

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON THE 23RD AUGUST, 2004 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MEGHALAYA SECRETARIAT TO FINALISE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE PLANNING BOARD IN RESPECT OF REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN SCHEMES DURING 2002-2003.

Present as at Annexure – A

At the outset Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board welcomed the Co-Chairmen, the Deputy Chairmen and the Members State Planning Board to the meeting. He expressed regret that the meeting of the Board which was earlier convened on 20th August, 2004 had to be postponed owing to urgent unforeseen circumstances.

The Chairman stated that the State Planning Board had constituted Working Groups viz., Working Group 'A' 'B' 'C' and 'D' for reviewing the implementation of Plan Scheme during 2002-2003 and these Working Groups had a series of meetings with the different Departments as assigned to them, and thereafter the full State Planning Board met on **19.3.04** for discussion on the Proceedings of the above mentioned Working Groups to enable the Board to make specific recommendations on main issues. However, the Board desired additional information and clarification on some issues relating to the concerned Departments as per its decision on **19.3.04**.

In view thereof, the Chairman/Co-Chairmen/Deputy Chairmen, State Planning Board had another meeting with the concerned Departments on **21.7.04** and **23.7.04**. The Proceedings of the above meeting is placed before the Board in today's meeting for finalization the recommendations of the State Planning Board in respect of review of implementation of Plan Schemes during 2002-2003.

The Chairman called for further views/opinion, from the Members present on the points concerning the Departments taken up in the above meetings and other matters if any which should be included in recommendation of the Board.

Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh :- The Hon'ble Member stated that the points noted against each Department are sufficient for recommendation to the State Government. However, he expressed his reservation on the yield of Paddy Seeds from Seed Village concept to have shot up to 1600 MT in 2003-2004 from 560 MT in 2001-2002. The Chairman however felt that since these are the figures given by the Department the same may be accepted.

The Hon'ble Member also expressed doubts as to whether the units in EPIP informed the Director, Industries or the General Manager, Industries, Nongpoh, or the Deputy Commissioner, Nongpoh on vacancies available. He also was critical as to why subsidy should be continued when 47 buses of Meghalaya Transport Corporation are

running at a loss. Further, he desired a report from the Department on the criteria for Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the 216 employees of the Meghalaya Transport Corporation.

The Chief Secretary informed that about Rs.31 crores will be provided by the State Government for Voluntary Retirement Scheme of Meghalaya Transport Corporation employees and the process is targetted to be completed by December, 2004.

Shri P.T.Sawkmie :- The Co-Chairman brought to the attention of the Board as to whether Government may think in terms of free power to rural areas as being done in some states viz., Andhra Pradesh etc. The Chief Secretary pointed out that these moves by some states have in fact ruined their respective state's economy. He further informed that about 61% of villages in Meghalaya have a population of 200 or less and about 51% with a population of 100 or less. The Power Department will have to spend about Rs.15 to Rs.18 lakhs to electrify a village.

To a query on low allotment of funds from DONER the Chief Secretary admitted that the works in Garo Hills were affected severely in the last decade which explained the reason for not being able to project the various schemes needed for the entire state under NLCPR

The Co-Chairman felt that the Govt. should devise policies to ensure that the State gets more fund in consummeration with other N.E.States.

Dr. E.D. Thomas :- The Hon'ble Member was of the opinion that the operation of 16 School Buses by Meghalaya Transport Corporation should not be discontinued, as among other things this would further enhanced the traffic problem in the city. The Board felt that the operation of School Buses by Meghalaya Transport Corporation may be reviewed by the State Government.

Shri P.J.Bazeley, Chief Secretary :- The Chief Secretary endorses the Seed Village Concept of Agriculture Department as the community is taken into consideration for involvement in the activities of the Government

On Revolving Fund, the Chief Secretary stated that though the State Government is committed to this, the Accountant General was averse to the idea of a Revolving Fund in a Government Department. However with the amendment of the FR/SR/Treasury Rules the matter could be resolved in the near future. On Education, the Chief Secretary stated that a serious effort will be made for making funds available to the scheme of Midday Meal provided that seepages should be checked. On PHE, he stated that underground water is being explored besides the utilization of surface water practiced since time immemorial. It

was also informed that a scheme is being taken up for treatment of the seven sources of water in Shillong.

On Industries, the Chief Secretary was hopeful that revenue will increase after the exemption period is over. On Power, the Chief Secretary stated that Meghalaya is now a power deficit state by 200 Megawatt. However, he pointed out that the project on the pipeline to meet this deficiency are (i) Leishka Stage-II, (ii) Umngot Stage-II and (iii) Kynshi Project. Even the project of Leishka – Myntdu project is targetted to be completed at the shortest time possible. The Chief Secretary also informed of Express Highways of power from Misa to Byrnihat and Silchar to Byrnihat.

The Board also expressed concern over the rating by India Today which listed Meghalaya lowest in terms of Law and Order, Health situation etc. among the states in the country. Expressing doubts as to the source of statistics of the magazine the Chief Secretary informed that the State Government is preparing a State Development Report and a Human Development Report in this respect. He also assured the Board that all possible steps would be taken to get the Government machinery strengthened. The Hon'ble Member Shri E.D. Thomas informed that a panel is being formed to study the above India Today report and the observation will be shared with the State Government.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

Sd/-
(S.C.Marak),
Chairman,
State Planning Board.

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE MEETING OF THE STATE PLANNING BOARD
ON 23-08-2004.**

Members Present

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| 1. | Shri S.C. Marak | Chairman, State Planning Board |
| 2. | Dr. F.A. Khonglam | Co-Chairman, State Planning Board |
| 3. | Shri P.T. Sawkmie | Co-Chairman, State Planning Board |
| 4. | Shri E.D. Marak | Co-Chairman, State Planning Board |
| 5. | Shri S.D. Khongwir | Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board |
| 6. | Dr. R.C. Laloo | Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board |
| 7. | Shri A.H. Scott Lyngdoh | Member, State Planning Board |
| 8. | Dr. E.D. Thomas | Member, State Planning Board |
| 9. | Dr. Biloris Lyndem | Member, State Planning Board |
| 10. | Shri C.P. Marak | Member, State Planning Board |
| 11. | Shri Rowell Lyngdoh | Member, State Planning Board |
| 12. | Chief Executive Member,
Garo Hills Autonomous District
Council | Member, State Planning Board |
| 13. | Chief Secretary to the Govt. of
Meghalaya | Member, State Planning Board |
| 14. | Commissioner & Secretary,
Planning Department | Member, State Planning Board |
| 15. | Commissioner & Secretary, State
Planning Board | Member – Secretary, State Planning Board |

Officers Present

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| 1. | Smti Y. Dkhar | Special Officer & Ex-Officio Under
Secretary, State Planning Board |
| 2. | Smti B.C. Warjri | Research Officer, State Planning Board |