

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE PLANNING BOARD WITH
COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HELD ON
23RD OCTOBER, 2006 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, YOJANA BHAVAN,
MEGHALAYA SECRETARIAT.**

Members and Officers present :-

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| 1. | Shri S.C. Marak, | Chairman, State Planning Board. |
| 2. | Dr. F.A. Khonglam | Co-Chairman, State Planning Board. |
| 3. | Shri S. Nongrum | Co-Chairman, State Planning Board. |
| 4. | Shri S.D. Khongwir | Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board. |
| 5. | Shri A.H. Scott Lyngdoh | Member, State Planning Board. |
| 6. | Shri Rowell Lyngdoh | Member, State Planning Board. |
| 7. | Shri Polycarp K. Marak | Member, State Planning Board. |
| 8. | Dr. Biloris Lyndem | Member, State Planning Board. |
| 9. | Shri C.D. Kynjing, | Commissioner & Secretary, C & RD Deptt. |
| 10. | Smti R.C.Sohkhlet, | Joint Director, C & RD. |
| 11. | Smti B.C. Warjri, | Research Officer, State Planning Board. |

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman, State Planning Board; Shri S.C. Marak who welcomed all the Members of the Board and Officers present in the meeting. At the outset, the Chairman informed that the purpose of the meeting is to have discussions on the information received from the Community & Rural Development Department relating to Myllem Development Block. The presentation of the write up on the Myllem Development Block is well appreciated by the Board.

During discussion, it was informed by the Department that the population of the Block as per 2001 census is 3,65,221. The Hon'ble Member Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh pointed out that since 80% of the population are engaged in Agriculture, the population of the farming community in the Block would be around 2.92 lakhs approximately. This he said did not match with the area covered under the two main crops – paddy and potato which is about 2923 hectares only. He also raised a query as to why there was no power tiller in the whole Block. The Department clarified that most of the farmers are part time agriculturists.

The Board discussed briefly on the sources of fund and the types of schemes that are implemented in the Block. The Department informed that the main purpose of the scheme SGRY is to provide employment, to create assets and infrastructure in the rural areas, and the expenditure already incurred under the scheme is Rs.1,63,596/- during the current financial year. Further it was informed that the MLA schemes fall under SRWP and CRRP and the scheme DTFM i.e. Development of Traditional Folk Music is under Arts and Culture Department.

The Chairman, State Planning Board, stressed more on the sources of funds to the Blocks and the schemes that are being implemented. However, he thanked the Department for giving a good presentation and he hoped other Blocks also like Umsning Block, Resubelpara Block etc. would give similar write-ups. On the query of the difference between Self Help Groups and Cooperative Societies, the Department informed that the concept is the same i.e. to work together in a group but with separate identity. The Hon'ble Member Dr.B.Lyndem informed that Self Help Groups in Medipathar and Mookyndeng are among the successful ones. The success rate depend on the interest of the farmers.

The Board wanted to know the problems faced by the farmers and how well off are the potato growers. The Department informed that the Extension Officer of Agriculture in the Block would be able to provide the information but they suggested for a spot visit to have a first hand information. The Co-Chairman, State Planning Board, Dr.F.Lyngdoh, requested the Department to find out the date of establishment of the Block and suggested that other Blocks also should do the same.

With regard to the list of villages, it was informed that 39 localities in the Block are Urban and that the urban population in the Block have improved economically whereas in the rural areas good services in terms of water supply, sanitation, civic amenities, sewerage, electricity etc. are still lacking. In this regard the Department feels that for betterment of a Block in rural areas the representatives of a group of neighboring villages can come together under one platform to air their grievances so that the Blocks can take necessary action to tackle their problems in a more effective manner.

The Board decided to pay a visit to Myllichem Block and also have interaction with some Self Help Groups of the area. The date was fixed on 7th November, 2006 at 10.30 A.M.

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

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