

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REVIEW MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP 'A'  
OF STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> AND 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2006 TO  
REVIEW ACHIEVEMENTS OF CENTRALLY SPONSORED/CENTRAL  
SECTOR SCHEMES DURING 2005-2006.**

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Members and Officers present at Annexure – 'A'

The meeting was chaired by Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board who at the outset welcomed the Members and Officers to the meeting.

The following Departments were taken up :-

**30.10.2006**

1. **Agriculture** :- Discussing on the scheme “ Women in Agriculture” the Department informed that there are 30 Nos. of farm women group out of which 11 Nos. have registered under Co-operative Societies Act. The broad aim is to motivate and mobilize women through group approach. In Meghalaya the scheme was launched during 2000-2001 and is being implemented in Jaintia Hills District only. Besides agricultural activities the women groups are also engaged in small scale industries and Animal Husbandry & Veterinary activities. The Department was asked to furnish a list of all 30 groups with locations to enable the Board to fix a programme for meeting the women group.

On organic farming the Department is taking up to train farmers in organic farming practices. Enquiring on the possibility of reduction in use of chemical fertilizers during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Department clarified that this is not possible as use of HYV seeds require chemical fertilizers/pesticides. However during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan under the Cluster Approach intensive supervision will be carried out in the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by farmers so that the consumers get good agricultural produces.

On Watershed Management Scheme the Department informed that there are 78 Watershed Management Projects under Agriculture Department (2 in each Community Development Block) which are at different level of functioning. At present there is lack of concentration in the implementation of the schemes as one officer has to look after many Watershed Projects. During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Department propose to allocate not more than 2 projects to one officer for more concentration.

The subsidy for Power Tillers is not uniform. Govt. of India is giving Rs.45,000/- subsidy whereas State Government is giving Rs.30,000/- Department is taking up with the Government to equalize the rate of subsidy as per Govt. of India rate. The Board is of the view that as agricultural mechanization is far below the national target subsidy for Power Tillers should be made uniform.

Hydrants and Micro Irrigation structures are yet to be installed in isolated and scattered areas which do not qualify for inclusion under the Minor Irrigation projects of the Government.

2. **Horticulture** :- Discussing the Tea scheme in the state the Department informed that during 2005-2006 the Tea Board has released an amount of Rs.16 lacs toward setting up of tea nurseries in the state. The amount has been distributed to the Tea Experimental Centres at Umsning, Umwang and Rongram. The department is also taking up many Horticultural schemes under the Technical Mission in which funds do not come through the State Exchequer.

Regarding Rubber Plantation in Garo Hills the Board advises the Department to guide and encourage the rubber growers to take up cultivation of companion crops such as pineapple, betel leaves, coffee etc in their plantation to improve their economy.

3. **Minor Irrigation** :- There are 2 Central Schemes under Minor Irrigation Sector viz., Command Area Development and Rationalisation of Minor Irrigation statistics Under Command Area 1.224 Projects has been covered till date. Under the scheme Rationalisation of statistics census of Minor Irrigation Schemes are taken up. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Census are completed and Department is to start conducting the 4<sup>th</sup> Census through the Community Development Blocks. The purpose of the census is to know the total area covered in the state under Minor Irrigation.

### **Observation of Year of the Farmer 2007**

The Department proposed to organize crop-wise area-wise seminars by bringing experts from outside the State for knowledge on new technologies. Monetary incentives to be given to the farmers for best managed crop, best managed farm, highest yields etc. "Exposure Trips" will be organized to enable the farmers to know more about their crops Organization of Fruit Festival of indigenous fruits to be taken up.

The Year of the Farmer 2007 will be observed as such, to enable the Department to get the feedback so that the remaining 4 years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan can be tailored in accordance with the need of the farmers.

The Board is of the view that a High Power Committee at the state level should be constituted to oversee the celebration of Year of the Farmer 2007 to ensure its success. The programmes should be organized at the block level to ensure maximum participation of the farmers.

**4. Animal Husbandry & Veterinary :-** While discussing the Central schemes of the Department the Board noted that there is no expenditure under the 100% Central assistance scheme of National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Farm. The Department informed that fund has not been released by Govt. of India during 2005-2006. However during the early part of 2006-2007 an amount of Rs.120.08 lacs was released directly to the State Implementing Agency and the scheme is in the progress of implementation during the current year. The Govt. of India has directed for implementation of the Livestock Insurance Scheme which has been taken up as a Pilot Project in East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi Districts. Expansion of Poultry Farms at Nongstoin and Williamnagar and construction work for Turkey Breeding Farm are taken up during 2005-2006.

Under Dairy Sector the Department proposes to set up 30 Nos. Cooperative Societies in Jowai and 31 Nos. in Garo Hills. The agencies are headed by the Deputy Commissioners and monitored by the Technical Committee. The Agency is meant for procuring and marketing milk.

**5. Fisheries :-** There are 3 components under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Fish Farmers Development Agency. Viz. (i) Construction of new ponds (ii) Renovation of ponds and (iii) Training of Fish Farmers. The list of beneficiaries is recommended by the District Level Governing Body and approved by the State Level Governing Body headed by the Minister In-Charge Fisheries. During 2005-2006 the State Governing Body has not been convened but works are disposed by the Executive Committee which met 2 times. During the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan the scheme could not be implemented till date as the Central Share of 75% has not been released by the Govt. of India. 25% only was available under State Share.

The Department was asked to submit clarification on non-release of Central Share by the Govt. of India continuously for 4 years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The new Central Sector Scheme Strengthening of Data Base and Information Net Working was implemented during 2005-2006 to develop Geographical Info System and conduct census on important parameters on Inland Fisheries. An amount of Rs.14.02 lacs was sanctioned by Govt. of India during 2005-2006 for purchase of computers/servers etc.

**6. Sericulture & Weaving :-** Almost all the Central Schemes under Sericulture Sector are financed on the ratio of 90% Central Share and 10% State Share. The projected outlay for the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is Rs.614.64 lacs Central Share and Rs.66.92 lacs State's Share. The expenditure for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is Rs.292.77 lacs (Central Share) and Rs.2.00 lacs (State Share). Less expenditure under State Share is due

to less availability of fund due to plan cuts. During 2005-2006 Rs.181.80 lacs was utilized under Central Share and Rs.19.85 lacs was utilized under State Share.

Under the Handloom sector the Department is implementing (i) Health Package Scheme for Handloom Weavers and (ii) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme fully funded by the Govt. of India. Under (i) the scheme intends to ameliorate some of the health problems related to the weaving profession such as T.B., Asthma, Eye problems, maternity benefits for women etc. Till 2005-2006 333 Nos. weavers have benefited from this scheme. Under (ii) 646 nos. weavers have benefited from the scheme till 2005-2006.

The Board is of the view that improvement of infrastructure is a must for the Department and in this context advises the Department to find out ways and means to convert Non-Plan expenditure into Plan to get some funds for the purpose.

**7. Community & Rural Development** :- The Department is implementing a maximum number of Central Schemes for development of the rural areas and has witnessed a considerable improvement in the economic condition of the beneficiaries Under SGSY an amount of Rs.298.63 lacs was utilized during 2005-2006 benefiting 1000 SHGs and 24 individuals. Under IAY scheme 5775 Nos. of low cost housing were newly constructed and 2647 Nos. of upgradation works were undertaken. Under RSVY scheme the Annual Plan of Action for this programme is prepared by the District Administration. An amount of Rs.750.00 lacs was utilized during 2005-2006. The NFFWP a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Govt. of India in 2004-2005 is to be implemented in South Garo Hills District. A five year perspective Plan for the District will be prepared blockwise under this programme.

Discussing on the functioning of the DRDAs the Board desires the following information on DRDAs.

- (i) Mode of implementation of schemes by DRDAs.
- (ii) The amount of money released to the DRDAs and the amount of money that is still lying with the DRDAs.

The Department is also submit the names of each Community Development Block and the Gram Sevak Circles within the Block.

### **31.10.2006**

**1. Tourism** :- The Board enquired on the position of construction of Boat House, Cafeteria etc at Lumpondeng in which an amount of Rs.9.43 lacs was released by Govt. of India. The Department informed that this scheme was implemented by an NGO “Maitshaphrang” in which Rs.4.20 lacs has been utilized. However due to non-

submission of Utilization Certificate the scheme was dropped by Govt. of India and the Department proposed to divert the balance amount of Rs.5.23 lacs to other schemes in Williamnagar. In view that the clarification submitted by the Department in this connection is not clear the Board asked the Department to submit the Agreement between the Department and Maitshaphrang for its perusal.

On learning that the scheme for construction of 4 cottages in Nongkhnum Island was also dropped by Govt. of India the Board would like a status note on each of the Tourism schemes as per statement submitted by the Department.

**2. PHE** :- The Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is 100% funded by the Govt. of India and is utilized for covering Not Covered (NC) and Partially Covered (PC) habitations, providing water supply for schools and ICDS centres and tackling problem of excess iron . During 2005-2006 Rs.40 crores was released by Govt. of India 86 Nos. (NC) and 171 Nos. (PC) habitations were covered. 650 Nos. of schools and 65 ICDS centres were provided with safe water supply. The Department has identified 124 habitations affected with excess iron out of which 27 Nos were treated during 2005-2006.

The Prime Minister's package launched in 2003-2004 was completed during 2005-2006. 956 hand pumps were installed, 843 primary schools were provided with safe drinking water and 1276 traditional sources of water supply were revived in rural areas.

Under "Swajaldhara" fund is released by Govt. of India directly to the Deputy Commissioners who released the same to the District Commissioners. The schemes are implemented by the villagers who are to contribute 10% of the project costs. Out of 17 schemes sanctioned by Govt. of India 5 schemes are completed during 2005-2006. Govt. of India has appointed a Committee to monitor the functioning of the schemes.

The Board desires for an evaluation of the 5 completed schemes and asked the Department to submit the evaluation report.

The Department has also taken up installation of water treatment plants in the main sources in all Districts. Accumulation of stores has been totally banned. Purchase of materials is made against the scheme. Regarding protection of " Catchment Area" the Department informed that there are problems as the catchment areas fall under private land. Government has set up a Committee to come up with a Revised Forest Environment Act. The Board would like to know the present position of the Act.

Under Total Sanitation Campaign proposals were submitted to Govt. of India for all the seven districts. Sanction was received for 2 districts – East Khasi Hills and West

Garo Hills. Awareness Campaigns are being taken up and sanitary provisions are being taken up in Betasing.

**3. Education :-** While discussing Mass & Elementary Education the Board pointed out that it is difficult to make an evaluation of the performance of the schemes as the Department have submitted figures only as per statements I and II. The Board would therefore like a brief note on each scheme to explain/support the figures projected in the statements.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was implemented on a sharing pattern of 75:25 (Central Share & State Share) during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. During 2005-2006 an amount of Rs.1921.00 lacs Central Share was funded to the Society and an amount of Rs.817.70 lacs was received as State Share. Under NLCPR Govt. of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs.1120.00 lacs during 2003-2004 for construction of school buildings. The Department is taking up construction of 200 Lower Primary Schools, 44 Upper Primary Schools and 80 Additional classrooms in Lower Primary Schools during 2005-2006.

Regarding the matter of handing over to PHE the job of supplying drinking water to school buildings to avoid overlapping of activities, the Department clarified that as per SSA norms fund is released to the society and schemes are to be implemented with public participation. The State Coordinators and District Coordinators for civil works are appointed on contract basis. Govt. of India has appointed NEHU as the Monitoring Agency in respect of SSA scheme.

On distribution of text books the Department informed that the matter has been rectified and text books are to be distributed at the beginning of the year. Govt. of India is willing to give the scale of pay to Primary School Teachers if the state Government also comes forward in this regard. Department is taking up the matter with the Govt.

The Board desires information on the total No. of schools supplied with computers district-wise and the expenditure so far.

**4. Health & Family Welfare :-** All the Central Schemes of the Department are under Central Sector with 100% Central Assistance. The schemes of the Department was discussed. Enquiring on the problem of Aids in the state the Department informed that it is difficult to make a satisfactory assessment as data/statistics on the disease is difficult to obtain because of social stigma. The State's data so far is only 75 cases. The Board noted that in spite of so much money being spent malaria is getting worse year by year. On the increase number of T.B. cases it was informed that with a new line of treatment T.B. patients need not be hospitalized but can be treated as outdoor patients.

Considering that much money has been spent the Board would like a note with statistics on the impact of the scheme on Control of Blindness, T.B. and Malaria districtwise.

In view that no central assistance was released for the last 3 years under Leprosy Elimination scheme Department clarified that not much stress has been laid in this programme as Meghalaya is the 1st state in the process of eradication of Leprosy.

Alternative medicines like Ayurvedic and Homeopathy are being encouraged. Govt. of India have sanctioned Rs.101.30 lacs for setting up 3 Ayurvedic Dispensaries at Tura, Nongpoh and Jowai Civil Hospitals. Creation of posts and appointment of passed out students will be taken up as soon as the dispensaries are established.

Home Remedies Kit is a Pilot Project implemented in East Khasi Hills in which school teachers impart first aid training to students and presented them with a kit with first aid facilities.

**5. Power** :- The Central Schemes are being funded on the basis of 90% Central Share and 10% State Share. Out of 11 schemes implemented during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan 3 schemes are completed during 2003-2004 and 2005 and 3 schemes are to be completed during the year 2006.

Regarding Lakroh and Sunapani Hydrel Projects the Department informed that Sunapani Hydrel Project would be completed next year and Lakroh Project is yet to be completed. Subject to availability of sufficient land the Nangalbibra Thermal Project could be enhanced. Fixing of rates of electricity is under the State Electricity Commission.

On electrification of 10 Tribal villages the Board would like to know the names of the 10 villages and the criteria for selection of the villages.

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

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