

**Infrastructure support for Tourism :**

**Meeting Chaired by Hon'ble Minister for Tourism today 23.8.2012**

As desired by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism Tmt.Gokula Indira took up a review of pending infrastructure works and access Roads being executed by the Public Works, Highways, Forests Departments and Local Bodies in the State. Apart from the Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Secretary, Public Works Department and Secretary, Highways along with the Chief Engineers and representatives of Forests and Rural Development and HR & CE Departments attended the Meeting.

2. Fifty six schemes with a total value of Rs.111.20 Crores were reviewed. The Hon'ble Minister instructed the Officers of Tourism Department and executing departments namely, Public Works, Highways, HR&CE, Forest & Environment and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj to comply with the time frame and keep up the quality of works. All the concerned officers at District level who are executing the tourism schemes, were also advised to coordinate with the field level staff.

3. Hon'ble Minister instructed that the Mega Tourism works at Madurai, Rameswaram, Kanniyakumari and Thanjavur should be given priority by executing agencies and completed quickly. The Departments should aim at achieving the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister to make Tamil Nadu a World Class Tourist Destination.

4. Principal Secretary, (Tourism and Culture) instructed that Utilization Certificates and Completion Reports should be given for completed schemes. The Tourist Officers should co-ordinate with implementing agencies in the Districts to ensure quick implementation. On completion, a board should be kept at the site with the details of the project, funding agency(Tourism Department), year of allocation, etc.

5. Secretary, Highways Department informed that trunk roads will be taken up from Highways Department funds and last mile connectivity to tourist attractions' may be suggested by Tourism Department to include in Highways work.

6. Secretary, Public Works Department assured that Public Works Department will complete tourism works quickly and maintain quality befitting the tourist destinations.

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