



REPORT
ON
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE ON PLAN PROJECTS

(Buildings Projects Team)

NEW DELHI

November, 1962



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COMPOSITION OF THE BUILDINGS PROJECTS TEAM

Leader

Shri S. K. Patil, Minister for Food and Agriculture.

Members

Shri Sarup Singh, I. S. E. (Retd.), formerly Director, National Buildings Organisation.

Shri N. G. Dewan, I. S. E., Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department.

Maj. Gen. Harkirat Singh, Engineer-in-Chief, Army Head-quarters, New Delhi.

Dr. Eng. A. Carbone, Consulting Engineer, Calcutta.*

Shri C. P. Malik, Director, National Buildings Organisation.†

Member-Secretary

Shri T. S. Vedagiri, Superintending Engineer.

Shri P. S. Krishnaswamy, Superintending Engineer & Deputy Secretary.

Shri Lakshmi Narain Gupta, Assistant Accounts Officer.

* Shri N. V. Modak was appointed as Member in place of Dr. A. Carbone who expired in October, 1962.

† Shri C. B. Patel took over on 1st October, 1962 in place of Shri C. P. Malik transferred.



MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

New Delhi, November 6, 1962

MY DEAR LAL BAHADUR,

I have great pleasure in forwarding the report of the Buildings Projects Team on Public Works Administration. You will recall that this was one of the major items of the terms of reference given to the Team. Our studies of other types of schemes, such as, multi-storeyed buildings, residential buildings etc. have also revealed the short-comings of the present pattern and procedure of public works administration and have emphasised the need for a thorough study of the problem in all its aspects. Considering the importance of this problem and the bearing it has on the successful implementation of Plan programmes, we constituted a high level Panel under the Chairmanship of Shri U. J. Bhatt, Chief Engineer and Joint Secretary, Public Works Department, Bombay (now Gujarat) to study this problem in detail and make comprehensive report. The Chief Engineers of Madras, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, an Additional Chief Engineer from the Central Public Works Department and a senior officer of the Military Engineering Services were Members of the Panel. The Members of the Team have fully associated themselves with the work of the Panel.

The Panel visited a number of States, had discussions with the engineers, administrators and Ministers. They instituted a number of work study programmes in the Public Works Departments of the States as well as the Centre with a view to ascertaining the deficiencies in the procedure and the limiting factors which contribute to delay in the execution of works and increase in cost. Arising out of these detailed studies and investigations, the Panel has come to certain conclusions that the situation calls for radical changes in the procedure and set up of public works administration if plan programmes are to be executed with speed, economy and efficiency. With this end in view, they have made a number of recommendations which are spelt out in the report.

They have recommended changes in procedures for speeding up of progress of work at the stage of various approvals, such as administrative approval, technical sanction etc. With regard to contracts, the Panel has made a number of suggestions for making the conditions of contracts unambiguous and equitable. They also strongly recommended the abolition of the system of technical examination of works now prevalent in some departments and have sought to replace the same more effectively by strengthening of the public works organisation from within.

With regard to administrative set up, they have recommended the setting up of a Board of Engineers in each State Government for the purpose of effectively co-ordinating the technical activity in the State with a view to maximisation of resources and reduction in cost.

They have pointedly referred to the need for effecting unitary control over public works administration by making the Chief Engineer himself a Secretary or Additional Secretary to the Government.

They have also worked out a detailed schedule of powers for engineering Officers so as to effect uniformity and vest the engineering officers with adequate powers to deal with situations in an expeditious manner. Notable among other recommendations are those pertaining to simplification of stores and accounts procedure and arbitration and the creation of work study wings in each public works department for the purpose of continuously evaluating works and works procedure with a view to improvement.

You will agree that these recommendations are of far-reaching significance and merit serious consideration of Government if we have to get the best out of our public works organisations.

I take this opportunity to thanking the State Governments and Public Works Organisations for the co-operation they have extended to us in supplying information and for the facilities they have afforded for detailed studies and discussions. My special thanks are due to Shri U. J. Bhatt, Chairman of the Panel and other Members who have worked incessantly on this project for two years and produced this valuable document.

Yours Sincerely,

S. K. PATIL.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI,
Minister for Home Affairs and
Chairman, Committee on Plan Projects,
New Delhi.

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