

Ministry of Culture

Minutes of the 8th meeting of Expert Committee on Museum Grant Scheme held on 07.08.2014

The 8th meeting of Expert Committee to consider applications received by the Ministry under the 'Museum Grant Scheme' was held on 07.08.2014 under the Chairmanship of Sh. K.K. Mittal, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Culture. List of participants is enclosed at Annexure-1.

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the participants and stated that it has been observed that some of the organizations take undue long time in submitting documents like utilization certificate, audited statement of accounts, progress reports etc. for release of subsequent instalment. Thus there is a possibility that such organizations may meet matching share out of the interest earned on the grants released by the Ministry. Hence, he suggested that the Ministry should insist upon the grantee organizations to complete the work within the stipulated time and necessary documents for release of subsequent grants should be submitted on time. Request seeking extension of time by the organization should generally be not agreed to unless there is compelling circumstances resulting in delay in execution of work. In such cases, interest earned by the organization should be adjusted against overall approved grant. The view point was well taken by the Committee which desired that interest earned on the grants released by the Ministry should be adjusted while releasing subsequent grants to the organizations.

3. It was also observed by the Committee that despite the fact that the format of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been uploaded on the website of the Ministry alongwith the guidelines of the scheme and initial financial assistance is provided in deserving cases for preparation of DPR, the same (DPR) is not found satisfactory in most of the cases. To overcome this problem and to help the organizations with expert advice in preparation of DPRs, the Committee strongly recommended that Ministry should prepare a panel of Experts who can assist the organizations in preparation of DPRs. For this purpose, the Committee desired that a four member Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Venu V, Administrator, National Museum and with Prof. Rajeev Lochan, Director, NGMA, New Delhi, Ms. Tasneem Mehta and Shri Karni Singh Jasol as Members may be constituted who will shortlist and suggest a panel of museum professionals representing each zone. The Committee will also suggest the Ministry the thrust areas which need attention to encourage museum movement in the country. For this purpose, the Sub-Committee will find out the potential in various states, especially wherefrom requests are not coming forth and will suggest ways & means to support such uncovered/under covered areas/organizations.

4. Joint Secretary (Museums) suggested that proposals of Defence Units should be recommended by Ministry of Defence instead of different Regiments. The view point was well taken by the Committee which recommended that proposal of different defence units only when duly recommended by Ministry of Defence should be accepted for consideration by the Ministry in future.

5. Thereafter, the agenda items on the proposals received for financial assistance under the Scheme were taken up for discussion as given below.

5.1 Discussion on the evaluation report of the Consultant

The reports of the Evaluator alongwith report of the Sub-Committee were placed before the Expert Committee. The Expert Committee deliberated upon the reports and based on further discussion held during the meeting, the following recommendations were made.

5.1.1 Academy of Fine Arts, Cathedral Road, Kolkata (Project Cost: ₹ 771.00 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and the evaluation report and observed that the Academy has not provided proper justification for the estimates and the same is not supported by specifications and detailed drawings. The details for the revenue generation, sustenance plan and organizational chart for the management of the museum were also missing in the proposal. Therefore, the Committee desired that the Academy may be requested to submit Revised DPR in the format prescribed by the Ministry containing detailed estimates supported by specifications and the detailed drawings for display plan and design of galleries by engaging trained and experience professionals.

As regards collection of the Academy, the Committee observed that it is one of the oldest museums having invaluable collections which are in bad condition and requires immediate conservation. To save their valuable collections, the Committee recommended that initial grant of Rs.50 lakhs may be released to the organization for undertaking conservation work. The Committee also desired that Academy of Fine Arts may be advised to take the services of NRLC, Lucknow for undertaking conservation of their collections. For remaining components, the proposal will be considered after the revised DPR alongwith detailed estimates supported by specifications and the detailed drawings for display plan and design is received from the organization.

5.1.2 South Gurukul Society, Kolkata (Project Cost: ₹ 318.61 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and the evaluation report and observed that a large part of grants has been shown as cost of dance. The proposal was not found convincing by the Committee and hence recommended that the proposal may be rejected and papers submitted by the society may be returned to them.

5.1.3 Agape Museum, Churachandpur District, Manipur (Project cost: ₹ 327.20 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and evaluation report and observed that the collections of the museum were not worthy of financial support from the Ministry. The Committee desired that the applicant organization may be advised to approach Ministry of Textiles for considering their proposal under Craft Museum Scheme as their collections are mainly craft items.

5.1.4 Dharohar Haryana Museum, Kurukshetra University (Project Cost: ₹ 303.24 lakh)

The Committee after going through the report of the Sub-Committee and evaluation report observed that despite the fact that Ministry had released Rs. 14.50 lakhs to Kurukshetra University including Rs. 7 lakhs for preparation of DPR in September, 2011, DPR has not been submitted in the proper format and it is of very poor quality. It has also not submitted any progress report on conservation work for which Rs. 7.50 lakhs was released separately. The Committee, therefore, desired that utilization certificate for grants released for conservation work may be obtained from the university alongwith progress report. Since DPR submitted by the university was not found satisfactory at all, they may be asked to refund the grants of Rs. 7 lakhs released to them for preparation of DPR alongwith penal interest to the Ministry.

5.1.5 Proposals of Government of Rajasthan

The Committee was informed that Government of Rajasthan had initially submitted three proposals namely (i) Government Museum, Bala Kila, Alwar (ii) Government Museum, Sisodia Rani Park, Jaipur and (iii) Government Museum, Alwar which were got evaluated. DPRs in respect of these three proposals were not found in the format prescribed by the Ministry. The Committee observed that the DPRs should cover the collections of the museum in greater detail and provide complete details of accession, state of preservation, authenticity, registrations etc. It was also observed that the modernization of display and creation of galleries should be supported by drawings, details and specifications.

Subsequently, three more proposals namely (i) Government Museum, Chittorgarh (ii) Government Museum, Dungarpur and (iii) Government Museum, Ahar, Udaipur have been sent by Government of Rajasthan. The Committee desired that the State Government should prioritize any three museums out of their six proposals and inform the Ministry of the same. The Committee recommended that on receipt of list of three prioritized museums from State Government, initial grant of Rs. 1 Crore - Rs. 15 lakhs for preparation of DPRs (@ Rs. 5 lakhs per museum), Rs. 45 lakhs for documentation (@ Rs. 15 lakhs per museum) and Rs. 40 lakhs for undertaking conservation works of the collections of these three prioritized museums.

5.1.6. Shri Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial National Committee, New Delhi (Project Cost: ₹ 225.87 lakh)

The Committee discussed the report of the Sub-Committee and evaluation report and observed that there is no clarity on the list and ownership of the objects, use of basement and approval of State Government thereof. Hence the Committee desired that the proposal may be returned to the organization with the advice that they can apply afresh once they get ownership of the collections and categorical recommendations of the State Government for use of basement.

5.1.7 G P Museum & Archives and BEG Centre, Roorkee (Project Cost: ₹ 300.00 lakh)

The Committee deliberated upon the report of the Sub-Committee and evaluation report and found that the DPR submitted by the organization is not at all satisfactory despite the fact that Ministry had released Rs. 5 lakhs to them for preparation of DPR in September, 2013. It was also found that the estimates submitted by the organization include Rs. 35 lakhs for procurement of artefacts which is not admissible under the scheme. Since the DPR submitted by the organization has not been found satisfactory, the Committee desired that the organization may be asked to refund the grant of Rs. 5 lakhs alongwith penal interest to the Ministry.

5.1.8 Shivappa Nayaka Museum & Research Bureau, Shivamogga, Karnataka (Project Cost: ₹ 360.00 lakh)

The Committee deliberated upon the report of the Sub-Committee and evaluation report and agrees with the recommendation of the Sub-Committee and found that the DPR submitted by the organization is not in the format prescribed by the Ministry. This apart, several other issues relating to museum concept, design, display and storage are missing in the proposal. Hence the Committee desired that the organization may be advised to submit proper DPR in the format prescribed by the Ministry by engaging professionals within three months failing which the proposal may be closed.

6. Discussion on complete proposals

6.1 Natural History Museum, Padamshree Dr. Robin Banerjee Trust, Golaghat, Assam (Project Cost: ₹ 87.70 lakh)

The Committee after going through the report of the Sub-Committee and the proposal of the organization observed that the collections of the museum are good which need to be preserved. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the proposal may be approved and 90% of the approved grants may be released, being the proposal of North-East Region, as per norms.

7. Discussion on proposals for which additional information/documents received

7.1 Khursheed Memorial Museum at La Martiniere Girl's College, Lucknow (Project Cost: ₹ 281.01 lakh)

The proposal was earlier discussed in the Expert Committee meeting held on 17.01.2014 and the proposal for Development of Museum and Conservation of artifacts & Establishment of Site Laboratory with project cost of Rs. 58,25,838/- was approved for release as per norms. For remaining components of civil, electrical & plumbing and Development of Landscape, it was decided that Shri B.V. Kharbade, Director, NRLC, Lucknow will visit the college and send a report about the location of the proposed museum. Shri Kharbade in his report dated 5.8.2014 informed that the proposed museum is within the college building and seems suitable for exhibiting the artifacts. On being asked about the area of the proposed museum, Shri Kharbade informed that it is proposed to be set up on area of around 2005 sq. feet. Keeping in view the proposed area of the museum, the Committee observed that the estimates for civil, electrical and plumbing are too high which needs to be restricted and apportioned to the area on which museum is proposed to be set up. The revised estimates should be sent to the Ministry duly certified by the Government engineer within 30 days.

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

List of participants who attended the Meeting held on 07.08.2014

1. Sh. K.K. Mittal	Additional Secretary Ministry of Culture	In the Chair
2. Shri Pramod Jain	Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture	
3. Dr. Venu V	Administrator, National Museum	
4. Prof. Rajeev Lochan	Director, National Gallery of Modern Art	
5. Shri G. Kishan Rao	Expert Member	
6. Shri Karni Singh Jasol	Expert Member	
7. Ms. Tasneem Mehta	Expert Member	
8. Dr. B.V. Kharbade	Director in Charge NRLC, Lucknow	
9. Shri Sanjay Kumar	Under Secretary, Ministry of Culture	