

**PROCEEDING OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP 'A' OF STATE
PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 24.8.2005, 25.8.2005 AND 29.8.2005 IN THE OFFICE
CHAMBER OF THE CHAIRMAN, STATE PLANNING BOARD TO REVIEW
CENTRAL SECTOR/CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES DURING 2004-2005.**

24.8.2005

1. **Minor Irrigation** :- The 10th Plan outlay under Central Sector Schemes is Rs.330 lacs. Expenditure during the 1st 3 years is Rs.76.00 lacs only. During 2004-2005 expenditure of Rs.22.00 lacs is under State Share only. For Central Share Department has submitted to Govt. of India for revalidation of 10 schemes.

Enquiring on the general policy after the schemes are completed the Department informed that the Central General Policy is that farmers association should be involved to maintain the schemes. Maintenance of headwork is by Department and main canal system to be handed over to the farmers association. 120 farmers associations have been formed throughout the state.

It also transpires that out of 2.18 lacs hectares potential area only 0.36 lacs hectares has been covered by the Department. There is a problem of funds for flood protection works as flood control is under PWD. The Working Group suggested that the Department should link up with PWD for flood control works. Understanding that a policy decision has been taken to club Major Medium and Minor Irrigation under Irrigation Department the Working Group felt that Government should expedite to implement the same for better achievements under irrigation.

2. **Co-operation** :- The Working Group is able to have a brief general discussion with the Department in view that information asked for have not been submitted earlier but are circulated during the meeting and the Working Group felt that it need time to go through the detailed information submitted by the Department before discussions. Hence the meeting is rescheduled to 29.8.05.

3. **Employment & Craftsmen Training** :- The Department stated that during 2000-2003, 100% assistance by the Central Government . Funding beyond 2002-2003 is as follows :- (a) 2nd and 3rd years of 10th Plan – 75% Central Share and 25% State Share (b) 4th and 5th years of 10th Plan 50% : 50% basis.

On construction of building for new Industrial Training Institute, Baghmara, the Department stated that the sanctioned amount for civil works including the cost of land is Rs.75 lakhs. Rs.10 lakhs was placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Baghmara for cost of land. The land was handed over to PWD. Tender was invited and the Tender Committee already sat. 2(two) hostel buildings for existing General ITI, Shillong and ITI for women, Shillong are under construction. On hostel facilities in other ITIs, it was informed that ITI Tura have hostel facilities.

During general discussions on ITIs in the state, the Working Group was informed that out of 800 numbers of slots actual utilization is only 40% to 50%. The prescribed qualifications for entrance to different trades are Class XII, Matric and Class VIII respectively and the stipends are Rs.400/- P.M. and Rs.350/- P.M. respectively. Both the Working Group and the Department felt that in certain trades, the qualification prescribed for entrance is perhaps quite high. But, the Department is following the All India norm for qualification under Vocational Training. On pass percentage as queried by the Working Group, the Department stated that ITI, Shillong is 80% while ITI, Tura is only 10% to 15% and the rate of drop outs is also maximum.

To a query by the Working Group on any follow-up by the Department for placement of passed out trainees, the Department stated that at present, there is no systematic follow-up for placement of passed out trainees. During 2005-2006 steps are initiated for setting up of a placement cell. The Department informed that it has organized a sort of Self-Help Group of passed out trainees of the ITIs by which accommodation is provided to form a Dial-a-Service Group and this group of about 25 trainees is starting gaining service.

On the matter of employment opportunities to the passed out trainees, the Department informed that as per survey carried out by the Department upto 1990 all ITIs passed out trainees are employed. But from 1990-1997, only a few are employed.

4. Animal Husbandry & Veterinary :- The Department briefed on the composition and objective of the State Veterinary Council which has been started only last year 2004-2005 and its members are drawn from the professional personnel of the Department.

The Department stated that during the 10th Plan period i.e., 2003-2004, Govt. of India have formulated an action Plan to amalgamate 3(three) schemes viz., Animal Disease Surveillance, Food and Mouth Disease Control and systematic Control of Livestock Disease under one scheme i.e., Assistance to State for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD) with funding pattern of 75% Central Share and 25% State Share. The object of the scheme is to immunize livestock diseases of economic importance where involvement of purchase of quality vaccines is envisaged. A project is prepared by the Department for production of vaccines and proposal is submitted to NEC.

During discussions it transpires that Rinderpest is eradicated in the country but the programme continues for the purpose of research in villages. During 2003-2004 import of meat-cattle Rs.34.00 crores, pigs Rs. 8.64 crores, goats Rs.0.09 crores and eggs Rs.5.2 crores. The State is however self sufficient in poultry. Regarding feed the Department informed that mixed feed is difficult to produce. Though maize is available other ingredients have to be purchased outside the state. To a suggestion by the Working Group to subsidize feed, the Department stated that the amount involved is massive and it is a question of resources. The Government however approved for registered Co-operative Societies only which are only a few.

The Working group asked the Department to submit the annual requirement of feed and how much the Department incurs annually for import of feed from outside.

5. Forest & Environment :- The Department briefed on the scheme of National Afforestation Project. This is an all plantation scheme of species of people's interest and choice. These are taken up in farmers' plot and most of these schemes are continued from earlier schemes of the Department. Bamboos, medicinal plants, broomsticks etc are some of the plantations taken up under the Joint Forest Management by the farmers. As of now, there are 73 Nos. Joint Forest Managements Committees - Jaintia Hills - 5, East Khasi Hills - 9, West Garo Hills - 13, Ri-Bhoi - 18, East Garo Hills - 8, West Garo Hills - 14, South Garo Hills-6. The scheme is financed 100% by the Ministry of Environment and the money is not channelized through the consolidated fund of the state but comes directly to the District Forest Agency. The scheme has started during 2004-2005.

To an observation by the Working Group that Chinese Bamboos (Bamboos grown in China) are better than our local bamboos, the Department stated that there are 40(forty) species of bamboos in the state and each has its utility suitable and beneficial to the user. On the issue of flowering of bamboos, the Department stated that there is an area of almost 400 Sq.kms of this type of bamboo mainly in Garo Hills and West Khasi Hills. The Govt. of India is thinking of a plan to harvest these bamboos and market them at remunerative prices but the carriage costs will be very high. If these cannot be sold, then the same need to be burnt. Mapping and publicity on this is being taken up by the Department.

On Project Elephant, the population of elephants in the state is about 2000 Nos and loss of life is 1 or 2 per annum which is usually caused by injured elephants Project Elephant has been taken up during the mid 1990s. All Reserved Forests belong to the state with the exception of some parts of Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, The Nokrek National Park is 49 Sq.km. including the core area. Activities around the Nokrek National Park is taken up by individual farmers in the Biosphere around the core area.

The Working Group felt that if Forest Department looks after environment the Pollution Control Board should be under the purview of Forest Department. Environment should be looked at in totality. The State Environment Council needs to be revitalized and a State Environment Policy is very much necessary. On State Medicinal Plant Board the Department informed that the differences between Health and Forest Departments is sorted out and the above Board is handed over to Forest Department.

The Working Group asked the Department to submit a note on (i) Comprehensive Environment Policy (ii) State Medicinal Plant Board and (iii) Pollution Control Board why it should be under Forest Department.

25.8.05

6. **Health & Family Welfare** :- The Department stated that 49% of the works completed under the scheme, Improvement of Regional & Family Welfare which is for construction of Hostel, Classrooms etc. This Training Centre is located at Laitumkhrah and it imparts training to all Medical Officers, Para Medical personnel. The trainings are mandatory for all doctors in terms of updating latest developments in the field of medical service. The 100% Central Assistance under this scheme is Rs.65.36 lakhs during the 10th Plan and the revised estimates is Rs.85 lakhs. During 2004-2005, Rs.30 lakhs was incurred. The Training Centre has a Principal and it imparts training in all subjects. The duration of the course is 10-20 days.

Discussing on the Eye Hospital building, the Department informed it has started functioning in a rented house. Govt. of India has consented to give Rs.20 lacs for each district and Rs.60 lacs for Shillong. This will be a full-fledged Referral Centre. Equipments will be given by Govt. of India and some equipments have been received by the Department. The capacity of the hospital is 50 patients (indoor) as with modern techniques eye surgery has become a day care surgery. The capacity of 50 is meant mainly to help people from rural areas.

The Working Group felt that Health Education is very important to the people especially in the rural areas in respect of diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, Aids etc. which are controllable. It suggested for conducting a census on a wider scale on the incidence of the above diseases in the state.

7. **Industries** :- The Department stated that under Central Sector Scheme, Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana is a scheme for providing self employment to the educated unemployed youth. It was started in 1993-1994. The main objective of the scheme is to provide employment by setting up micro enterprises. The quantum of the loan amount has been extended to include industrial projects costing upto Rs.2 lakhs. The recovery is good about 51%. The recoveries in Jaintia Hills are very good. Micro enterprises, mean that even shops, Auto Rickshaws etc can be supported.

On general discussions in the process of recommendations of applications to the Banks, the Department stated that the DICs invite applications from entrepreneurs and such applications are accordingly processed by DICs and recommended accordingly to the Banks. There is a Task Force in every District to identify and recommend. The recommendation is made on inspection by the field officers of the Department. The Working Group thus pointed out that when the Task Force has examined each applicant and then recommends, refusal by the Banks is not proper. The Department stated that refusal by Banks is mostly on viability of projects. As per provisions of guidelines of Govt. of India, the recommendations from the Department should be more than the targetted number thus leaving room for Bank's discretion on the matter of rejection. The Working Group though agreeing on this insisted that the Department should ensure that the targetted number of beneficiaries should be met.

To a query by the Working Group as to why only 999 beneficiaries during 2004-2005 as against the targeted number of 1400 beneficiaries, the Department stated that during the said year, the targeted number of beneficiaries is fixed at 350 Nos. but later, it was revised to 1400 Nos. However, the Department received only 650 applications more. For 2005-2006, the Department targets to achieve the 1400 Nos.

On the Growth Centre in Mendipathar the Department informed that the area of land is 36 hectares. Civil works like boundary water supply and building is going on. The Working Group is of the view that accommodation should be provided in the Industrial area so that local people can be employed. Advertisement will be made after completion of infrastructure.

The Working Group observed that major industries have failed in the sense that they have not been able to cater to the requirements of the local people in terms of employment. The Department is advised to frame schemes which will run parallel with PMRY so that beneficiaries could also be accommodated under State Plan and targets can be achieved.

The Working Group wanted the following information from the Department.

1. List of functioning and non functioning small scale industries.
2. No. of applicants rejected by the Bank and No.of entrepreneurs who have benefited under PMRY.
3. Copy of the 3rd Census Report and success stories of the Department.

8. Urban Affairs :- Discussions on important project were taken up :-

(i) Parking Lot opposite Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council, Shillong – the Department stated that the same is completed. The quality of the works though not to the satisfaction of the Department, the structure is safe and usable for a certain period. Loan was taken for this project. 560 Sq.metres is kept for commercial purpose for use for maintenance of this project. The Working Group felt that more land of Defence needs to be acquired for extension of this project. This should be taken up at the highest level of Chief Minister with Defence Minister at the Centre.

(ii) Parking Lot at Iewduh is functioning.

(iii) 2 storeyed parking lot opposite Anjalee Cinema - Rs.11 crores received from Govt.of India and works will be started soon.

(iv) Polo Market –Rs.3.5 crores was sanctioned for Polo Market. But the soil testing carried out in the site is not viable as half of the sanctioned amount may go for foundation. The Project was reconsidered and proposal to be sent to Govt. of India for a 4-storeyed Shopping Complex with parking facility.

- (v) The development works in Resubelpara is taken up under the scheme Urban Infrastructure for Development of Small and Medium Towns.

Department is also working on improvement of Motphran area. D.I. of schools has agreed to give the land of its old office building for construction of 2 storeyed parking lot. The Department has engaged consultancy to work out easing of the area at Motphran for easy flow of traffic. The Working Group is of the view that Motphran should be shifted to State Central Library where it will get the respect it deserves.

The Working Group would like to visit the Bio-Solid Waste Disposal at Mawiong at a date to be fixed later with the Department.

29th August, 2005

1. **Co-operation** :- At the outset the Department informed that most of the schemes no longer exist as no proposals are received from the Cooperative Societies. Notional figures are projected hoping that proposals will be submitted. The schemes which actually exist are under ICDP and Macro Management. Department submitted schemes for Ri-Bhoi under ICDP and sanction is received after 2 years at the fag end of the financial year. Proposals submitted this year may be sanctioned during 2006-2007. Under Macro Management Schemes, the financial assistance for the North Eastern Region is provided as 100% grant. The following are the Macro Management Schemes under Co-operative Sector :-

- (i) Contribution to Credit Stabilisation Fund.
- (ii) Non-overdue cover to credit Co-operative Institution.
- (iii) Financial Assistance to weaker section Co-operatives
- (iv) Financial Assistance to Women Co-operatives.
- (v) Special Scheme for ST/SC.

During 2004-2005, the Department have forwarded proposals amounting to Rs.20 lakhs for consideration but the same have not been considered by the Agriculture Department which is the Nodal Department for Macro Management. During 2005-2006 the Department have forwarded proposals amounting to Rs.36 lakhs for the Women Co-operative Societies and weaker section Co-operative Societies. Sanction from the Agriculture Department is awaited. The Department stated that Co-operation Department is a promoting and regulatory body but economic activity of the people remains with the sectoral Departments and as such, the Co-operative Societies should be equally given preference by the Sectoral Departments. All NCDC schemes are 70 to 75% loan component. Unless the schemes are productive it is difficult to repay the loans.

There are 179 Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies and 1042 non-credit cooperative societies in the state. However all the societies are not functioning. The Working

Group is of the view that Self-Help Groups are more effective than Co-operatives in term of group activity. The reason for this as explained by the Department is that Self Help Groups make contributions towards the group for a certain period and start their activities while in the case of Co-operatives, targets are set. Women Co-operatives of Mookaiaw, and Nongstoin have received National Awards. The Department feel that Co-operative Movement has improved in the last 5 years and incidentally, Self Help Groups Movement has contributed much leadership. The Department is trying to make Sister Rose Cooperative Society in Mendipathar a Resource Centre.

Discussing on the role of the Meghalaya Co-operative Apex Bank the Working Group pointed out that much emphasis is given to rural credit by Govt. of India. The officials of MCAB informed that its total deposits is Rs. 450 crores. Rural credit is Rs.90 crores and Non-Rural credit component is Rs. 50 to 60 crores. The overdue position of the MCAB is Rs.22 crores. The defaulters are mainly IRDP beneficiaries, MECOFED and some big cooperative societies. In terms of C.D ratio, MCAB Ltd is better than other banks. The Branch in Jowai is doing well and in Tura it is reviving.

On Union Co-operatives, the Department informed that these are not functioning and it is thinking in terms of VRS. The staff strength is about 32 numbers and they have not been paid salaries for the last 24 months. The Union Co-operatives has a Chairman, CEO and Assistant CEO. Sometime past, a printing press is being run by them but now it is closed.

On MECOFED the Managing Director informed that the main occupation is supply of LPG. It is however taking up measures to improve its business activity. The Working Group feel that MECOFED should concentrate on marketing activities and also improve its accounting system. Indirectly the presence of MECOFED may check the price of commodities fixed by private businessmen.

The Working Group observed that the Cooperative Movement in the state is not coming up. Since this is an important sector for employment generation and rural development the Working Group feels that the Department should be strengthened to enhance its functions. After a brief discussion the Department was asked to submit a note on the following

1. Strengthening of Inter-sectoral Co-ordination.
2. Training of Inservice Personnel and Non Officials.
3. Restructuring and reviving of MECOFED.
4. Provision of preference to Cooperatives under State Plan.

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

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

