

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE PLANNING BOARD ON
6TH FEBRUARY, 2007 REGARDING PROGRAMMES FOR
“YEAR OF THE FARMER” 2007.**

Members and Officers present at Annexure – A.

The meeting is chaired by Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the Members and Officers to the meeting. He informed that the purpose of the meeting is primarily to discuss the 11th Plan and Annual Plan (2007-2008) Proposals of the Agriculture and Allied Sectors with particular reference to the Year of the Farmer. However the Board would also like to have a brief review on the salient features of the 10th Plan as the 11th Plan proposals is directly related to the performance during the 10th Plan. He requested the Hon’ble Member, Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh to initiate the discussion.

The Hon’ble Member Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh referred to the Write Ups on Review of the salient features of the 10th Plan which was sent to all concerned Departments. He pointed out that the figures indicated therein may be subjected to correction and asked the Department to furnish their comments and also to give the correct figures.

1. Crop Husbandry :- The first four years of the 10th Plan shows less than 50% expenditure. The Department attributed this to less Annual Plan allocations. Whatever amount of Annual Plan received by the Department have been fully utilized. Under Agricultural Mechanisation it was informed that the rate of subsidy of the State Government and Central Government is not uniform which is @ of Rs.45,000/- and Rs.30,000/- respectively. 720 Power Tillers have been distributed to the farmers under State Plan. The Department is moving the State Government to provide the deficit amount of subsidy of Central Government to enable the Department to supply the 1126 Nos. of Power Tillers received from Central Government.

The Board noted that the Seed Corporation of the Department is taking a long time to materialize and wanted to know the position of the matter or the stand of the Department in this regard. The Chairman also wanted to know the position of the Agricultural Development Board. Discussing on the proposed outlay for 2007-2008 for the Agriculture and Allied Sectors in connection with observation of “Year of the Farmer” the Secretary Planning Department informed that the outlay have been projected almost double of last year.

The Board recommended the Department’s requirement for an amount of Rs.1.68 crores during the current year in connection with “Year of the Farmer”.

2. Animal Husbandry & Veterinary :- The Board noted a substantial shortfall in expenditure during the 10th Plan. Keeping in view the contemplated big boost to Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Programmes in the 11th Plan with particular reference to the “Year of the Farmer” the reasons for the shortfall need to be analysed keeping in view future prospects.

Enquiring on NABARD Loan the Department informed that a proposal of Rs.100 lacs was submitted for development of infrastructure of the Feed Mills and the Feed Analytical Laboratory at Kyrdemkulai. For the “Year of the Farmer” the Department proposes to conduct awareness programme by arranging Fairs and Exhibitions in all the Districts. The Board

suggested to step up health care of animals and production of feed and also to give incentives/awards to the farmers for the best performance in Animal Husbandry & Veterinary activities.

3. **Fisheries** :- The Board noted that the level of achievement in fish production is low inspite of implementation of the 1000 pond scheme. The Department is to submit a short account of the progress of the 1000 pond scheme and the level of achievement during the 10th Plan period. The Department has projected an outlay of Rs.45 crores for the 11th Plan and Rs.6 crores for the Annual Plan 2007-2008.

4. **Sericulture & Weaving** :- The Board feels that this Department has ample potentiality but it is very much neglected. Inspite of a small 10th Plan outlay there is shortfall in expenditure which the Department attributed to non-sanction of certain schemes. During the current year the Department needs around Rs.1.85 crores for development of infrastructure.

Discussing on Handloom and Weaving Centres the Hon'ble Member Dr. B.Lydem suggested for upgradation of the Weaving Centre at Mendipathar which the Department assures to take up. As part of the programmes for "Year of the Farmer" it is proposed to provide more working space for the weavers and separate rearing houses and to enhance the supply of yarns. The Board suggested for setting up of a Yarn Depot.

5. **Minor Irrigation** :- The Board feels that Minor Irrigation is a crucial input which has not been utilized properly. There is huge shortfall of expenditure during the 10th Plan with a low percentage in terms of coverage. On reviving of Non-functional schemes a policy needed to be considered to make the schemes viable. The Department informed that so far 5 Nos. of schemes have been revived.

6. **Community & Rural Development** :-Discussion on the mode of implementation of the Rural Development Schemes of SGSY., SGRY etc. the Department informed that these schemes are implemented as per guidelines laid down by the Ministry of Rural Development through Local Committees and SHGs. During 2005-2006 1000 SHGs and 24 individuals have been assisted under the SGSY scheme. Referring to the impact of the schemes in the absence of Panchayat Raj System or elected village bodies the department informed that the report of the High Power Committee set up by Government to study planning and development at the village level is being awaited for structuring of the village committees.

At present the schemes are implemented by local bodies and traditional institutions constituting of elected members though not by secret ballot. There are some drawbacks in implementation of SGSY schemes as SHGs are not willing to come up. The Department is trying to intensify coordination works by giving more training to the villagers to encourage formation of SHGs to implement the schemes.

Regarding impact/achievements of the schemes the Department is asked to submit its comments on the Review Paper relating to observations of the State Planning Board regarding some salient features of the 10th Plan.

7. **Soil Conservation** :- On utilization of the 10th Plan outlay the Department informed that its anticipated expenditure is Rs.53.27 crores out of the 10th Plan outlay of Rs.50.00 crores. The performance of the MCCDB has not been satisfactory due to fund constraints, as Government have decided not to stand guarantee for loans to Boards/Organisations, hence bank loans are no longer forthcoming. The Department proposes to strengthen the MCCDB by taking up pilot projects under Jatropha cultivation including processing and marketing.

Documentation of the 12 watersheds handed over to the beneficiaries will be completed in the next financial year. For the “Year of the Farmer” the Department proposes to take up improvement of Jhum Cultivation, rain water harvesting schemes raising nurseries for para rubber plantations, Farmers Exchange Programmes and training and awareness programmes at the farmers level and district level. The Department requires about 10-15 lakhs during 2006-2007 to initiate the programme for the Year of the Farmer. Due to fund constraint the Department could not send the farmers to participate in the Trade Fair at Umroi.

8. **Cooperation** :- Out of the 10th Plan outlay of Rs.17.00 crores the cumulative expenditure during the 10th Plan will come to Rs.18.86 crores. The reason for the excess expenditure is due to the fact that annual allotment of fund to this sector has remained constantly meager against actual requirement. On the performance of MECOFED the Department has indicated a gross profit from Rs.72.45 lacs to Rs.914.22 lacs and a reduced net loss from Rs.217.54 lacs to Rs.94.43 lacs. The losses is primarily due to overstaff. Reduction in the size of its employees is necessary for sustenance of the MECOFED.

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

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