The Nineteenth meeting of the Empowered Institution (EI), chaired by Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs was held on August 12, 2009. The list of participants is annexed.

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the participants. It was decided to first consider four proposals for grant of ‘in-principle’ approval received from Government of Maharashtra. It was noted that Department of Economic Affairs and Planning Commission had made observations on the project Draft Concession Agreements (DCAs). The representative of Government of Maharashtra informed that the response to the observations were being prepared and would be sent to DEA. The State Government was revising the project document based on the changes which were earlier approved by EI for the Draft Concession Agreement (DCA) for Warora- Chandrapur State Highway. Furthermore, the State Government had revised its Toll Policy w.e.f. July 30, 2009. Henceforth, the toll rates will be uniform for all projects except projects costing above Rs. 400 crore. It was decided that the State Government would send the revised documents to the Empowered Institution for record.

(Action: Government of Maharashtra)

Agenda Item I : Proposal from Government of Maharashtra for grant of ‘in-principle’ approval - Two/Four laning of Nanded-Narsi Road sector of SH-6 on BOT (Toll) basis

3. The EI noted that all outstanding issues in respect of the project were being addressed by the State Government. The EI granted ‘in-principle’ approval to the proposal for a concession period of 30 years for the proposed two/four laning of project highway for Viability Gap Funding upto Rs. 47.76 crore.

(Action: Government of Maharashtra)

Agenda Item II : Proposal from Government of Maharashtra for grant of ‘in principle’ approval - Two laning of Shirur Tajband-Mukhed-Narsi & 2 laning with paved shoulder of Narsi-Biloli to State Border, sections of SH-225 on BOT (Toll) basis
4. The EI noted that all outstanding issues in respect of the project were being addressed by the State Government. It was noted that the traffic projections suggested that the project highway should be developed as two lane with paved shoulders. The EI granted ‘in-principle’ approval to the proposal for a concession period of 30 years for two laning with paved shoulders of project highway for Viability Gap Funding upto Rs. 38.04 crore.

(Action: Government of Maharashtra)

Agenda Item III: Proposal from Government of Maharashtra for grant of ‘in principle’ approval - Four laning of Akola Washim Hingoli Waranga Phata section of SH-204 on BOT (Toll) basis

5. It was noted that the cost of land and toll acquisition amounting to Rs.31.12 crore had been included in the Total Project Cost (TPC) in the project DCA. It was decided that the same would be revised to Rs. 686.79 crore, after excluding the cost of land acquisition. Further, based on the traffic projections, the concession period of the project should be 30 years. This was agreed to.

6. The EI recommended the proposal for ‘in-principle’ approval to the Empowered Committee for a concession period of 30 years for four laning of project highway for Viability Gap Funding upto Rs. 137.36 crore.

(Action: Government of Maharashtra)

Agenda Item IV: Proposal from Government of Maharashtra for grant of ‘in principle’ approval - Four-laning of SH 77 – Tembhurni (Km 70/200) to Yedshi Road (159/300)

7. The EI noted that all outstanding issues were being addressed by the State Government. The EI granted ‘in-principle’ approval to the proposal for a concession period of 25 years for four laning of project highway for Viability Gap Funding upto Rs. 64.23 crore.

(Action: Government of Maharashtra)

Agenda Item V: Proposal from Government of Gujarat for enhancement of Total Project Cost- Strengthening and widening of Nakhatrana-Dayapar Panandhro Road

8. The EI noted that the project was granted ‘in principle’ approval by the EI in the thirteenth meeting held on April 10, 2008 for a Total Project Cost (TPC) of Rs. 147.40 crore. Subsequently, GIDB requested that the cost of the project, after incorporation of the provisions of the MCA as indicated in the Appraisal Note of Planning Commission was Rs. 194.75 crore, which may be approved. Furthermore, the proposal for development said road, passing through Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, was sent to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife),
Government of Gujarat for clearance, who advised that an alternative alignment may be considered. Accordingly, Government of Gujarat had undertaken feasibility study for alternate alignment and has sought approval for change in alignment of the road reducing the distance/stretch in the sanctuary by 9.6 k.m. and revision of the project cost to Rs. 203 crore.

9. The EI noted that the Concession Agreement and the Schedules for the project would remain unchanged. The EI granted ‘in principle’ approval to the project for a total TPC of Rs. 203 crore.

(Action: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)

17. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.