, (Retd),

Member, Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta

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Justice (Retd) P K Saikia

Chairperson, Arunachal Pradesh Lokayukta