

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP 'A' OF STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON THE 27.7.05, 1.8.05 AND 5.8.05 IN THE OFFICE CHAMBER OF THE CHAIRMAN, STATE PLANNING BOARD TO REVIEW CENTRAL SECTOR/CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES DURING 2004-2005.**

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

While welcoming the Members and Officers present, the Chairman, State Planning Board, Shri S.C. Marak, informed that the purpose of the meeting is to review the achievements of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 2004-2005. The Chairman stated that in the planning process, the achievement of goals is more important than mere projection of outlays.

The Departments taken up for discussion are as follows:-

**27.7.2005**

1. **Social Welfare** :- While discussing on ICDS scheme the Department informed that the scheme is for the development of children women and adolescent girls. The 10<sup>th</sup> Plan outlay for the scheme is Rs.9543.00 lacs and the actual expenditure during 2003-2004 is Rs.1208.87 lacs and during 2004-2005 Rs.1014.18 lacs.

At present there is one state ICDS (Cell), 3 District ICDS (Cell) and 32 ICDS projects which are implementing the scheme. During the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, the Department proposed to increase seven additional ICDS projects, two urban ICDS projects at Shillong and Tura and one District ICDS (Cell) at Jowai. The Department informed that there are 2218 Aganwadi Centres covering 1996 villages and has proposed to increase additional centres to reach the target of 3782 full-fledged Agawandi centres thus covering the rest of the villages in the state. According to norms a population of above 300 is required for one Aganwadi centre. The Working Group pointed out that the provision under the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is very high compared to the expenditure. It is clarified that it is a token provision that is kept in the budget and the amount is spent mostly on salaries.

On the scheme, Women Technology Park, the Department informed that proposals have been submitted but no sanction was released by the Government of India. The Working Group wanted to know if the Department have taken up with the Central Government and whether the Department is abiding by the Government of India's norms and guidelines. The Department informed that the Central Government has agreed in principle and there is a possibility of getting the schemes sanctioned soon. On Nutrition Programme, the Department is providing supplementary nutrition to children below 6 years of age for 25 days in a month. This is one way to encourage children go to school. Regarding Juvenile Home, there are three centres, two in Shillong and one in Tura. The children in the homes are mostly from rural areas and they are given moral and vocational training.

On the Integrated Women's Empowerment Programme (IWEP), the Department informed that the objectives of the scheme is for establishment of Self Help Groups to create confidence and awareness regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education sanitation and hygiene. At present there are 477 centres of Self Help Groups. The Working Group expressed its desire to have interaction with Self Help Groups at Myllem and to visit Aganwadi centres at Resubelpara.

2. **Arts & Culture** :- The Working Group took a strong note that inspite of the preliminary meeting held with the Commissioner & Secretary, State Planning Board on the 18<sup>th</sup> July,2005 where the Department was asked to furnish additional information as required by the Members, Working Group, the Department did not furnish such information nor the same was brought along in today's meeting.

However, during discussions the Department was asked to note the following points:-

- (i) Department to resubmit financial statement – (a) the actual expenditure during the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan i.e., in respect of State Share and Central Share (b) while the projected outlay for the entire 10<sup>th</sup> Plan in respect of State Share is Rs.3.23 lakhs the projected outlay for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan in respect of Central Share to be indicate.
- (ii) In view that computerization of Williamson Sangma Museum, Shillong is completed, the work done in physical terms should have been indicated in the physical statement and also the amount of work done in respect of computerization of the District Museum at Tura which is yet to be completed.
- (iii) Department to explain as to why the actual expenditure is only Rs. 1 lakhs during 2004-2005 whereas the outlay for 2004-2005 is Rs.3.60 lakhs in respect of Central Share and Rs.2.40 lakhs in respect of State Share.

During discussions, the Department informed that Central Assistance is sought for other projects of the Department other than Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes.

3. **Sericulture & Weaving** :- The Working Group felt that Sericulture and Weaving is a very neglected Department. The generation of employment to womenfolk in this sector is tremendous but unfortunately, the investment is very low.

During discussions on the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Department which are mainly development of Mulberry, Muga and Eri which have a substantial contribution from the beneficiaries besides the Central Silk Board's Share and State Share, the Department stated that the beneficiaries 'contribution is not actually in cash but in the form of family labour and supply of local items like bamboo and other rearing appliances. The Working Group felt that when the schemes are meant to benefit the poor farmers, why beneficiaries' share is necessary. To this

observation, the Chairman asked the Department to take up the matter where the contribution from the beneficiaries can instead be included in the State Share thus allowing the poor farmers the full advantage of economic development. The Working Group also strongly felt that Sericulture and Weaving should be upgraded into a major Department.

The Department was asked to submit the following information :-

1. Reasons as to why there is no expenditure in respect of State Share during the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan where-as expenditure in respect of Central Share is shown during the said years.
2. To conduct a survey and submit a comparative report on their economic status of those families who take up Sericulture and Weaving activities and those who do not.
3. To examine the matter of authority over the Co-operative Societies of Sericulture and Weaving and submit suggestion to the State Planning Board.
4. To prepare a Vision Paper of the Department upto 2022 and submit to State Planning Board.

**4. Fisheries :-** Fish Farmer Development Agency (FFDA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Scheme is started in 1992-1993 and continues for 5(five) years in the sharing pattern of 50% Central Share and 50% State Share. The sharing pattern is revised by Govt. of India to 75:25 Central and State Share from 2000-2001 onwards. During 2002-2003, there is no matching share from Govt. of India and cannot be implemented. Hence, the schemes are being implemented on a backlog basis. The scheme is mainly concerned with creation of fish ponds. The amount of the scheme is Rs. 60.00 lacs per year Rs.45 lacs as Central Share and Rs.15 lacs as State Share. The response to this scheme is quite good.

The Working Group observed that the trend of expenditure incurred by the Department during the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan indicates that it will not be able to meet the projected outlay of Rs.5.80 crore (both Central and State Share) for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. Department to clarify on the projected outlay and the low level of expenditure. Also to submit a report on the programmes of disease control taken up by the Department.

**5. P.H.E. :-** During discussions, the Department informed that during the 1991 survey, the total number of habitations is 8636 and as per the 2003 survey, the total number of habitations is 9538. Due to scatter of villages/habitations, the coverage factor doesnot look very good. The Department also informed that habitation is not a village which is covered in a census but merely a number of households in a group. A village which has been taken up 10 years ago may have to be taken up again due to growth of population etc. A village may become partially covered due to increase of population or less availability of water.

Enquiring on the iron content in water the Department informed that iron content in water is not a serious threat. Further, when iron content is high, the water becomes reddish and people automatically will not drink the water even clothes cannot be washed. In Jaintia Hills, it is a different problem. The water is acidic because of the coal mining activities. If the iron content is above 10 Mg per litre, it is difficult to be removed. In Borato the Department has to go for surface water as the iron content is very high upto 15 MG per litre.

Provision of water supply facilities is also extended to Primary Schools and ICDS centres, with the exception of those ICDS centres in rented houses. The Working Group is of the view that ICDS centres should be located in Primary School buildings.

On computerization the Department proposes to take up upto the Sub-Divisional Level. Depending on availability of funds the computerization works are hoped to be completed in 2 years time and two Proposals have been submitted under Total Sanitation Campaign. Awareness Programme have been started in East Khasi Hills and West Khasi Hills. A study is to be conducted on the Wah Umkhrah pollution.

The Department briefed on the scheme of Swajaldhara, a peoples scheme. It is the people themselves who come forward prepare the schemes, get the sanction and maintain the schemes. The proposals are submitted to the Deputy Commissioners who also received the sanction from Govt. of India. 36 schemes are implemented in Ri-Bhoi District which are functioning very well with the active participation of the people for maintenance.

### **1.8.2005**

1. **Agriculture** :- At the outset on implementation of Centrally Sponsored/ Central Sector Schemes during 2004-2005, the Working Group asked the Department to furnish the following information relating to the year 2004-2005.

- (a) Amount received from the Centre in respect of Central Share and expenditure for both Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes.
- (b) Amount received and spent from other agencies viz., NEC, DONER etc.

The Working Group observed that poverty of farmers is due to the fact that the farmers do not have a common platform to articulate their views, grievances etc. and as far as low productivity, it is felt that it is due to lack of awareness of the latest methods in improving productivity. During the last 25 years, the total crop area has increased by about 42%, informed the Department but the Working Group however is doubtful on whether the above fact will commensurate with investment made by the Department.

During discussions on total crop area, the Department informed that foodgrains alone i.e., paddy, maize, wheat constitute 60%. Out of 60%, 78% is paddy. As for food security, it cannot be achieved since the requirement for the whole state is about 4 lakhs Metric tonnes and the shortage of 1.5 lakhs Metric tonnes is met by import from other states. It was further explained that since land expansion is almost saturated – though production can be increased with existing land – it is more economical to import, as the strategy of the Department is to invest on other items viz., horticulture products where production is good and fetches good revenue. The yield rate per hectare, has improved. During 2000-2001, it is 1.5. MT per hectare and during 2004-2005 it is 2 MT per hectare. The All India yield rate is from 2 to 5 MT per hectare. The Department further stated that 43% of total crop area under paddy is under High Yielding Variety.

On Jhum Control opinions differ as to whether jhum cultivation is actually harmful, the Department stated that 70,000 jhummia families were brought down to 43,000 by the schemes of the Department. However, the Jhum period is reduced in a big way by alternative cultivation. The labour force participation in the state is about 74%, which is highest in the country, people who are above 15 years are available for work. This labour force participation rate is a problem during off season and the Department feel that more investment is required to capture and sustain this labour force.

On Land Use Board, the Department informed that the Board is non-functional. The expenditure is for the salaries of officers under the Board. This year the Govt. of India has refused to give funds to the Board and hence funds have to be located from State Plan for payment of salaries.

On Mechanisation, the Department stated that 800 Power Tillers are operating in the state where 120 numbers are state-owned. The matter of maintenance of the same is improved as mechanics are coming up in the rural areas and some farmers are ready for servicing on their own. The responsibility of maintenance is left with the farmers and the picture is encouraging. The cost of a Power Tiller of 10 HP is Rs.1.36 lakhs and 30% subsidy with a ceiling of Rs.45,000/- to a farmer is given. There are 120 tractors operating in the state and mostly state-owned. The Power Tillers are however more popular, and the target is 1500 Power Tillers to be achieved in 2 years. To attain the All India Level of production per hectare the state will need around 42,284 Power Tillers.

The Department informed the Working Group on its proposal to set up a State Horticultural Development Board in view that this sector has high potentials and the Department can have some freedom in its functioning and marketing. The Board should be allowed full responsibility in the processing and marketing aspects. The Department stated that it will require about Rs.10 crores to establish the Board. Once the Board is establish there is no problem of funds as the Department can take full advantage of the facilities given by the National

Horticultural Board. The Department is asked to submit details on this proposal for further discussion by the State Planning Board.

The Department informed that Kiwi Plantation is doing well and taken up at Upper Shillong and Fruit Garden at Shillong. Passion fruit which can grow in any part of the state, is being taken near Nongstoin. Plantation of Anthurium a flowering plant is also being taken up in Garo Hills.

The Working Group decided to visit the Strawberry and Rose farm of the Department at Umsning

### **5-8-05**

**Community & Rural Development**:- The Working Group noted that SGSY scheme is very important as it aims to raise the poor families above poverty line by providing them with income generating assets through Government subsidies and bank credits. The fund is shared between the centre and the state on 75:25 basis. On the scheme, SGRY the Department informed that the aim is to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas to those who are willing to take up manual unskilled work.

It was suggested by the Working Group to select one district for one programme to create general awareness and independent evaluation. It was also noted that the Office of the Block Development Officer is the most important among rural people for implementation of schemes. However, the implementation of schemes by the Gram Sevaks need assessment for the effective actual implementation of schemes of Community & Rural Development Department. Considering the importance of Rural Development Schemes, the Working Group felt the need to revamp and restructure the Block Development Office to make it more accessible to the rural people. The public is aware of the flow of funds that are coming, but whether the funds are reaching the deserving people or not. The Working Group noted that this is an area which the Department and the people need to work together to achieve concrete results.

It was pointed out by the Chairman that most of the BDOs are not full fledged. It was clarified that Blocks are temporarily manned until MCS officers are appointed. The work will be better with efficient BDOs. As the volume of work in the blocks is increasing, the Working Group felt that adequate infrastructure should be provided to the blocks like good accommodation vehicles and IT facilities for speedy implementation of schemes.

The Working Group also suggested that the people should be involved for BPL/APL schemes and to evolve strategies to improve rural development. On the SGSY scheme, the Department informed that Self Help Groups constitute as part of the scheme. The implementation of SGSY is carried out through Self Help Groups and individual beneficiaries. The subsidy amount is limited to Rs.10,000/- and the loan is upto Rs.15,000/- for both the Self

Help Groups as well as the individuals. The activities of the beneficiaries are income generating, for example, ginger cultivation, tailoring, cane and bamboo products.

In Jaintia Hills, the scheme SGSY has little impact as no NGOs are coming forward to avail the scheme. The Working Group feel that leadership training programme for key schemes for improving the economic development in the state is necessary. It is also stressed on streamlining the development blocks and appreciated the improvement of some of the schemes in a short period.

On the market complex at Mawngap, the Department informed that land is contributed by the Hima Mawphlang. So far the amount spent for the construction of the market amounts to Rs.63 lakhs. While referring to the SGSY scheme on the additional wage employment and food security it was informed by the Department that 5 Kg. of food grain is distributed per manday and Rs.20/- per day for unskilled labour.

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

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