

PROJECT AGREEMENT  
(Rural Connectivity Investment Program – Project 3)

between

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

and

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

and

STATE OF WEST BENGAL

DATED 6 NOVEMBER 2015

## **PROJECT AGREEMENT**

PROJECT AGREEMENT dated 6 November 2015 between ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ("ADB") and MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, acting by the President of India ("MORD"), and STATE OF WEST BENGAL, acting by its Governor (the "State").

### **WHEREAS**

(A) by a Loan Agreement of even date herewith between India ("Borrower") and ADB, ADB has agreed to make to the Borrower a loan of two hundred seventy-three million Dollars (\$273,000,000) on the terms and conditions set forth in the Loan Agreement, but only on the condition that a portion of the proceeds of the loan be made available to MORD and the State as stated in the Loan Agreement and that MORD and the State agree to undertake certain obligations towards ADB set forth herein; and

(B) MORD and the State, in consideration of ADB entering into the Loan Agreement with the Borrower, have agreed to undertake the obligations set forth herein;

NOW THEREFORE the parties hereto agree as follows:

## **ARTICLE I**

### **Definitions**

Section 1.01. Wherever used in this Project Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires, the several terms defined in the Loan Agreement and in the Loan Regulations (as so defined) have the respective meanings therein set forth, except that for purposes of this Project Agreement the term "the Project" means that portion of the Project, as described in Schedule 1 to the Loan Agreement, which shall occur in the territory of the State.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Particular Covenants**

Section 2.01. (a) MORD and the State shall carry out the Project with due diligence and efficiency, and in conformity with sound applicable technical, financial, business, and development practices.

(b) In the carrying out of the Project and operation of the Project facilities, MORD and the State shall perform all obligations set forth in the Loan Agreement to the extent that they are applicable to it.

Section 2.02. MOR and the State shall make available, promptly as needed, and on terms and conditions mutually acceptable to ADB and the Borrower, the funds, facilities, services, land and other resources as required, in addition to the proceeds of the Loan, for the carrying out of the Project.

Section 2.03. (a) In the carrying out of the Project, MOR and the State shall employ competent and qualified consultants and contractors, acceptable to ADB, to an extent and upon terms and conditions mutually satisfactory to ADB and the Borrower.

(b) Except as ADB and the Borrower may otherwise agree, MOR and the State shall procure all items of expenditures to be financed out of the proceeds of the Loan in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 4 to the Loan Agreement. ADB may refuse to finance a contract where any such item has not been procured under procedures substantially in accordance with those agreed between the Borrower and ADB or where the terms and conditions of the contract are not satisfactory to ADB.

Section 2.04. MOR and the State shall carry out the Project in accordance with plans, design standards, specifications, work schedules and construction methods mutually acceptable to ADB and the Borrower. MOR and the State shall furnish, or cause to be furnished, to ADB, promptly after their preparation, such plans, design standards, specifications and work schedules, and any material modifications subsequently made therein, in such detail as ADB shall reasonably request.

Section 2.05. (a) MOR and the State shall take out and maintain with responsible insurers, or make other arrangements satisfactory to ADB for, insurance of Project facilities to such extent and against such risks and in such amounts as shall be consistent with sound practice.

(b) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, MOR and the State as appropriate undertakes to insure, or cause to be insured, the Goods to be procured, including imported for the Project against hazards incident to the acquisition, transportation and delivery thereof to the place of use or installation, and for such insurance any indemnity shall be payable in a currency freely usable to replace or repair such Goods.

Section 2.06. MOR and the State shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, records and accounts adequate to identify the items of expenditure financed out of the proceeds of the Loan, to disclose the use thereof in the Project, to record the progress of the Project (including the cost thereof) and to reflect, in accordance with consistently maintained sound accounting principles, its operations and financial condition.

Section 2.07. (a) ADB, MOR and the State shall cooperate fully to ensure that the purposes of the Loan will be accomplished.

(b) MOR and the State shall promptly inform ADB of any condition which interferes with, or threatens to interfere with, the progress of the Project, the performance of its obligations under this Project Agreement or the Financing Arrangements, or the accomplishment of the purposes of the Loan.

(c) ADB, MOR and the State shall from time to time, at the request of either party, exchange views through their representatives with regard to any matters relating to the Project, MOR, the State and the Loan.

Section 2.08. (a) In so far as it relates to the Project, MORD and the State shall furnish to ADB all such reports and information as ADB shall reasonably request concerning (i) the Loan and the expenditure of the proceeds thereof; (ii) the items of expenditure financed out of such in so far as it relates to the Project proceeds; (iii) the Project; (iv) the administration, operations and Project specific financial status of the State and financial status of MORD; and (v) any other matters relating to the purposes of the Loan.

(b) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, MORD and the State shall furnish to ADB quarterly reports on the execution of the Project and on the operation and management of the Project facilities. Such reports shall be submitted in such form and in such detail and within such a period as ADB shall reasonably request, and shall indicate, among other things, progress made and problems encountered during the period under review, steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy these problems, and proposed program of activities and expected progress during the following period.

(c) Promptly after physical completion of the Project, but in any event not later than 3 months thereafter or such later date as ADB may agree for this purpose, MORD and the State shall prepare and furnish to ADB a report, in such form and in such detail as ADB shall reasonably request, on the execution and initial operation of the Project, including its cost, the performance by MORD and the State of its obligations under this Project Agreement and the accomplishment of the purposes of the Loan.

Section 2.09. (a) The State shall (i) maintain separate accounts and records for the Project; (ii) prepare annual financial statements for the Project in accordance with accounting principles acceptable to ADB; (iii) have such financial statements for the Project audited annually by independent auditors whose qualifications, experience and terms of reference are acceptable to ADB, in accordance with international standards for auditing or the national equivalent acceptable to ADB; (iv) as part of each such audit, have the auditors prepare a report (which includes the auditors' opinion on the financial statements, use of the Loan proceeds and use of statement of expenditures) and a management letter (which sets out the deficiencies in the internal control of the Project that were identified in the course of the audit, if any); and (v) furnish to ADB, no later than 6 months after the close of the fiscal year to which they relate, copies of such audited financial statements, audit report and management letter, all in the English language, and such other information concerning these documents and the audit thereof as ADB shall from time to time reasonably request.

(b) ADB shall disclose the annual audited financial statements for the Project and the opinion of the auditors on the financial statements within 30 days of the date of their receipt by posting them on ADB's website.

(c) The State shall enable ADB, upon ADB's request, to discuss the financial statements for the Project and its financial affairs where they relate to the Project with the auditors appointed by the State pursuant to subsection (a)(iii) hereinabove, and shall authorize and require any representative of such auditors to participate in any such discussions requested by ADB. This is provided that such discussions shall be conducted only in the presence of an authorized officer of the State, unless the State shall otherwise agree.

Section 2.10. In so far as it relates to the Project, MORD and the State shall enable ADB's representatives to inspect the Project, the Goods and Works and any relevant records and documents.

Section 2.11. (a) MORD and the State shall, promptly as required, take all action within its powers to maintain their respective status, to carry on its operations, and to acquire, maintain and renew all rights, properties, powers, privileges and franchises which are necessary in the carrying out of the Project or in the conduct of its operations.

(b) In so far as it relates to the Project, MORD and the State shall at all times conduct their respective operations in accordance with sound applicable technical, financial, business, development and operational practices, and under the supervision of competent and experienced management and personnel.

(c) In so far as it relates to the Project, MORD and the State shall at all times operate and maintain their respective plants, equipment and other property, and from time to time, promptly as needed, make all necessary repairs and renewals thereof, all in accordance with sound applicable technical, financial, business, development, operational and maintenance practices.

Section 2.12. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, MORD and the State shall not sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any of their respective assets which shall be required for the efficient carrying on of its operations or the disposal of which may prejudice its ability to perform satisfactorily any of its obligations under this Project Agreement.

Section 2.13. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, MORD and the State shall apply the proceeds of the Loan to the financing of expenditures on the Project in accordance with the provisions of the Loan Agreement and this Project Agreement, and shall ensure that all items of expenditures financed out of such proceeds are used exclusively in the carrying out of the Project.

Section 2.14. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, MORD and the State shall duly perform all their respective obligations under the Financing Arrangements, and shall not take, or concur in, any action which would have the effect of assigning, amending, abrogating or waiving any rights or obligations of the parties under the Financing Arrangements.

Section 2.15. MORD shall promptly notify ADB of any proposal to amend, suspend or repeal any provision of the PMGSY Guidelines, which, if implemented, could affect the Project or the operation of the Project facilities. MORD shall afford ADB an adequate opportunity to comment on such proposal.

**ARTICLE III****Effective Date; Termination**

Section 3.01. This Project Agreement shall come into force and effect on the date on which the Loan Agreement comes into force and effect. ADB shall promptly notify MORD and the State of such date.

Section 3.02. All the provisions of this Project Agreement shall continue in full force and effect notwithstanding any cancellation or suspension under the Loan Agreement.

**ARTICLE IV****Miscellaneous**

Section 4.01. Any notice or request required or permitted to be given or made under this Project Agreement and any agreement between the parties contemplated by this Project Agreement shall be in writing. Such notice or request shall be deemed to have been duly given or made when it shall be delivered by hand, mail or facsimile to the party to which it is required or permitted to be given or made at its address hereinafter specified, or at such other address as such party shall have designated by notice to the party giving such notice or making such request. The addresses so specified are:

For ADB

Asian Development Bank  
6 ADB Avenue  
Mandaluyong City  
1550 Metro Manila  
Philippines

Facsimile Numbers:

(632) 636-2444

(632) 636-2340

For MORD

Ministry of Rural Development  
Krishi Bhawan  
New Delhi - 110001  
India

Facsimile Number:

(91-11) 23388207

For the State

Principal Secretary and CEO  
West Bengal State Rural Development Agency  
Dept. of Panchayats & Rural Development  
HC-7, Sector-III, Salt Lake  
Kolkata-700106  
West Bengal

Facsimile Number:

0091-33-23340061.

Section 4.02. (a) Any action required or permitted to be taken, and any documents required or permitted to be executed, under this Project Agreement by or on behalf of (i) MORDC may be taken or executed by its Joint Secretary or by such other person or persons as he or she shall so designate in writing notified to ADB; and (ii) the State may be taken or executed by its Principal Secretary and CEO, West Bengal State Rural Development Agency or by such other person or persons as he or she shall so designate in writing notified to ADB.

(b) MORDC and the State shall furnish to ADB sufficient evidence of the authority of each person who will act under subsection (a) hereinabove, together with the authenticated specimen signature of each such person.

Section 4.03. No delay in exercising, or omission to exercise, any right, power or remedy accruing to either party under this Project Agreement upon any default shall impair any such right, power or remedy or be construed to be a waiver thereof or an acquiescence in such default; nor shall the action of such party in respect of any default, or any acquiescence in any default, affect or impair any right, power or remedy of such party in respect of any other or subsequent default.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto, acting through their representatives thereunto duly authorized, have caused this Project Agreement to be signed in their respective names as of the day and year first above written, and to be delivered at the principal office of ADB.


ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
M. TERESA KHO  
Country Director

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
PRIYA RANJAN  
Director (RC)

STATE OF WEST BENGAL

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
R.D. MEENA  
Additional Chief Secretary &  
Principal Resident Commissioner