

**MINUTES OF THE REVIEW MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP 'B' OF STATE  
PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 19-2-2004 IN THE OFFICE CHAMBER OF THE  
CHAIRMAN, STATE PLANNING BOARD.**

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**Members and Officers present at Annexure – A.**

At the outset, the Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board, Shri S.D. Khongwir who is also the Chairman of the Working Group 'B', of State Planning Board welcomed Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board, Members present and Departmental Officers. The Deputy Chairman, informed that the purpose of the meeting is to review the achievements in the implementation of Plan Schemes during the year 2002-2003.

The following Departments were taken up :-

**1. Mining & Geology Department** :- The proposed outlay for the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) is Rs.800.00 lakhs The Approved Outlay for the year 2002-2003 was Rs.155.00 lakhs and the actual expenditure was Rs.139.00 lakhs.

The Department informed that the main functions of the Directorate of Mineral Resources are geological exploration of mineral deposits of the state, administration of mines and collection of revenue in the form of Royalty and Mineral Cess. Extensive exploration of mineral resources is being taken up, and survey is being conducted every year on limestone, granite, quartz etc. Training Programmes are also conducted to create awareness for scientific mining, for safety precaution and to protect the environment. Limestone of Meghalaya is one of the best in the country and industrial clay has the best deposits in Mulieh Jaintia. Hills Black granite, the best deposits in the country is found in Garo Hills. While discussing the potentiality of ground water for drinking and irrigation purposes the Working Group feels that it is the responsibility of the Department to assess the availability of ground water in different areas of the state. In this context the Working Group suggested for a Co-ordination Committee between Mining and Geology, PHE and Central Water Board so that there would be no overlapping of activities. It is also suggested for speedy investigation on mineral deposits and figures on reserves available need to be accurate.

It is learnt that Capital Outlay under PWD had not been spent relating to buildings due to problems in land acquisition.

On the question of collection of royalty, the Department clarified that Mining and Geology and Forest Department are the agencies for collection of royalty. Royalty is fixed by the Govt. of India and it was felt that it is high time for revision of the same. There are 13 check gates in all important roads but there is a lot of leakage and manipulation. This can be rectified only through cross checking with Treasury Challan and a regular inspection of the check gates. The collection of royalty is likely to cross 70 crores during 2002-2003.

Additional infrastructures are also proposed to be created such as installation of additional check gates and computerization system which will help in monitoring the collection of revenue.

**2. Art and Culture :-** The Tenth Plan projected outlay is Rs.2000.00 lakhs. The Plan outlay for 2002-2003 was revised to Rs.565.00 lakhs and the actual expenditure was Rs.391.00 lakhs.

The construction of the State Cultural Complex at Brookside, Shillong drew the attention of the Members of the Working Group. It was started since 1994 but till date, even Phase-I has not yet been completed. Phase-I includes seating arrangement and sound system and Phase-II includes Parking Lot. The seating capacity is 1200. About 13.00 lakhs had been paid for consultancy charges and acoustics. It is recommended that the Department should take a firm commitment to complete the project at the earliest and to pay and clear the pending committed expenditure that are payable to the contractor. The old building will be renovated and retained as a heritage.

The Department had submitted projects/schemes for consideration for funding under NLCP/Doner funds which are as follows :-

1. Extension of State Museum at Shillong.
2. District Library Cum Auditorium at Nongstoin.
3. District Library Cum Auditorium at Nongpoh.
4. District Library Cum Auditorium at Williamnagar.
5. District Library Cum Auditorium at Baghmara.
6. District Museum Cum Auditorium at Tura.

The Department is advised to conduct an Archaeological Survey and to prepare a list of ancient monuments for preservation.

3. **Urban Development** :- The approved outlay for Urban Development during the Tenth Plan period is Rs.10650.00 lakhs. The strategy is to provide infrastructure development in different towns to do away with mushroom growth of slums. The Revised Plan Outlay for 2002-2003 was 31.43 crores.

According to 1991 Census, the number of towns are 7 but by 2001, the number of towns have gone upto 16 Nos. Out of 16 towns the Department is operating only in 9 towns.

The New Shillong Township was conceived by the Department in the year 1990-1991 with a view to accommodate the future population of Shillong town. Till date 250 hectares of land have been acquired. The project is being funded by the State Government from its Annual Budget. Consultants have been appointed for preparation of detailed project report for road, electrification, water supply and sanitation. The total area of land required is 500 hectares. The Department is contemplating to seek financial support from the Non Lapsable Central pool of resources.

The Members of the Working Group also discussed on the poor performance of the Shillong Municipal Board. Regarding water supply, Shillong is divided into many parts, some parts are covered by PHE and some by the Municipal Board. Hence it is advised by the Working Group to have an agency to monitor the generation and distribution of water supply. It is also suggested that payment of fees to the PHE from each household is to be made compulsory to make people aware that they have to pay for services rendered by the Government. As at present, water tax imposed is small and negligible.

There was also a discussion on the Shopping Complex at Police Bazar, the Parking Lot near the District Council Office, Shillong. The Department is also planning to construction a 3 tier Parking Lot opposite Anjalee Cinema.

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

Sd/-  
(S.D.Khongwir),  
Deputy Chairman,  
State Planning Board