

# After 4 years and 12 deadlines, viability study on KMP expressway

TNN | Feb 26, 2014, 02.44AM IST

GURGAON: The Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) project has missed so many deadlines in the past few years that it has become difficult to keep count. Since its inception in January 2006, the work on the 135.6km road has proceeded at a snail's pace. Even today, according to an official report, the physical progress of the project is around 69%. At this rate, there's no telling whether this project will ever reach completion, and whether the much-touted KMP expressway will ever become a reality.

Posed with similar doubts about the project's future, the industry authority is finally seeking ways to expedite the construction work here. An independent consultant will soon be working on a viability report that spells out the 'various options available to HSIIDC' in order to ensure speedier implementation of the KMP project.

"We have decided to procure services of a technical consultant. The progress on the KMP expressway project has been almost nil over the last one year," said an HSIIDC official. The private consulting firm will provide pointers to the HSIIDC on some of the 'technical, commercial and legal' options available to the corporation since the current contractor - M/s KMP Expressways Ltd, of which DSC Ltd is the main partner - has proved incompetent.

"The main objective of this assignment is to evaluate the various options available to HSIIDC for completion and implementation of the project and to suggest the best option after carrying technical, commercial and legal due diligence of these. The consultant shall also propose amendments required in the concession agreement in case HSIIDC decides to go ahead with one particular viable option," the official HSIIDC report, inviting bids from consultants, states.

The document also lists alternatives 'to be considered' by the consulting firm, working on the viability report on the future of KMP project including a possible scenario that entails substitution 'of the concessionaire by any other HSIIDC nominee'. Voices clamouring for the removal of the concessionaire have multiplied over the last year. Due to the many delays, the KMP project is being tracked by the Supreme Court's monitoring committee, which is submitting bi-monthly progress reports.

But HSIIDC officials are still reluctant to take a clear stand on whether the 'substitution clauses' of the agreement with the concessionaire will be invoked. Asked if the concessionaire might be on its way out, HSIIDC's chief engineer, H R Raheja's said, "I can't say at the moment what options we are going to go with. For now, we have to see what the possibilities and options we can explore, and this is why we are hiring an independent consultant," he said.

**TIMES OF INDIA**

Powered by *INDIATIMES*