

RTI REQUEST DETAILS		
Registration No. :	CSLTD/R/T/25/00003	Date of Receipt : 21/04/2025
Transferred From :	Ministry of Shipping on 21/04/2025 With Reference Number : DSHIP/R/E/25/00094	
Remarks :	Information may be provided directly to the applicant	
Type of Receipt :	Electronically Transferred from Other Public Authority	Language of Request : English
Name :		Gender :
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Status(Rural/Urban) :		Education Status :
Letter No. :		Letter Date :
Is Requester Below Poverty Line ? :		Citizenship Status
Amount Paid :	10)	Mode of Payment Payment Gateway
Does it concern the life or Liberty of a Person ? :	No(Normal)	Request Pertains to :
Information Sought :	<p>Please refer to Annual Report 2024-25 of MoPSW, wherein it is stated that Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran vessel- CSL recently designed and developed a hydrogen-fueled catamaran vessel as a pilot project under R&D funding by the MoPS&W. The vessel was inaugurated by the Honorable Prime Minister on 29th February 2024, at VOCPA and reached Varanasi in July 2024. In collaboration with KPIT, Pune and IRS, CSL developed hydrogen fuel cell engines for inland vessels, which were used in this project. The vessel is now in Varanasi, undergoing joint demonstration trials by IWAI, CSL, and IRS. (refer page no.11 of the Annual Report 2024-25)</p> <p>Kindly clarify the following issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm the ownership of the said Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran vessel developed by the CSL. 2. Terms & conditions of the R&D funding by the MoPSW. 3. Present condition of the vessel. 4. How to vessel is operated. 5. What is the cost of vessel and who has incurred it. 6. What is the cost of deploying the vessel at Varanasi and who has incurred it. 7. What is the cost of demonstration of the vessel and who is incurring. 8. What is the role of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017, Rule No. 233 on this project. 9. As per the said rule, the ownership shall vest with the Govt.of India, 	

if so, whether the vessel is registered in the name of the Govt.

10. In case of the Sale of the Vessel by the owner/CSL, whether CSL is entitled to recover the additional cost incurred by the Company in development and demonstration of the vessel.

11. Whether CSL is able to sale at a price higher than the cost, without violating GFR 233.

Original RTI Text :

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Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways



Shri Sarbananda Sonowal announces investment of Rs. 50 Crore in Maritime Start-ups by Cochin Shipyard ,unveils plan for building first indegenous Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels

Posted On: 30 APR 2022 6:31PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal today announced in Kochi that Cochin Shipyard Limited has committed to invest an initial corpus of Rs. 50 Crore in Start-up companies engaged in the maritime sector. Shri Sonowal also unveiled the Government's plan for building Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels keeping pace with the Global Maritime Green Transitions. The move is part of India's transformative efforts on the innovative and new technology front on green energy, sustainable cost-effective alternate fuel front.



Announcing the Start-up engagement framework on the occasion of inauguration of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Cochin Shipyard Limited at a function held this afternoon at Kochi he said the Government is keenly focused on the development of the Start-Up eco system in the country. Many major initiatives, like “Start-Up India” etc. have facilitated the growth of numerous start-ups in the country. He said with a view towards development of start-ups in the maritime domain, the Ministry is working on a Start-up Engagement Framework, which will be promulgated shortly.

The start-up framework is envisaged to augment Government's initiatives to develop an ecosystem in the country to support Maritime Start-ups from technical, regulatory, financial and marketing point of view by bringing stakeholders together. The framework will provide a platform for the young and talented entrepreneurs to develop the products/services in the marine space with financial support provided by Cochin Shipyard Limited.



Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri V Muraleedharan, Minister for State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Adv. Anil Kumar, Mayor of Kochi, Shri TJ Vinod, MLA, Ernakulam, Dr. Sanjeev Ranjan, IAS, Secretary MoPSW, Mr Madhu S Nair, CMD, CSL, senior officials, current and past employees of CSL and other dignitaries graced the function, which was presided over by Shri Hibi Eden, MP of Ernakulam.

Shri Sonowal also unveiled the Government's plan for building Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels keeping pace with the Global Maritime Green Transitions at the Workshop on Green Shipping organised by the Ministry jointly with Cochin Shipyard Limited and The Energy and Resources Institute. The move is part of India's transformative efforts on the innovative and new technology front on green energy, sustainable cost-effective alternate fuel front.



Hydrogen Fuel cells can be used in a wide range of applications, including transportation, material handling, stationary, portable, and emergency backup power applications. Fuel cells operating on hydrogen fuel are an efficient, environmentally-friendly, zero emission, direct current (DC) power source already applied to heavy duty bus, truck, and train applications, and are now under development for marine applications.

Shri Sonowal stated that the project would be carried out by Cochin Shipyard Limited in collaboration with Indian partners and the ground work in this regard have already begun, wherein Cochin Shipyard Limited has partnered with KPIT Technologies Limited and Indian developers in the areas of Hydrogen Fuel cell, power train and Indian Register of Shipping for developing rules and regulation for such vessels. He said The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel based on Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane Technology (LT-PEM) called Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (FCEV) is expected to cost around Rs. 17.50 crores of which 75% would be funded by the Government of India. . The Minister laid emphasis on the protection of mother earth for our own survival. He declared that India is firmly committed towards a sustainable and clean environment and that India had called for the “One Sun – One World – One Grid” initiative, as a lead player in the International Solar Alliance.

The development of Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels is considered as a launchpad for the country to tap the vast opportunities lying in the Coastal & Inland vessels segment both nationally and internationally. This project is expected to augment the efforts of the nation in achieving the Prime Minister’s ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2070 and also in complying with the standards set by International Maritime Organization (IMO) that envisages a reduction in carbon intensity of international shipping by at least 40% by 2030 and progressively to 70% by 2050.

Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways(MoPSW), Dr Sanjeev Ranjan – Secretary, MoPSW, Shri Amitabh Kant, IAS, CEO NITI Aayog, Dr Vibha Dhavan, Director General (TERI), Shri Jose Matheickal, Head, Global Partnerships & Projects, IMO Mr Christian Valdes Carter, Country Director, Innovation Norway and Shri Madhu S Nair, CMD, Cochin Shipyard Ltd were the other dignitaries who took part in the session.

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(Release ID: 1821624) Visitor Counter : 1605

Read this release in: Urdu , Hindi , Malayalam

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways



Shri Sarbananda Sonowal says the country is progressing in every field and in the next 25 years India will be a self-reliant country as envisioned by Prime Minister.

Varanasi to become business hub through Inland Waterways under PM Gati Shakti Scheme

IWAI developing 62 jetties across four states- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal

MoU between IWAI and Cochin Shipyard signed for country's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran Vessel and Electric Hybrid Vessels

7 community jetties launched and foundation stone laid for another 8 Jetties in UP

India's longest river cruise/ganga vilas between Varanasi and Dibrugarh to be launched soon

Posted On: 11 NOV 2022 6:00PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has said that from waterways, to railways, to air transport, to highways, the country is progressing in every field and in the next 25 years India will be a self-reliant country as envisioned by the Prime Minister. Speaking at the inauguration of seven community jetties and foundation stone of 8 more jetties in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh he said the under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, work is being done for development from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh under the policy of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.



Shri Sonowal said India is implementing policies that would enable creation of world-class infrastructure. He said Prime Minister emphasis on developing national waterways has unleashed strong economic multipliers encompassing logistics, trade, city infrastructure, water supplies and tourism is an exemplification of this vision. Shri Sonowal said the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti Summit 2022 will pave the way forward for enhanced and coordinated efforts towards comprehensive development of waterways led transport & logistics sector in the country. He added that active waterways, when used for regular logistics and passenger travel, necessarily creates landing and loading/unloading points on the banks of the rivers. The Minister said this makes large areas of the hinterland accessible to the routes of trade and commerce, making goods from these areas part of the national and global supply chain network, opening up new markets for everyone—from farmers to craftspeople to factories.



Shri Sonowal said that the focus on "port-led development" is central to this vision to create seamless multi-modal connectivity for movement of people and cargo, with focus on removing barriers to last mile connectivity, emblematic of the Prime Minister's Atmanirbhar and Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' vision.



On this occasion, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath said that not only will Uttar Pradesh benefit from the help of PM Gati Shakti Yojana, but the entire country will develop.

He said many schemes have been implemented under the able leadership of Prime Minister, which is realizing the dream of Ek Bharat Shreshtha. He thanked the Prime Minister that such a beautiful gift has been given to Varanasi. This will help in easing the traffic from Varanasi to other places in the country. It will also help exports of agricultural and other products from Uttar Pradesh, which is a landlocked state, to efficiently reach sea ports through the inland waterways, Shri Adityanath added.

‘आज पीएम Shri @narendramodi के मार्गदर्शन से 2047 तक देश को #AtmanirbharBharat बनाने के लिए हम सब प्रतिबद्ध हुए हैं। देश में अलग-अलग व्यवस्था खड़ी की गई है ताकि, वॉटरवेज, कोस्टल शिपिंग समेत हर सेक्टर में देश को मजबूती मिल सके’: Shri @sarbanandsonwal #PMGatiShaktiWaterwaysSummit pic.twitter.com/mU1DSslh4t
— Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (@shipmin_india) November 11, 2022

‘जल परिवहन के माध्यम से रोड और रेलवेज का लोड कम होगा साथ ही प्रदूषण में भी कमी आएगी। यह कार्य एक है लेकिन इसके अनेक लाभ हैं, जिसका केंद्र काशी बनने जा रहा है’: CM Shri @myogiadityanath #PMGatiShaktiWaterwaysSummit pic.twitter.com/GI5IGalhm6
— Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (@shipmin_india) November 11, 2022

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated seven community jetties in the presence of Shri Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh and other dignitaries and also laid the foundation stone of eight more jetties on the river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh.

A host of dignitaries including Shri Daya Shankar Singh, Minister of State, Independent Charge, Transport, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Shripad Naik, Minister of State, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey, Minister for Heavy Industry, top leadership team from IWAI and representatives from the state government were present at the event.

The Spiritual City of India is all set to receive the most advanced Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran Vessels, announced Shri Sonowal in the presence of leading dignitaries. The city will get one Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel and four Electric Hybrid Vessels for Varanasi. An MoU was signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India and Cochin Shipyard Limited during the event.

Under the Jal Marg Vikas Project -II (JMVP-II), also known as Arth Ganga, IWAI is developing/upgrading 62 small community jetties along the river Ganga. These include 15 in Uttar Pradesh, 21 in Bihar, 3 in Jharkhand and 23 in West Bengal.

In UP, jetties are being developed on a 250 km stretch between Varanasi and Ballia. The jetties equipped with all passenger and administrative amenities will enable the movement of freight and passengers across the river resulting in time and cost savings.

Operational jetties can boost small-scale industries, enhance the region's cultural heritage, and generate employment opportunities that benefit communities. The focus on the development of inland waterways will help standardise development and operation, leading to better facilities and improvement in livelihood for local communities.

With its inherent advantage of being low-cost and environment-friendly, inland waterways transportation will now pave the way for reducing the uses of fossil fuel by introducing ZERO EMISSION HYDROGEN FUEL CELL PASSENGER CATAMARAN VESSEL IN KASHI (VARANASI).

The Government through IWAI, has assigned this project to Cochin Shipyard Ltd, Kochi, which has recently delivered the country's first indigenous Air Craft Carrier.

According to the MoU between IWAI and CSL, the design and development of the Zero Emission 100 pax Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Catamaran Vessel will be undertaken by CSL in collaboration with M/s KPIT, Pune. The catamaran vessel will be deployed at Varanasi after test and trial at Kochi. Based on the success of this Project, the technology can be adopted for greening of, cargo vessels, small country crafts etc. enabling significant reduction in pollution levels in the National Waterways.

CSL will also build 8 Hybrid electric Catamaran vessels as per the MoU. The project was approved by the central government at a cost of Rs.130 crores. The vessels with a capacity of 50 pax will be deployed in Varanasi, Ayodhya, Mathura-Vrindavan and Guwahati.

Ganga Vilas is the first river ship made in India which will sail from Varanasi to Dibrugarh, a total of about 3200 km. A journey of over 50 days through 27 river systems in Indian and Bangladesh stopping and visit over 50 architectural sights including world heritage sights. The ship will also visit National parks and sanctuaries including the Sunderbans delta and Kaziranga national park.

This journey is the single longest river journey by a single river ship in the world and has put India and Bangladesh on the river cruise map of the world. Opening a new horizon and vertical for Tourism in Indian sub-continent. This will enhance in awareness for river cruising in other rivers in India.

Vessel Ganga vilas:

LOA (length) 62.5 Meters

Beam (width) 12.8 meters
and draft 1.35 meters

Having 18 suits

List of jetties launched in UP:

Location of jetty	District
1. Assighat/ St. RavidasGhat	Varanasi
2. Kaithy	Varanasi
3. Ramnagar	Varanasi

4. Collector Ghat	Ghazipur
5. Shivpur	Ballia
6. Ujjiyarghat	Ballia
7. Baluaghat	Chandauli

List of jetties in UP for which Bhoomipujan conducted:

Location of jetty	District
1. Rajghat	Varanasi
2. Chochakpur	Ghazipur
3. Dungurpur	Ghazipur
4. Saidpur	Ghazipur
5. Zamania	Ghazipur
6. Steamerghat	Ghazipur
7. Kanspur	Ballia
8. Majhoua	Ballia

Salient Features of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran:

- Zero Emission Water Taxi
- CO2 emission reduction - 250 MT annually/vessel
- Designed for short-distance commute in riverine waters.
- Powered by hydrogen Fuel Cell and LiFePO4 Batteries
- Optimized hull form
- Designed to Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) standards
- Enhanced passenger comfort and ergonomics

- Air-conditioned seating space for 100 Passengers
- Large windows for excellent panoramic view

Salient Features of Electric Hybrid Vessel

- Designed for short-distance commute in riverine waters.
- Powered by LTO Batteries
- Optimized hull form
- Fast charging capability
- Designed to Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) standards
- Enhanced passenger comfort and ergonomics
- Air-conditioned seating space for 50 Passengers
- Large windows for excellent panoramic view
- On-board accommodation for Crew
- Toilet and Washroom for passengers
- Diesel OBM for emergency.
- CO2 emission reduction - 200 MT annually/vessel

MJPS

(Release ID: 1875265) Visitor Counter : 1007

Read this release in: Urdu , Hindi



Sub: Information Under Right to Information Act

Dear Sir,

1. Please refer your RTI request ref no. DSHIP/R/E/25/00094 transferred through the RTI-MIS portal to Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) vide ref no. CSLTD/R/T/25/00003 dated April 21, 2025. The reply to the information sought under the said request relating to the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (HFCEV), a pilot project of CSL is given below:

- (i) Confirm the ownership of the said Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran vessel developed by the CSL.

Reply

The Vessel is registered with Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) in the name of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

- (ii) Terms & conditions of the R&D funding by the MoPSW.

Reply

Please refer **Annexure I**.

- (iii) Present condition of the vessel.

Reply

The Vessel is under demonstration trials at Varanasi.

- (iv) How to vessel is operated.

Reply

The Vessel is operated by CSL.

- (v) What is the cost of vessel and who has incurred it.

- (vi) What is the cost of deploying the vessel at Varanasi and who has incurred it.

- (vii) What is the cost of demonstration of the vessel and who is incurring.

Reply (v) to (vii)

The estimated cost of the Vessel approved by the Board of Directors of CSL is Rs. 24.25 Crore which inter alia includes the cost for deploying and demonstration of Vessel at Varanasi. An amount of Rs. 22.37 Crore has been incurred by CSL as on March 31, 2025, of which Rs. 13.13 Crore have been reimbursed by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India under its R & D scheme.



- (viii) What is the role of General Financial Rules (GFR), 2017, Rule No. 233 on this project.
- (ix) As per the said rule, the ownership shall vest with the Govt. of India, if so, whether the vessel is registered in the name of the Govt.
- (x) In case of the Sale of the Vessel by the owner/CSL, whether CSL is entitled to recover the additional cost incurred by the Company in development and demonstration of the vessel.
- (xi) Whether CSL is able to sale at a price higher than the cost, without violating GFR 233.

Reply (viii) to (xi)

The points raised are in the nature of queries, interpretations and seeking clarifications/ opinion, which do not fall under the definition of "information" under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act). Further, as per the RTI Act the Public Information Officer is not obliged to create or interpret information, or provide opinions or explanations on hypothetical scenarios. Accordingly, the information sought is outside the purview of the RTI Act.

2. If you are not satisfied with the above reply, you may prefer an appeal within 30 days from the date of receipt of this letter to Shri Bejoy Bhasker, Director (Technical) & Appellate Authority, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Administrative Building, Cochin Shipyard Premises, Perumanoor, Kochi – 682015.

Thanking You,



Yours faithfully,

Syamkamal N
Company Secretary & CPIO

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS
(DEVELOPMENT WING)

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TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT

- i) Approval of the research proposals and the grant being released is for the specific project sanctioned and should be exclusively spent on this project within the stipulated time. Any unspent part of the amount sanctioned would be surrendered to the Government of India. Any carry forward of funds to the next financial year for utilization for the same project may be considered only with the specific approval of Research Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- ii) For permanent, semi-permanent assets acquired solely or mainly out of the grant, an audited record in the form of register in the prescribed Proforma shall be maintained by the Institution. The term "assets" means (i) immovable property, and (ii) moveable property of a capital nature, where the value exceeds Rs.1,000/-. The grant will not be utilized for construction of any building unless specific provision is made for this purpose.
- iii) All the assets acquired from the grant will be the property of the Government of India and should not, without the prior sanction of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, be disposed off or encumbered or utilized for purpose other than those for which the grant has been sanctioned.
- iv) At the conclusion of the project, the Government of India will be free to sell or otherwise dispose off assets which are the property of the Government. The Institution shall render to Government necessary facilities for arranging the sale of these assets.
- v) The Institution will furnish quarterly progress reports of the work on the project for the preceding quarter by 15th April, 15th July, 15th October and 15th January of each calendar year to the Deputy Director (Engineering), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, (Development Wing), New Delhi. In addition, appropriate persons may visit the Institution periodically for ascertaining the progress of the work and resolving any difficulties that might be encountered in the course of implementation. During the progress of the project, the Institution will provide all facilities to the Scientist/Specialist by way of accommodation etc. On completion of the grant/project, 20(twenty) copies of the final



report of the work done on the subject shall be sent to the Deputy Director (Engineering), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, (Development Wing), Transport Bhawan, 1 – Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001. All details related to the project has to be filled up in MIS Portal of Sagarmala of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways on quarterly basis or as per real time basis.

vi) The Institutions are required to send to the Deputy Director (Engineering), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (Development Wing), New Delhi-110001, at the end of each financial year as well as at the time of seeking further installments of the grant, a list of assets referred to in Para (ii) above, and a statement of accounts.

vii) The Institutions will furnish to the Deputy Director (Engineering), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (Development Wing), Transport Bhawan, 1- Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110001, utilization certificate(s) and an audited statement of accounts pertaining to the grant within six months following the end of each financial year.

viii) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, at his discretion, shall have the right of access to the books and accounts of the Institutions for the grant received from the Government.

ix) The Institutions will maintain separate audited accounts for this project. If it is found expedient to keep a part or whole of the grant in a bank account earning interest, the interests thus earned should be reported to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (Development Wing), New Delhi – 110001. The interest thus earned will be treated as a credit to the Institutions to be adjusted towards further installments of the grant.

x) Sale proceeds, if any, as a result of the development of the project arising directly from funds granted under the scheme, shall be remitted to the Government of India. The Government of India may, at its discretion, allow a portion of such receipts to be retained by the Institutions.

xi) The know-how generated from the project would be property of the Government of India and any receipt by way of sale of know-how, royalties, etc. shall accrue to the Government of India. The Government of India may, in its discretion allow a portion of such receipts to be retained by the Institutions.

xii) The Government of India will have the right to call for drawing, specification and other data necessary to enable the transfer of know-how



to other parties and the Institutions should supply all the needed information at the request of the Deputy Director (Engineering), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, (Development Wing), Transport Bhawan, 1 - Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001.

xiii) The Institutions may not entrust the implementation of work for which the grant is being sanctioned to another Institution(s) and to divert the grant receipts as assistance to the later Institution(s) unless the other Institution(s) is collaborating in the work with the approval of the Research Committee. In case the Institution(s) is not in a position to execute or complete the project, or the work is not proceeding according to the objectives set out, it may be required to refund to the Government of India the entire amount of grants-in-aid received by it. In exceptional cases, this condition may be relaxed by the Government of India.

xiv) The staff that may be employed for the Project by the Institution(s) are not to be treated as employees of the Government of India and the employment of such staff at the time of completion or termination of the project will not be the concern/responsibility of the Government of India. They will be subjected to administrative and service rules, as applicable (leave, T.A. and D.A., etc) of the Institutions where the projects is based. For the expeditious implementation of the Research projects, the Investigator In-charge will take the assistance of the Institutions concerned in the process of selection and appointment of staff and payment to them. In case of any special posts, rules of pay may be decided in consultation with the Research Committee constituted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (Development Wing), Transport Bhawan, 1- Sansad Marg, New Delhi - 110001.

xv) The High Level Research Committee reserves the right to terminate the grant at any stage, if it is convinced that the grant has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made.

xvi) The project will become operative with effect from the date on which the grant is received by the Institution(s). The date will be intimated by the Institution(s) to the sanctioning authority.

xvii) If the Investigator, to whom a grant for a project has been sanctioned, leaves the Institution(s) where the project is based, the Investigator should submit a complete and detailed report of the work done by him on the project till the date of relieve.

