

DRAFT PRESS BRIEF

**Subject: - Irrigation Roads Construction & Improvement Schemes (IRC&IS).**

Roads act as facilitator to promote and sustain agriculture growth, provide access to health and educational institutions, provide enhanced economic opportunities and thus hold key to accelerate the pace of poverty reduction.

The Department of water Resources (DoWR) has 7138 km of embankments to control the flood and saline ingress & 18745 km of canal networks in operation for providing irrigation. Most of these embankments and canal banks, particularly in delta areas, are providing all weather communication facilities to the adjoining habitat. These roads enable rural people to have access to education and health institutions, markets and urban centers etc. Men and materials are being transported through private and public transportation for various purposes including infrastructure development. Some of these roads are the only means of communication for the people living around. Besides, these roads are used to reach the urban and rural pockets marooned during flood. In view of the above, canal bank and embankment roads serve as a life line support to the affected people in remote areas during the period of natural calamities. Due to paucity of funds and in the absence of dedicated budgetary support, the roads under the Department have not been upgraded.

Due to increase in traffic intensity in recent years, the condition of the roads has been further deteriorated. Requests are pouring in from Public as well as Peoples Representatives to upgrade the status of river and canal bank roads. Hence, it is felt necessary to have a new scheme to provide funds to keep of the embankment and canal bank roads in serviceable condition.

The Scheme will be operational throughout the State for improvement of river and canal embankment roads. Selection of roads will be based on the level of utility & traffic intensity.

The level of utility is to be assessed on parameters such as no. of villages and population exclusively depending on the road which is to be included under the scheme. Priority would be accorded to the following categories of roads:

- a. Roads on which public transport such as buses etc. are plying,
- b. Roads which are serving exclusively as a link road between villages and other major road networks of the state viz. National Highways, State Highways, MDRs, ODRs etc.,
- c. Roads which are sole means of communication to adjoining villages /habitats and places of importance.

#### **Implementation and Financial Arrangements**

The Scheme will be implemented over a period of five years i.e. from 2014-15 to 2018-19 with an outlay of Rs.500.00 crore under State Plan and through the existing set up of Department of Water Resources following the available standard arrangement. The above outlay is proposed to be met out of State's own resources under State Plan.

#### **Expected Achievements**

Upgradation of 1500 km road over existing embankments and canal banks having top width of 3.6 m. and above including renovation / addition of structures to PMGSY standard wherever feasible.