

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP 'B' OF STATE  
PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 2.8.2005 AND 3.8.2005 IN THE OFFICE  
CHAMBER OF THE CO-CHAIRMAN, STATE PLANNING BOARD  
(DR.F.A.KHONGLAM) TO REVIEW PLAN SCHEME – 2004-2005**

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**Members and Officers present at Annexure-'A'**

At the outset, Dr. F.A. Khonglam, Co-Chairman, State Planning Board welcomed the Members and Officers present in the meeting.

The following Departments were taken up.

**2.8.2005**

1. **Industries** :- The Tenth Plan Outlay in the Small Scale Industries is Rs.960 lakhs. The actual expenditure incurred during the Annual Plan 2003-2004 was Rs.248.49 lakhs and the expenditure during 2004-2005 was Rs.246.27 lakhs. The Working Group pointed out that under the scheme Industrial Estate (works) the Tenth Plan provision is Rs.200 lakhs and the expenditure for the first three years had not even crossed Rs.30 lakhs. The Department clarified that the expenditure incurred was an establishment costs only as Planning and Finance Departments did not agree to some proposals under the Industrial Estate Scheme. However the schemes will be processed again during the current year. The Department further pointed out that the overall expenditure under Small Scale Industries had gone up.

During the course of discussion it was informed that industries under EPIP are not exporting anything at present. Regarding sick industries provision is kept for revival of 3 Nos. of sick industries. Bamboo Chips Industries is under revival under the new Chairman. Under Development of Industrial areas it was informed that the Industrial areas in Byrnihat and Barapani are packed up and it is proposed to develop the area in Mendipathar Garo Hills.

On the query regarding new industrial projects, the Department informed that the Cement Project at Lumshnong had not been cleared by the Government. It was pointed out that the main constraint for the setting up of Industrial projects is power shortage. However, there are plenty of coke factories in the State. Enquiring on the Package Scheme of Incentives the Department informed that this scheme is taken up both under Small Scale Industries and Large & Medium Sector but the funds are obtained under Large and Medium hence no expenditure is indicated under Small Scale Sector. The national scheme of PMRY to promote self employment to educated youth is gaining popularity.

**2. Urban Affairs :-** During discussions on the New Shillong Township, the Department stated that it requires about 500 hectares of land and till date, 250 hectares of land have been acquired by the Department. The balance 250 hectares of land has been proposed to be acquired as per estimated cost worked out by the Department. At present, it would concentrate on development of a link road between Shillong and the New Shillong Township for which a 4-lane road is planned. This project is being implemented by the Meghalaya Urban Development Authority. During 2004-2005, an amount of Rs.1291.42 lakhs was sanctioned and released to Meghalaya Urban Development Authority for acquisition of 150.72 hectares of land. Consultant has already been appointed by MUDA for preparation of road and power sector and Consultant for Water Supply sanitation has been shortlisted. Works on power sector and road sector likely to be initiated during 2005-2006.

On Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, the Department stated that as per 1995 revised guidelines only Shillong is being taken up i.e., 2(two) projects viz., construction of Parking-cum-Shopping Complex near Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council which is completed and construction of Shopping Complex at Polo. While for other towns like Jowai, Tura, the projects were implemented as per pre-revised 1995 guidelines. Besides Shillong, project reports are prepared for Nongpoh and Resubelpara. In Nongpoh, land to a certain extent is developed but there is a litigation problem. Works for Electrical Crematorium are in progress.

To a query by the Co-Chairman on parking lot in Shillong, the Department stated that the parking lot at Iewduh is completed and to be commissioned. There is a problem regarding approach road and the matter is taken up with the Cantonment Authorities at the level of Chief Secretary. The other proposals are Anjalee Parking lot – 3 storeyed and the 3 – tier Mawlonghat Parking lot which is pending with the Central Ministry.

**3. Community and Rural Development :-** At the outset the Working Group enquired on the problems faced by the Department in implementation of its schemes. The main problem stated by the Department is when the matching share is not released in time either by the Centre or the State. Going through the statements furnished by the Department it was clarified that the Department has lots of construction works, and hence the entire amount allocated will be utilized eventually.

During discussions it transpires that under Special Rural Works Programme including the Chief Minister's Special Rural Development Fund, the financial expenditure of Rs.20.16 crores and Rs.4.00 crores for Chief Minister's Special Rural Development fund during

2004-2005 is quite satisfactory as per performance under the scheme. The 10<sup>th</sup> Plan projected outlay is Rs.68.12 crores. On construction of Rural Roads Programme, the performance is better in 2004-2005 with the financial expenditure of Rs.2.8 crores under CRRP, the amount of Rs.4.28 lakhs per MLA is enhanced to Rs.5 lakhs per MLA for 56 MLAs of rural constituencies. On National Old Age Pension and National Family Benefit Scheme, during 2004-2005, out of Rs.6 crores revised Plan outlay, Department received only Rs.4 crores. The Working Group observed that old age pension scheme is good since old age people living in villages are given support. The Department stated that only destitute old age persons are eligible for old age pension.

Regarding release of funds to the Blocks for implementation of Community & Rural Development Schemes it was clarified that for some Blocks funds are released by Deputy Commissioners and for some Blocks through DRDAs. The Department is trying to streamline this aspect where funds should be routed only through DRDAs. This matter is also taken up with the Chief Minister. It was also informed that the Planning Commission has selected West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya as one of the Districts in the country to be covered under the Backward Districts Initiative from the year 2004-2005. An amount of Rs. 15 crores annually will be provided as ACA for this programme from 2004-2005 for three years.

### **3.8.2005**

1. **Social Welfare** :- The 10<sup>th</sup> Plan Outlay for Social Welfare is Rs.1500.00 lakhs and the expenditure during 2003-2004 is Rs.138.74 lakhs and during 2004-2005, it is only Rs.158.19 lakhs. The expenditure is less because the scheme for construction of Social Welfare Building could not be taken up during 2004-2005 by PWD. There is no provision for construction of building for self employment of women in need of care and protection. However, 800 Nos. of Anganwadi Centres have been constructed under C.S.S. At present the office of the Directorate is under construction. For the District Social Welfare Building in Tura land has not yet been acquired, but land is already available for Williamnagar.

On the scheme, Welfare of Handicapped, the Department informed of the Act, which provides 3% job reservation for handicapped people. They are also given scholarship, Book grants, etc. Under the scheme National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with disability (NPRPD), it is providing rehabilitation services to persons with disability and is planning to set up a rehabilitation centre in all districts and a State Resource Centre. Disabled persons are also entitled to avail Travelling Concession. Under Prosphetic Aid to

Handicapped, aids and grants are distributed as per requirement, e.g. artificial legs, etc. for Civil Hospitals and wheeled chairs from resource centre.

On Nutrition Programme, the Department is pending more, in view of the order of the Supreme Court to increase the items related to nutrition. The programme is being channelised through Anganwadi centres only, with due consideration to children below poverty line. The Department conducts surveys before registering the children as beneficiaries. As part of the programme, pre-school education is given by Anganwadi workers to the beneficiaries. It was noted that out of 5700 villages, 2100 are covered under Anganwadi centres and the Central Government is sanctioning for another 700 Anganwadi centres to cover those villages where the population is above 300.

**2. Mining and Geology :-** The Tenth Plan Outlay is Rs.700.00 lakhs and the expenditure incurred during 2003-2004 was Rs.147.08 lakhs and during 2004-2005 it was Rs.178.35 lakhs.

It was informed by the Department that the major mineral deposits in the state are limestones and coal. There are also reserves of coloured granite in Nongstoin, Nongpoh and Mawkyrwat, and black granite in Garo Hills. The other minerals found are quartz, china clay, iron ore, uranium and a possibility of oil. Silimanite found in Sonapahar is one of the best in the world. The Department informed that the production of coal during 2004-2005 was 54 lakh M.T. The main function of the Department is to carry out detailed investigation on the existence of mineral deposits and to collect royalty. The royalty fixed by the Government of India is Rs.165 per metric tonne for coal and Rs.45 mineral cess fixed by the State Government. It was informed there is no dearth of raw materials in the state except power shortage.

The Department in co-ordination with the GSI is conducting survey every year and the reports are being updated. On the marketing of granite, there are problems due to competition from outside the state. Collection of revenue during 2002-2003 was 60 crore, during 2003-2004 Rs.86 crore and during 2004-2005 Rs.90 crores. There are altogether 13 check gates to prevent leakages. The Department had submitted proposals for new posts for strengthening of check gates.

The Working Group felt that the Department should do more investigations on the areas of silimanite.

**3. Tourism** :- At the outset, the Department stated that Tourism infrastructure is the need of the hour and secondly, the Department is not fully geared up for tourist guides. In the last 5(five) years tourists inflow has improved tremendously, but in the last 2/3 months, the inflow is less due to the prevailing situation in the capital city. The Department however informed that it is trying to come up with some tourist attractions during the “ Christmas Season” to attract more tourists to the State.

The Department stated that the Original Plan Outlay of Rs.275 lakhs during 2004-2005 was revised to Rs.220 lakhs and the shortfall in financial achievement is mainly due to non-availability of land for some projects. The Department does not have any land of its own and the problem of land acquisition has handicapped the Department to expedite some of its projects. The Department mentioned that it is getting financial assistance from Central Sector Scheme amounting to Rs. 10 crores for improvement/creation of tourism infrastructure and it is thinking in terms of “Circuit Tourism” this is available in East Khasi Hills and would be proposed for Jaintia Hills and Tura as well with financial assistance from the centre.

Enquiring on whether Tourism in State has been declared as an industry the Department informed that though in 1997, Tourism was declared as an Industry but now it is not so as people are not coming forward in investment. The local people’s participation in tourism activities has tremendously contributed in terms of development of tourist spots and attracting tourists such as tourist spots at Jakrem and Elephant Falls where tourism is promoted in a big way. Such positive attitude from the people should be encouraged and assisted by the Government recommended the Working Group. On Caves it was informed that the Mawsmi Caves are presently run by the District. For tourist spots at Cherrapunjee, public participation in most cases is involved

The Working Group suggested that tourist spots in the state should be publicized for information of the tourists. To this, the Department informed the Working Group that Meghalaya Destination is on the Internet and tourist spots are available for scanning in the Internet.

The Working Group enquired on the Crowborough project which is an eyesore in the capital city. The Department informed that the Crowborough project is taken up in early 80s by MTDC as a 3-Star Hotel. The disputes between two firms and the State Government are settled and the Crowborough project today belongs only to MTDC. To complete the whole project, it would require about Rs.7 to Rs.10 crores. The Department expressed its helplessness as to where this money will come from when the Department’s Annual Plan

Outlay is around Rs.2 crores only. However, the Department is examining various options for completion of this project and a Committee is in place under the Deputy Chief Minister (Finance) and other Ministers to look into this.

**4. Sericulture & Weaving** :- The Original Plan Outlay of Rs.286 lakhs was revised to Rs.236 lakhs during 2004-2005 and the financial expenditure was Rs.196.39 lakhs for both (a) Sericulture and (b) Handloom.

The Working Group noted that the shortfall in a number of schemes is due to vacant post, to which the Department clarified that some vacant posts are due to promotion and the matter is being taken up with MPSC for filling up the posts. It was noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay is Rs.16 crores while expenditure for both 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 comes only to about Rs.4 crores, and as such, would the Department be able to utilize the entire amount of Rs.16 crores in the Plan period of 5 years i.e. including the amount already expended during 2002-2003.

To an observation by the Working Group on the papers furnished by the Department viz., Annexure-I on reasons for shortfall and excess if any, the Department clarified that the reason for shortfall indicated against item No.2 – Intensive Development of Eri Silk Industry (Salaries etc) and against item No.6 – Sericulture pre service Training and Study Tour, appear to be erroneous. The Department was asked to recast the information for both sectors viz., Sericulture and Handloom.

**5. PWD(R&B)/Buildings/Judiciary** :- The Department stated that the expenditure during 2004-2005 is as follows :-

Rs. 9134.45 lakhs – Only for road sector and does not include Rs.240 lakhs channelised to Community & Rural Development

Rs. 240.00 lakhs – Channelised to Community & Rural Development.

Rs. 581.83 lakhs – Under Buildings (PWD).

Rs. 9956.28 lakhs

However, roads taken up under PMGSY and Non-Lapsable Fund are not included. Loans are availed from HUDCO and NABARD.

The Department informed the Working Group of a project viz., ‘Road over Road’ right from Mawlai upto Laitkor to be taken up by a private party. The private party insists that 15% of the total cost of the project to be deposited in the Bank by the Government. The Department is examining the same and expressed its doubt in view of the nature of the

existing road covering the proposed areas. The private party/firm is from Mumbai proposed to be taken up on the basis of build-operate and transfer.

To a query by the Co-Chairman on the progress made so far on the Shillong By Pass project, the Department stated that the Ministry from the Centre has okayed the project. This was given to the National Highway Authority of India and the Project report is expected to be completed by January, 2006. This again will be on the basis of build-operate and transfer. Further on the Road sector, it was informed that 92.25 Kms. was achieved for new construction during 2004-2005. On maintenance of roads, as per All India Norms for maintenance viz, normal repairs special repairs and periodical repairs, the Department gets only 33 to 35% of what it requires and as such, maintenance of roads suffers.

On metalling and blacktopping 64.101 Kms and 78.30 Kms. was achieved during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. The Working Group noted that shortage of machineries was indicated for reason of shortfall and therefore suggested that a solution may be thought of where machineries can be hired.

On Buildings, the Department stated that basically, construction of office buildings and some staff quarters are taken up. Projects mainly of PWD(Buildings) viz., office and staff quarter of Tura building Division, SDO's quarter at Barik, Shillong, Residential Quarters near Pinemount etc. The Department informed that 95% of the construction works of S.E. Office at Nongstoin is completed and to be fully completed by March, 2006.

On Judiciary Buildings, construction of a permanent High Court Building at Shillong was thoroughly discussed. Though the High Court building is targetted to be completed by next year, the Department expressed hope that it is likely to be completed by March, 2007. To an observation by the Working Group that the original amount for the High Court Building is Rs.5 crores, the Department stated that it had spent Rs.2.27 crores. The other works included (i) Construction of Additional court room at the office of the District Session Judge, Shillong (ii) Construction of Court room for Adhoc Session Judge in the existing campus of Court Building at Tura and (iii) Construction of Additional Court Room Building in Deputy Commissioner Complex, Jowai.

The Working Group observed a low achievement under the "Bridges" sector. The main problem as explained by the Department is less allocation of funds under general schemes and another problem is short working season. Major bridges viz., Simsang and Wahblei could not be completed due to fund problem. On the Dawki bridge, the Department informed that tenders have been invited for RCC construction and works are likely to be started in December.

6. **Arts and Culture** :- The Original Plan Outlay of Rs.532 lakhs during 2004-2005 was revised to Rs.840.21 lakhs and the financial achievement was Rs.743.29 lakhs. The Department simultaneously informed that during 2005-2006, the budget is Rs.670 lakhs out of which, Rs.300 lakhs is for MLA scheme under Intensive Arts and Culture Development Programme (IA & CDP).

The Department informed that the State Cultural Complex at Brooksite, Shillong is almost completed. On Williamson Sangma Museum, works taken up for improvement in collaboration with other Museums in India viz., India Museum and Victoria Memorial. The Govt. of India is giving some financial assistance for extension of the above Museum. Rs. 1.84 crores received from Govt. of India for the Art and Culture Complex at Williamnagar.

During the course of discussion it transpires that under the scheme of Research and Documentation the Department is taking up documentation of the rich legend and folklore of the Khasis, Jaintias and Garos for development and promotion of the Khasi and Garo languages. Documentation of Museum Items is also taken up. No building in the state has been declared as a Heritage Building. So far only the Monoliths at Nartiang has been declared as Protective Heritage.

On Tribal Research Institute the Department stated that it has completed the socio-economic survey in Jaintia Hills and other Districts are also proposed to be taken up. The purpose is to conduct a survey on how people in rural areas earn their livelihood and how they can be encouraged in development of Art and Culture related activities.

The Co-Chairman suggested that some important caves in the state should be taken up to declare as Protected Monuments.

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

Sd/-  
**(Dr. F.A. Khonglam)**  
**Co-Chairman,**  
**State Planning Board**