

**MINUTES OF THE REVIEW MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP 'D' OF
MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON THE 25TH FEBRUARY, 2004 IN
THE OFFICE CHAMBER OF CHAIRMAN, MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING
BOARD.**

Members and Officials present at Annexure – I

Shri S.S. Lyngdoh, Deputy Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board who is also the Chairman of the Working Group 'D' welcomed the Members and Officials present to the meeting. He stated that this is the first meeting of the Working Group'D' and hoped that the deliberations, of the meeting would be fruitful.

The following Departments were taken up :-

1. **Health** :- The Working Group was of the opinion that since this is the 2nd year of the 10th Plan, it is imperative to have a picture of the background of what was the actual expenditure during the 9th Plan vis-à-vis the Approved Outlay so as to understand the trend of progress both physically and financially. The Department was asked to give a gist of its programmes with stress on certain schemes like setting up of CHCs, PHCs and Sub-Centres and their being functional or not.

The Department stated that there are 3(three) Directorates with specific subjects allocated to each Directorate. It informed that other than the existing 100 bedded Government hospitals, a 100 bedded hospital was inaugurated at Mairang during the current financial year. The Department stated that the hierarchy of Health Centres is Sub-Centres to Public Health Centres to Community Health Centres and to 100 bedded hospitals and upgradation also takes place from one level to another at different points of time. The Department stated that 200 bedded strength is proposed for Jowai and Tura Hospitals.

The Department informed that out of 35 CHCs 2 upgraded to 100 bedded hospital and 22 functioning CHCs are supposed to be the first referral units and should be manned by a specialist but due to shortage of specialists none of the CHCs could function as referral units. The population norm for a CHC is 80,000. As for PHCs, 132 sanctioned, 7 or 8 for upgradation and 92 functioning. The population norm for a PHC is 20,000. As for Sub-Centres, 458 sanctioned, 408 functioning and 22 processed for construction. The population norm for a Sub-Centre is 3,000 (Hill Areas). The Department is under the process of upgrading the PHCs at Baghmara and Nongpoh into CHCs and at Nongstoin into a 100 bedded hospital.

The constraints faced by the Department are (i) Setting up of more Sub-Centres and (ii) It is felt that provision of water and power in newly constructed Health Centres should be provided by the concerned Departments and the Department should not have to invest on these infrastructures. The Working Group is of the view that Government should be clear on this issue, and suggested for a separate meeting with Departments of Health, PHE and Power to discuss the matter.

Replying to queries by the Working Group the Department stated that it had received Additional Central Assistance for Spill-Over Schemes of 8th and 9th Plan; the work for the Children hospital at Tura is in progress and the Department is working on the modalities for setting up the National Medicinal Board under the Department. The Working Group impressed upon the Department to take up survey work to know the extent of Drugs and Aids problems in the State, so that corrective measures could to be taken. Malaria Awareness Programme also needed to be stepped up by the Department.

2. **Education** :- The Department could not brief on 9th Plan Actual Expenditure vis-à-vis the Approved Outlay for which the Working Group desired as background data on trend of progress for focusing on 2nd year of 10th Plan.

The Board observed that the Department do not have enough resources and the allocation of funds is falling short every year. There is need to take a fresh look regarding self sustainability of some Govt. Aided School. The Department informed that the Deficit System has not being implemented for 7(seven) years or so while the Adhoc System is being continued. The Working Group learnt that the problems of funds is more acute in respect of Higher and Technical Education but less in respect of Elementary and Mass Education because of funds from SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhivan) .

The Department stated that an amount of Rs.22.40 crores was sanctioned from Non-lapsable pool during 2000-2001 for construction of School Buildings and Utilisation Certificates on Rs.11.20 crores was sent during September, 2002.

The Working Group was of the opinion that since Plan Outlay for Education Department is almost spent on salaries alone, funds could be available from the Non-lapsable pool and the Department should be ready with a package of schemes. It was stated that schemes have been submitted from time to time and some are being considered. The Working Group would take a thorough review on funds from Non-lapsable pool at a later date. The Working Group felt that since Plan funds are meant for developmental works the Department should project permanent posts to the Finance Commission.

On the question of Midday Meal Programme the Department stated that there are problems with transport in some locations against the amount of Rs.50/- (Rupees Fifty) only per quintal for reimbursement of transport. As stipulated by the Govt. of India provision of cooking utensils, firewood etc., is provided from the State Budget. The Department feels that by and large the scheme is worthwhile.

Briefing on the Govt. of India Scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhivan (SSA) the Department stated this scheme aims to provide useful and relevant Elementary Education for all children in the age group of years 6-14. The scheme is complex in nature. There are as many as

21 intraventors (schemes) – a combination of many schemes. It was started in 2001-2002 with a funding pattern of 70:30 and later 50:50. The Working Group advised the Department to think on the sustainability of the scheme so as not to create any liabilities.

Regarding Technical Education the Department informed that work is in progress in the Tura and Jowai Polytechnics. Upgradation of the Shillong Polytechnic is in progress and some new disciplines have been set up. On the question of guidelines for vocational training it was informed that the Department is trying to work out the modalities of Vocational Education.

3. **Power** :- To a query by the Working group on the power scenario in the state, the Department informed that the installed capacity is 185 MGW (Hydel Power Plant) and generation is less in lean season. The state requires about 430 MGW which includes those already connected, those in the process to be connected and those whose applications are pending. About 60 to 80 MGW is purchased from outside. However with the completion of some projects during the 10th Plan period an additional 275 MGW will be available in the state.

The Working Group observed that Meghalaya have enough water sources but most set ups are since Assam time. There appear to be no new investigation in the state except the Leishka-Myntdu Project. The Department confirmed that there are actually 3 new projects viz., Umiam Stage-V, Leishka and Umngot. Proposal for Umngi Project has also been taken up

On rural electrification, the target is to electrify 5485 villages. As per Govt. of India's instruction, all villages are to be electrified by 2006. The achievement till date are as follows:-

Upto 9 th Plan	-	2580	villages electrified
2002-2003	-	208	-do-
2003-2004	-	289	Already covered out of a target of 418 villages.
Total	-	3077	Villages covered i.e., 56%

On Non-Conventional Sources of Energy, the Working Group learnt that Solar Energy could be used for lighting, television. As for Biomass Gas Plant, it is equivalent to supply of power by MeSEB. The Department state that during 2003-2004, 25 villages are targeted to be covered by Solar Energy and 2 villages by Biomass Gas Plants. The Working Group was of the opinion that Non-Conventional Sources of Energy is not catching up in the state. It was also learnt that the Thermal Plant at Nangalbibra was stopped as the sulphur content of coal is very high.

4. **Transport** :- The Working Group noted that the Department did not furnish any papers for discussions in today's meeting. Further, the Department could not brief on the actual expenditure during the 9th Plan vis-à-vis the Approved Outlay. The Department stated that the outlay for the 10th Plan is Rs.16.50 crores for 2002-2003, out of Rs.2.46 crores, Rs.2 crores was Capital Contribution to Meghalaya Transport Corporation and during 2003-2004, the outlay of

Rs.3.75 crores was revised to Rs.2.95 crores of which, Rs.2.60 crores is Capital Contribution to MTC and Rs.35 lakhs for other transport.

The Department further informed that Rs. 45 lacs per month is spent on salaries alone for MTC Capital Contribution to MTC is meant for purchase of buses etc., but the same is spent on salaries. The Working group asked the Department to submit a note on revenue earned by the MTC and the expenditure incurred for maintenance for buses etc. year-wise from 2002-2003 onward. On the question of privatization of MTC, the Department stated that it had sent the proposal to the Government on the line of Assam State Transport Corporation. The Department was asked to submit a note on the following (1) Restructuring MTC (2) Railway Project (3) Helipad Project.

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

**Sd/-
(S.S.Lyngdoh)
Deputy Chairman,
State Planning Board**