

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP'D' OF
STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 16.05.2007 TO REVIEW
IMPLEMENTATION/ ACHIEVEMENTS OF PLAN SCHEMES DURING
2005-2006**

Members and Officers present at Annexure – 'A'.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. F.Lyngdoh, Co-Chairman, State Planning Board.

The following Departments were taken up.

- 1. Soil Conservation** :- On utilization of Projected Outlay of the 10th Plan the Department assured that the entire 10th Plan outlay of Rs.50 crores would be utilized by the end of the 10th Plan. The Working Group advised the Department to submit a brief note on each scheme alongwith the statements.

Discussing on Jhum Cultivation the Department informed that it is practised in all Districts of the State but more prevalent in Garo Hills. According to a survey conducted in 1971 jhum area in Meghalaya is 76,000 hectare which has come down to 46,618 hectare in a survey conducted in 2001. The number of jhummia families has come down to 46,500 families in 2001 against 70,000 in 1971. Briefing the Board on the programmes undertaken by the Department to wean the jhummys the Working Group feel that the Department should give publicity to its activities as it appears that it is playing an active role in this regard.

On Integrated Watershed Development Programme, the scheme is implemented in areas where deterioration of the soil has affected production. On NABARD Loan the Department do not face problem in financing from NABARD. Monitoring is done by NABARD before financing a project. The Department has submitted 18 Nos. of projects under NABARD.

Discussing the functions of the MCCDB the Working Group suggested that the MCCDB should link up with the Rubber Board as the rubber planters are facing problem in getting seedlings. The Department has initiated a meeting with the Joint Director Rubber Board Assam regarding this matter. Understanding that in 1 hectare of plantation a rubber planter can earn Rs.1 lac the Working Group feel that the MCCDB should play an active role in providing seedlings to the rubber planters.

The Working Group would like a Status Report on Rubber Plantation in the state. It was also decided to visit some Watersheds of the Department.

- 2. Housing** :- The Department informed that Rs.851.74 lakhs was expended during 2005-2006 against the Revised Plan Outlay of Rs.852.40 lakhs.

Under “Training”, the Department stated that this scheme has not been implemented for the last 5(five) years.

The Working Group noted that “Night Shelter” is an old and important scheme but the expenditure is Nil during 2005-2006. The Department stated that so far only 1(One) Night Shelter has been constructed in Williamnagar. It is run by an NGO and presently in need of repairs. Last financial year, a proposal was made for construction of Night Shelters in Tura, Nongstoin and Nongpoh @ Rs.12 lacs each. This proposal was turned down by Planning Department as the scheme is too meager being a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a sharing pattern of 75 (C.S) : 25 (S.S).

Underlining the importance of Night Shelters for rural people to stay with some amount of security the Working Group advised the Department to prepare a scheme for construction of Night Shelters in all Districts wherever land is available, and to accommodate the scheme under State Plan if it is not practicable to take up under Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

The Department to submit a note on the functioning of the Night Shelter at Williamnagar.

On general discussion on the housing facility at Nongmynsong the Working Group understood that not all the units constructed were occupied. Non-occupation and non usage lead to destruction of the units. The Department was asked to utilize the remaining units. Regarding the vacant land of the Department at Nongmynsong – the Working Group is of the opinion that the Department should utilize this land for providing housing facility to the urban poor. It was informed that a Committee has been set up for this purpose. It has been decided to allot 12,000 sq.ft. each to the EWS @ Rs.72,000/- each (Approx). 360 plots has been identified for 360 beneficiaries.

On Rural Housing Scheme which is the main scheme of the Department, the Working Group noted that during the 10th Plan, Rs.2986.30 lakhs was expended against Rs.4800 lakhs. There is a huge shortfall of Rs.1814 lacs which no doubt affected the number of beneficiaries under the scheme.

Enquiring on the procedure for identification of beneficiaries the Department informed as follows :-

2002-2003	-	by MLAs
2003-2004	-	by DC (Housing) and MLAs
2004-2005	-	by MLAs and DC (Housing)
2005-2006	-	by MLAs and DC (Housing)
2006-2007	-	by MLAs

On EWS/LIG Loan-cum-Subsidy scheme, the department informed that this scheme was kept in abeyance by the Government since 1994-95 due to poor recovery against the loan already advanced. The allocation of Rs.10 lakhs to Meghalaya State Housing Board during 2005-2006, is for meeting salaries of officers and staff of the Board.

3. Information and Public Relations :- The Department incurred Rs.810.68 lakhs against Rs.1000 lakhs during the 10th Plan. The shortfall is due to less utilization of the amount meant for the State Information Commission which has just started functioning during 2005-2006.

Rs.25 lacs has been earmarked for the Awareness Programme of the Department. During 2005-2006 Awareness Campaigns in connection with the RTI Act has been taken up. This amount is also utilized to create a platform for awareness programmes of other Departments. In line with the earlier recommendation of the Board the Department has revived the scheme of Mobile Publicity by updated technology.

On general discussions that certain Departments are doing quite well but they do not have the platform to give publicity to their achievements, the Department was of the opinion that such Departments may send Write-ups and information to the DIPR who will publish the same. The Department assured to initiate this by asking the Departments to submit such Write-ups and like information. The Working Group stressed on the need to give more publicity to Govt. programmes and achievements and especially on “Year of the Farmer” programmes during the current year.

On the impact of Trade Fairs/Exhibitions – whether this has raised the image of the state, the Department informed that the products of Meghalaya are popular and in great demand, but feel that there is lack of follow-up action by the concerned Departments. The Annual International Trade Fair is just a platform and Meghalaya House is willing to create a permanent cell so that concerned Departments can interact.

The Working Group asked the Department to submit a presentation on this to enable the Board to take up the matter.

In conclusion the Co-Chairman impressed upon Commissioner & Secretaries of concerned Departments to be present in the meetings of the State Planning Board for a concrete and fruitful discussion.

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

Sd/-
(Dr.F.Lyngdoh)
Co-Chairman
State Planning Board.