

Ref. – UPA- 4 / 1-124/04-2016

Dated : 22.04.2016

To,
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Govt. of India
New Delhi-110001.

Sub.: Regarding selection of smart city consultants.

Sir,

We are keen about the smart city initiative started by central government and hope it will land us somewhere in better city environments but good execution of a scheme is always important for its success. It is essential to note that the various consultants chosen for preparing their city for the smart parade plays a very crucial role and needs to be judged properly and they should be appointed with some sense of responsibility for their works.

We have noticed that in the first year of smart city competition none of the cities from Uttar Pradesh were qualified while the consultants appointed enjoyed their full fee without any responsibility for the works they submitted. We got the opportunity to go through some of the reports/ findings submitted by consultants and found that there was hardly any conclusion to report and the reports were so vague that it appears to be academic work of students. There were no mapping, no surveys, no projections for the existing and future infrastructure requirements based on which a proposal can be formed out. No stakeholder's consultation was done with the technical persons/ associations residing in respective cities except for the few who were somehow related to the consultants. Most of the consultations were limited upto photography so that it can be established that the consultations were done. We ourselves tried our best to get into touch with them to give our inputs for our cities but we were not given response from the consultants. Most of the time the consultants were sitting with the government officials of the district administration and get driven by them as their remunerations were in direct control of these officials.

It is equally important for us to evaluate the works of consultants and get such consultants out of the system who have not performed well because this joint venture system have hijacked all competent/ talented consultants and have given opportunity only to those who are commercialised and thus employs underpaid and overloaded employees to get their profits out of the fee. Hence, we recommend not to accept the joint venture firms as they portray dummy credentials to get the projects and in most of the cases does not perform. On the other hand it is also recommended to evaluate the consultants in a periodic basis to filter out the non performing firms. A further penalty or some sort of financial charges may be laid down for the consultants whose proposals are not getting through. Even conditions of their engagement may also be changed in respect of their fees based on the selection of their proposal. We hope you will consider the spirit of the letter in order to eliminate the weaknesses in the system.

Thanking You.
Yours Sincerely.

(R. K. DWIVEDI)

