

**MINUTES OF THE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REVIEW (QPR) MEETING IN
RESPECT OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA (GSI) UNDER THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY (MINES) HELD ON 5.10.2009**

1. The Quarterly Performance Review of the Geological Survey of India was done after its postponement for nearly a month with a change in the pattern of reporting the performance of GSI. The outcome of the surveys of GSI was earlier being reported in terms of area surveyed, drilling accomplished, etc which are changed to the number of reports and maps produced as results of surveys, drilling, etc. The expenditure plan will be shown quarterly. This new method of reporting will continue from henceforth with the further detailing that there will be a break up in the reports in terms of GM, GPM, GCM, STM, AS, MS, Coal , R&D, Geotech. etc.

2. Review of Action taken in previous meeting :-

Secretary (Mines) expressed her displeasure at the updated action taken not being brought up in the QPR, and directed that this must be done in future without fail.

(Action: GSI)

3. Regionwise pendency Reports :-

Study of pending reports [up to June, 2009]-

Secretary [Mines] expressed her deep concern at the high pendency [upto June 2009] of Progress Reports which was as follows in respect of items taken up to 2007-08 –

AMSE	54 [including 24 MI Reports]
CR	78 [including 35 MI Reports]
CW	60 [including 48 MI Reports]
MW	65 [including 9 MI Reports]
NER	95 [including 6 MI Reports]
NR	87 [including 12 MI Reports]
SR	134 [including 62 MI Reports]
WR	62 [including 32 MI Reports]

She stated that GSI's delay was impacting the entire mining sector. Private entrepreneurs were complaining that GSI was blocking areas. MECL was complaining that GSI's MI reports were not yielding good prospects.

AS [Mines] stated that the latest Fraser Institute study showed that the industry was perceiving GSI' failures as impediments to investments.

Secretary [Mines] directed that DG, GSI must raise this at monthly HOD meetings. Similarly HODs must raise this in their monthly meetings, and it must be ensured that no progress report is over 1 year old. DG, GSI should report action progress in this regard in the monthly DO letter.

(Action: GSI)

Study of pending reports [up to September, 2009]-

It was pointed out that between June and September, 2009 the number of reports made available were as follows :-

AMSE	:	0
CR	:	8
CW	:	8
MW	:	7
NER	:	2
NR	:	1
SR	:	24
WR	:	2

Since except in the case of SR, the preparation of reports was slower than the rate at which reports were being accumulated, it was clear that GSI was in deep crisis. AS [Mines] stated that if GSI could not even prepare its reports, there was no point continuing with ground work and spending scarce public resources. Perhaps GSI should declare a 'Field-season Holiday in 2010-11' and not take up fresh FSP items, concentrating instead on clearing its huge pendency.

Secretary [Mines] stated that in the next QPR, all HODs must be present to answer for this total failure of GSI. Secretary [Mines] pointed out that new activities like NGCM, HSM, etc. were being undertaken to increase the

information availability enabling location of mineralization not earlier detected using GM and GPM. As such GCM was a strategically crucial input and the delay on part of GSI in bringing out its Reports and integrating the data with the Portal was a very serious matter. AS[Mines] pointed out that only recently GSI had defined what was meant by an 'interim' report of NGCM and the pendency even for interim report was as follows :-

Regions	Reports due	Interim Report Released	Final Report Released
CR	12	Nil	Nil
ER	26	Nil	Nil
NER	21	16	Nil
NR	27	1	Nil
SR	23	7	Nil
WR	7	Nil	Nil
ALL INDIA	116	24	Nil

While it was understandable that non-finalization of certain packages meant that final reports could not be produced, non-preparation of interim reports even for 40 elements was totally inexcusable. It was a total failure of GSI that during the entire quarter July- Sept'09, only 2 Progress Reports of NGCM were released and not a single Interim Report !

AS[Mines] stated that this matter had repeatedly been raised since December, 2008 and GSI was being asked to propose innovative solutions including outsourcing, hiring fresh postgraduates and re-employing retired persons and even forming a society of retired geoscientists, but GSI had not shown the requisite focus and commitment for the purpose.

Secretary [Mines] stated that DG, GSI must designate a senior officer for the purpose and ensure that a solution to the shortage of personnel in the chemical laboratories is found before the next QPR.

(Action: GSI)

4. GPM Report (Status up to September, 2009):

Dr B Chattopadhyay informed that the Geophysical Mapping Programme (GPM) will be initially taken up initially for OGP area. AS (M) mentioned that the geophysical data will be useful for many other types of investigation including water resources. He also informed that there has been additional fund for climatic change studies. AS (M) mentioned that the RP reports of Private agencies should be made available to GSI after the completion of the process of exploration as per the rule. In the event of availability of this data, GSI should integrate its data into it after the lock-in period and come out with the interpretation of the data and the countries like Australia have separate data information service. The exercise of putting out the integrated geophysical data will have to be done within the additional fund of Rs. 15 crores allotted to GSI. Dr Chattopadhyay observed that GSI needs to create the data structure and put the geophysical data in. It is expected that the proposal will be ready by the end of October and it is proposed to put in all the GSI data and concession data sent by the RP concessioners also in this data structure. It is possible to combine the magnetic data into the data structure. GSI may come with a proposal for a repository of all the geophysical data both from within and from other RP holders who will be depositing their reports with GSI to enable GSI for early dissemination of geophysical data to all stakeholders.

AS [Mines] observed that 18 Reports of GPM were still pending and not a single report was released during July-Sept'09. He also pointed out that apparently in WR no GPM work was being done and reason for this needed to be clarified.

(Action: GSI)

5. Expenditure Plan vis-a-vis Achievement (for 2009-10) with Quarterly Breakup and M&E:

Secretary [Mines] pointed out that in every year in the last 7 years, GSI had ended up lapsing Plan funds. Such a lapse was nothing less than a crime

because if these funds had been available to Government, it could have built infrastructure or funded anti-poverty programmes. GSI by holding on to funds till the last moment, was actually impeding national development. Sr. Advisor [Planning Commission] stated that it was GSI's inability to plan ahead that was the root cause. He stated that the lapse was mainly in M&E which included acquisition of laboratory and field equipments, the lead-time for procurement of which could be up to 2 years. AS [Mines] stated that unfortunately despite many PPRC meetings, GSI had not been able to understand the need to plan at least for 2 years ahead of the current year.

JS&FA stated that it was therefore not surprising that in every year the expenditure in the first 3 quarters was very low, with GSI projecting high expenditure in the last quarter only to lapse the fund. The same pattern was being seen this year also. In the first quarter expenditure was Rs.2.17 crore and in the second quarter, Rs.5.40 crore. In the third quarter expenditure of Rs.10.0 crore was being projected with another Rs.24.0 crore in the last quarter.

Secretary [Mines] stated that in case the entire projected Rs.10.0 crore was not spent within the quarter, DDG[PPM] would be held personally responsible.

AS [Mines] referred to Table 6-B which gave the expected quarter-wise release in respect of M&E during financial year 2010-11 and 2011-12 and stated that, based on GSI's own projections:-

- (i) The quarter-wise release projected for 2010-11 totaled up to about Rs.26.0 crore while the budget was Rs.44 crore.
- (ii) Similarly the quarter-wise release projected for 2011-12 totaled to about Rs.37.0 crore while the budget was likely to be of the order of Rs.70 crore.
- (iii) The list of items given in support showed that most of the listed items were still at Sr. PAC stage.

- (iv) Clearly unless CHQ coordinated adequately with Regions, and ensured indenting of all requisite equipment in time, 2010-11 and 2011-12 would be a repeat of previous years, with lapsing budget.

Secretary [Mines] stated that proper planning was the key to GSI's revival. She stated that the PPRC mechanism should focus on this aspect and should meet once in 2 months in future. This should also be discussed in detail in monthly HOD meetings and reported in monthly DO letter. She stated that the framework for reporting items in the DO letter should be got standardized so that all important issues requiring to be brought to her notice got mention.

(Action: DG,GSI/OSD (HPC))

6. GSI Portal:

AS[Mines] stated that as a result of a series of reviews of Phase I & II of the Portal Project, it was apparent that :-

- (i) The project was badly delayed and poorly executed. A proper completion report was still awaited.
- (ii) Connectivity problem particularly in NER and SR was yet to be resolved and though GSI had been asked a number of times they were unable to take up the matter effectively with BSNL.
- (iii) Data entry was very poor. There was no monitoring of data entry. CHQ had not even set targets for the Regions and Wings where data was generated.
- (iv) Facilities of emailing and IP telephony had not been operationalised till after Ministry level review revealed this.
- (v) Video conferencing was still not being used.
- (vi) The web-design of the Portal was poor and unattractive and did not meet the needs of serious users.
- (vii) The intranet applications were slow and did not have adequate MIS outputs. Many intranet applications could have internet outputs at one level of abstraction to improve transparency.

Accordingly TCS was asked to improve the Portal within the Phase-II Project and in the meeting of 1.10.09, they had agreed to do so by December end. Secretary [Mines] stated that –

- (i) Data entry should also be reviewed by DG in monthly HOD meetings.
- (ii) After TCS completes its enhancements, they should give her a demonstration of the improvements in the last week of December.
- (iii) Completion report must be submitted by 31.1.2010.

AS [Mines] stated that the Free Data Policy of 5.6.09 required GSI to do substantial enhancement of Portal applications. 1:50K map data service in particular would require additional investments in storage, management and connectivity.

Secretary [Mines] stated that :-

- (i) GSI should outsource its Portal management; and
- (ii) It should prepare a Phase-III Project to be posed to Planning Commission by June 2010.

AS [Mines] stated that GSI should also pay attention to outsourcing of data entry so that data for Phase I & II is transferred to Portal latest by June 2010. Secretary [Mines] asked DG, GSI to prepare a Plan and stated that a separate meeting may be called in the last week of December 2009 to monitor completion of Phase I & II and finalize Phase III proposal. Secretary (Mines) directed that in future, heads of all 5 Missions must attend QPRs.

(Action: GSI)

7. Utilisation Plan for Rs.15.0 crore allocated by Finance Minister:

DDG[PPM] stated that the Rs.15.0 crore was proposed to be utilized as follows :-

- (i) Geomorphology project
- (ii) 1:50K map service

(iii) Geophysical Data Repository

(iv) Geophysical sensors

Secretary (Mines) stated that it must be ensured that the funds provided are usefully expended.

(Action: DDG (PPM))

8. Winding up of Workshop :

On the question of winding up of workshop and outsourcing the repairing of vehicles, Sri Jaswant Singh, Sr. DDG [STSS] said that five regions have complied with the order and all the repairing work is done outside. He also mentioned that the mechanics of the workshop are being sent for training in drilling related work. Secretary [Mines] asked Sr. DDG [STSS] to give a detailed report [region-wise] by 31.10.09.

(Action: Sr. DDG, STSS)

9. Establishment matters:

Director (F), MoM observed that GSI has to take steps for filling up of vacant posts in Group B, C and D posts. GSI has not sent any proposals whatsoever as suggested in the recommendations of High Powered Committee report. Secretary [Mines] observed that GSI's pace of implementation of HPC left much to be desired and asked DG, GSI to take personal interest in the 16 points for urgent action which had been communicated.

(Action: DG,GSI)

10. Other Matters :-

AS [Mines] briefly mentioned that GSI needed to take action on the following –

- (i) Submit the Report of the Modernization Committee constituted as per HPC recommendations.
- (ii) Hold TAC meeting of Training Institute in October so that next TPCC meeting could be held in December'09.
- (iii) Fully operationalise Delhi Liaison office and Science Policy Support Offices.
- (iv) Hold PPRC meeting in early December.

- (v) Hold Geoinformatics Committee meeting in early December'09 along with TCS to demonstrate work in progress prior to full demonstration for Secretary [Mines] in end December.

(Action: GSI)

11. Summary :-

Summarizing the discussions Secretary [Mines] stated that –

- (i) GSI's erosion was clearly a management failure within GSI and GSI could improve only if its internal management showed adequate commitment and sincerity.
- (ii) GSI's top management procedures were totally inadequate. Monthly HOD meetings needed to be held regularly and effectively and copy of proceedings should be endorsed to here for perusal.
- (iii) DG, GSI's monthly DO letter should not be a ritual, but should be detailed and specific, showing the DG's personal grasp and control over the entire organization.
- (iv) GSI needed to focus on implementation of HPC recommendations. For each set of recommendation, DG needed to identify a nodal DDG who would participate in the implementation committee deliberation.
- (v) The new Reporting format needed to be further developed so that the next QPR is more effective. The format should also be the basis for review at DG level and in HOD meetings. Ultimately GSI would be judged by its maps and reports and not its field season activities.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

List of participants attending the meeting:

1. Smt Santha Sheela Nair, Secretary (Mines) - in the Chair
2. Sri S Vijay Kumar, Addl. Secretary
3. Sri N K Dutta, DG, GSI
4. Sri Jaswant Singh, Sr DDG, STSS, GSI
5. Sri L P Sonkar, Advisor (Minerals), Planning Commission
6. Sri Sanjay Mittal, JS&FA, MoM
7. Dr B. Chattopadhyay, DDG, PPM, GSI
8. Sri S. Kishnani, Director (F), MoM
9. Dr K Ayyasami, Director, MoM
10. Sri A K Bhandari, Advisor, TPPC, MoM
11. Sri R B Tyagi, Dy. Advisor, Planning Commission
12. Sri Nagender Singh Kishore, PIB