

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REVIEW MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP 'C' OF
STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 10.5.2005 AND 11.5.2005 IN THE CONFERENCE
ROOM OF MEGHALAYA SECRETARIAT.**

Members and Officers present at Annexure – I.

The meeting was Chaired by Shri E.D. Marak, Co-Chairman, State Planning Board. While welcoming the officers present, Shri E.D. Marak made a point that the intention of the meeting was to get a brief information on the administrative set up of each Department and also the implementation of the schemes sectorwise during 2004-2005.

The following Departments were taken up.

10.5.2005

1. **Health & Family Welfare** :- The Annual Plan Outlay for 2004-2005 was Rs. 4242.00 lakhs and the expenditure incurred during the year was Rs.4057.27 lakhs.

The Department while briefing about the administrative set up informed that the posts of Deputy Director and Joint Director (MI) are lying vacant in the Directorate. On the question of upgradation of PHCs, the Co-Chairman wanted to know if the allotted amount for this current financial year is sufficient enough. It was informed by the Department that the amount allotted is meant for construction of buildings but due to unforeseen situation like rise of price in medicines and requirement of equipments, a major chunk of expenditure had been diverted to such requirements. It was also pointed out that last year a liability of Rs. 3 crores under medicines etc. had to be spilled over to the current financial year

The Hon'ble Member Dr. B. Lyndem on her various visits to the CHCs and PHCs expressed her dissatisfaction on the wasteful expenditure of the Department in buying X-Ray Machines/Equipments which are lying unused for many years with no expert technician to handle e.g. Mairang PHC, Sohra PHC etc. It was also pointed out that some PHCs are running without water. She suggested for the need to have proper co-ordination and monitoring to make things functional. The Department informed that there appears to be no proper planning before installing the machines hence they are being dumped and to recondition them involves an extra expenditure. However it was suggested by the Hon'ble Member that for the development of the State, the machines should be made workable because Health is where development starts and there can be no development without health.

During discussion, it was informed by the Department that the main objectives of Health Services (Research) are manufacture of Sera and Vaccines, Food and Drug testing facilities and Blood Bank facilities. On anti-rabies programme, the Department informed that anti rabies vaccines can be obtained from the Pasteur Institute. It was suggested by the Working Group that vaccines should be supplied to the Districts and Blocks and all Civil Surgeons should have ready vaccines so that the rural people can avail of the facility. For this purpose technical training should be given so that the right people could be appointed. On the question of appointment of Ayurvedic Doctors, the Department informed that there were 8 posts and five (5) Doctors were already appointed.

On Family Welfare Programmes, it was informed that training activities form an important part, and short training is usually conducted but the Working Group is of the view that extensive training and proper education be given to ANM. It was also suggested that resource persons or guest lecturers should be well qualified and experienced. As such, Senior Doctors or retired nurses may be invited to deliver lectures. To ensure number of cases of anaemia of mothers and children, night blindness etc. in the State, the Department should produce a Survey Report and the evidence to supplement the fact. It is important to create an awareness among the people and proper supervision in the District and Block Level for the upliftment of society. It was suggested that the Department should prepare an action plan on different programmes and also to submit the same to the Working Group 'D', State Planning Board.

2. (i) **Labour & Employment** :- The Tenth Plan Outlay (2002-2007) is Rs.150.00 lakhs and the Annual Plan Outlay (2004-2005) is Rs.45.00 lakhs. The Actual Expenditure during the current financial year is Rs.28.58 lakhs only. Less expenditure was due to non-receipt of the recommendation of the MPSC/DSC for appointment of certain posts.

The Department gave a brief introduction on the functioning of the Department. It was informed that the Labour Commissioner is implementing the Central Acts while the Labour Inspectors are enforcing the Labour Acts. The Labour Inspectors are to check that labourers are given 1 day break in a week and the shop owners should also initiate welfare for their labourers

The Department also mentioned that most of the programmes could not be implemented especially in the Districts as the Department have no vehicles. The Budget Provision is only Rs.33.00 lakhs which is very much inadequate. It was clarified by the Department that it is mandatory for registration of contractors on certain conditions i.e. security deposit/license fee and Annual Progress Report but registration fee depends upon the class of the contractors. On contract labour licensing, it was clarified that Labour contract should be obtained from the Labour Department. As such revenue can be earned and also the labourers can be protected. It was suggested by the Working Group that the Department should have proper co-ordination and co-operation with other Departments especially the Public Works Department.

The Co-Chairman stressed on improvement of infrastructure facilities and provision of vehicles in the District for smooth functioning of the Department. It was brought to the notice of the Co-Chairman that the offices in the Districts are functioning on rented buildings. The Co-Chairman stated that the Department needed to be strengthened as their main concern is to check influx of labour force.

(ii) **On Employment & Craftsmen Training**:- The Department informed that there are 8 I.T.Is including 1(one) for women. In Baghmara it was just started and land had been handed recently to the Vice Principal by the Deputy Commissioner. The passed out trainees were given material/equipments as incentives to start their work but this is restricted only for toppers.

The Hon'ble Member Dr. B. Lyndem, mentioned that her visit to I.T.I., Tura is not encouraging at all. The Department is proposing to revamp the I.T.I. since for so long there was no Principal. The post of Vice Principal has recently been upgraded to Principal. She mentioned about a Govt. of India scheme the Mahila Sambridhi Yojana, which gives soft loan from Punjab Bank to

women for starting self-employment business like beauty parlours, tailoring etc. and suggested that the Department discuss this matter with the Manager of Punjab Bank.

3. Power :- (i) The Department stated that the Plan Outlay for 2004-2005 was revised to Rs.148.82 crores from Rs.134.80 crores and the expenditure during the year was Rs.86.22 crores . Most of the outlays are Loan Components tied up with Financial Institutions like HUDCO NABARD etc. and as such, the expenditure was less as the loans could not be tied up.

The Department stated that under Generation Scheme, Rs.93 crores was Loan Component from REC etc. but only Rs.37 crores could be availed for the Leishka Project during 2004-2005. In respect of Renovation and Modernization of Stage II which was Rs.200 lakhs, could not be expended as the selection/engagement of Consultants for the project was finalized only at the fag end of the year. The amount of Rs.155 lakhs for Distribution Schemes was spent.

Enquiring on the present position of the Leishka Project it was informed that so far, 30% of the works was completed. The progress appears to be slow, because of many technical problems involved. The Department also informed that the decision is to complete the Leishka Project by December, 2007 but it is likely that the Project would be spilled over to the next Five Year Plan. The Department however affirmed that fund is not the problem as far as this project is concerned.

On a general discussion on the billing system in rural areas which is made on average owing to “no-meter” system, the Co-Chairman pointed out that supply of power in rural areas is very irregular. On this issue, the Department informed that the money is coming from the Govt. of India for putting into effect the meter system and December, 2005 is targeted for 100% coverage. On the issue of illegal power connection, the Department informed that the Govt. of India has directed for creation of special courts for tackling illegal power connection. In this connection, the Department is processing to involve the court so that power pilferage could be checked.

On Rural Electrification, the Department informed that 65% villages are covered. On the issue of rural electrification, the Department stated that electrification of a village costs about Rs.12 lakhs while the returns are not cost effective. In view thereof, the Department has written to Govt. of India for 90% grant instead. The Co-Chairman asked the Department to furnish the Working Group the Districtwise list of villages electrified and de-electrified.

On the question of privatization the Department informed that the Govt. of India wanted to corporatize the Meghalaya State Electricity Board. A separate body should fix the tariff for the Board. It should be a commercial body and could not run on subsidy. The Department has written to the Govt. of India for 1(one) company only in respect of MeSEB instead of 3(three) companies viz., Distribution, Transmission and Generation.

On the issue of loss of revenue, the Department stated that there is a marked improvement on revenue earnings of the Board. Losses have come down for the last 3 years and very soon, the revenue loss may break even. Further, the Department informed that the revenue from the Industrial Estate at Byrnihat has improved quite satisfactorily.

(ii) Non-Conventional Sources of Energy/Integrated Rural Energy Programme :- The Schemes under Non-Conventional Sources of Energy and Integrated Rural Energy Programme were briefed by the Department. Out of Rs.39.00 lacs Plan Outlay during 2004-2005 Rs.31 lacs is for salaries alone. The Department informed that electrification of villages is taken up under Non-

Conventional Sources of Energy. On the issue of materials on subsidy to villagers, the Department stated that the Component of contribution from the beneficiaries varies from year to year for such schemes. The Department informed that the scheme of Solar Lantern was not sanctioned for the last 2(two) years. The Working Group advised the Department to evaluate the schemes to assess the benefits actually derived by the people.

4. Education :- The Department briefed on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) the objective of which was to provide quality education for children of the age group 6-14 by 2010, children with disabilities and out of school children. This is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Sharing Pattern of 85:15 for 9th Plan, 75:25 for 10th Plan and 50:50 thereafter.

On appointment of SSA teachers, the Department stated that there are about 7000 untrained teachers. Although the teachers were sent for training to DIET and IGNOU there is still a huge backlog of untrained teachers. On an observation by the Co-Chairmen that most of the villages have not yet been covered by the SSA Scheme the Department stated that village level/block level/sub-divisional level and district level Committees have been constituted for proper monitoring of the scheme for improvement of Elementary Education in the villages. Regarding construction works the Department informed that the entire Budget Provision under Education goes on salaries. There is however provision for civil works under SSA Scheme.

The Working Group observed that Lower Primary Teachers in remote locations are not attending regularly. An example was cited where a teacher attends only 15 days in a year in Resubelpara area. The Department assured that such irregularity on the part of teachers would be brought to the notice of the concerned Managing Committee for necessary action. The Working Group felt that there should be uniformity in school timings.

The Department stated that in respect of Higher Education, the expenditure during 2004-2005 is Rs.1591.95 lakhs against the Plan outlay of Rs.1515 lakhs and the additional amount of Rs.76.95 lakhs was met by Supplementary Demand. Under Technical Education, the Department has expended in full the Plan Outlay of Rs.2260 lakhs.

In respect of assistance to Higher Secondary Schools enquired by the Co-Chairman, the Department stated that grants have been provided to those opening in 2001 and for 2002,2003 and 2004, it is under process. The Working Group wanted to know that in the matter of granting assistance to the Higher Secondary Schools, whether the delinking factor also is looked into. It is understood that so far only 1(one) College viz., St. Anthony's College has delinked the 11-12 classes and the rest of colleges have not done so yet.

The Department also briefed on long-term and short term in service training for Primary and Upper Primary Teachers. Training for Primary Teachers are being conducted at the Govt. Basic Training Centres located at Shillong, Tura etc. as well as at the Non-Govt. Teachers Training Centre, Sohra. Trainings for Upper Primary Teachers are being conducted at the Govt Normal Training School located at Sohra and Tura and at the District Institutes of Education and Training located at Sohra, Thadlaskein etc. Untrained Primary Teachers were also provided training at the DIET. The Department further stated that the National Council of Teacher Education has agreed to the State Govt's request in the reduction of the Training Course from 2 years to 1 year in NTS and DIET to enable to clear the huge backlog of untrained teachers at the Elementary Stage.

On Mid Day Meal scheme as queried by the Co-Chairman, the Department stated that the scheme was started in the year 1995. For implementation of the scheme, the Govt. of India provides foodgrains free of cost through FCI and the cost of transportation to beneficiary schools is reimbursed by Govt. of India. But since 2001-2002 as per the directive of the Supreme Court the State Government has implemented the cooked Mid-Day Meal in all Primary Schools. But due to meagre funds most schools could provide only 2-3 days a week of Mid-Day Meal. During 2004-2005 Govt. of India have sanctioned Rs.548.89 lacs and the State Government Rs. 135 lacs for the programme.

The Department also briefed on Adult Education where an amount of Rs.16 lakhs was expended during 2004-2005 against the Plan Outlay of Rs.20 lakhs. Progress and achievement of Total Literacy Campaign and Post Literacy Campaign was briefed by the Department.

6. Revenue (Land Reforms) :- The Department stated that Rs.175.78 lakhs was expended during 2004-2005 against the Plan Outlay of Rs.175 lakhs in respect of Land Records and Survey. Though an additional amount of Rs. 3 lakhs was allocated during the year, it could not be utilized due to non sanction of Supplementary Demand.

Enquiring on the survey works of the Department it was informed that the Department is taking up survey of Inter-state and International boundaries in collaboration with the Survey of India. In case of International boundaries the state function as the agent of the Govt. of India under the Ministry of External Affairs. Survey works is being taken up every year but jointly with the Govt. of Bangladesh. Maps and data of survey and demarcation of the boundaries is available with the Department. At present the Department is engaged in construction of damaged pillars. Survey works of Williamnagar Town was completed.

The Department informed that it has Enforcement Branches only in 6(six) districts with the exception of South Garo Hills Mandals are trained in Survey Schools and the duration of the Training is 3(three) months. Grant-in-aid is given to the District Councils every year for payment of salaries to the staff attached in the District Councils for doing survey works

11.5.2005

1. Co-operation including Food Storage and Warehousing :- The Annual Plan Outlay during 2004-2005 was Rs.417.00 lakhs and the actual expenditure was only Rs.402.50 lakhs. Shortfall in expenditure was due to non clearance by Finance Department the proposal for assistance to the Meghalaya Housing Development Corporation.

Briefing on the activities of the Department it was informed that there are about 1000 registered Co-operative Societies in the state. The registered Co-operative Societies get loans either from the Govt. or Co-operative Banks or National Banks. Some of the Co-operative Societies are quite successful e.g. those dealing with transport, bamboo products etc. but there are some societies which have been closed down due to mismanagement and lack of interest. The problem is that the people who manage the societies are not trained and sometimes societies are in distress due to misappropriation, threat etc. The Working Group is of the view that training is very important

especially in handling of accounts to further strengthen the co-operative sector. A society should be given time to grow, hence capacity building and orientation every now and then is crucial.

Regarding Self Help Groups the Department informed that whenever Self Help Groups come under the umbrella to form a Co-operative Society the Department is taking special effort to help the Society. Govt. assistance is also given if a society appears viable. On the performance of the Meghalaya Co-operative Apex Bank the Department stated that this is the premier Bank of the Department and does not come under the purview of the Reserve Bank of India and deals primarily with Co-operative Societies. It is a profit making Bank with 400 crores as investment and expands its business every year. The Working Group observed that some Self Help Groups are doing well in Rubber Plantation in Garo Hills and is of the view that the Department should mobilize the Self Help Groups to form Co-operative Societies.

On the question of assistance to Credit Co-operative Societies, the Department informed that Govt. is having shares in these Societies but only when the society is profiting that the Govt. can get returns/dividends. It was also mentioned by the Department that MECOFED is running at a loss of Rs.22 crores or so, and it is hopeful that some package assistance may be granted by the Govt. of India.

2. Transport :- During discussions on the schemes of the Department, it was informed that the major scheme is on purchase of buses. 40% of the fleet are running and it is proposed to procure new buses.

On the scheme, Motor Driving School, the Department stated that during 2003-2004, Rs.4 lakhs was sanctioned against Rs.5 lakhs and it has gone to Jowai (Bosco Pnar Motor Driving School). During 2004-2005, it was planned to go to Tura but queries were raised from Planning and Finance Departments. The Department will take up again during 2005-2006. Rs.10 lakhs has been sanctioned and cleared by Finance Department during 2004-2005 for upgradation of Computerization in collaboration with NIC of the office of the Commissioner of Transport and District Transport Offices at Tura and Jowai.

On the scheme, Financial Assistance to un-employed Educated Youths to run Transport services, the Department stated that during 2004-2005, a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is earmarked and is expected to cater to 18 beneficiaries at 25 % Govt. Subsidy. It further informed that financial assistance is provided only for Maruti Vans and Maruti Cars and has been stopped for Auto Rickshaws since the District Administration has stopped issue of permits. The Working Group was of a strong opinion that the amount of Rs. 5 lakh is very small and would not be of much help to the unemployed youth.

On Pollution testing enquired by the Co-Chairman, the Department informed that previously fitness certificate were issued by the units located at Mawiong and Sawlad. But in 2003, State Govt has enacted a law on Pollution Control and about 13 (thirteen) Pollution Testing Centres are to be set up in the entire state. These are expected to function from July this year. These centres are computerized and manned by trained personnel.

3. Printing & Stationery and Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Press :- The Department informed that the Govt. of India's expert team had visited the Govt Press for its modernization. 22 posts for Shillong and Tura were created both technical and non-technical. In respect of technical

personnel, there would be no fresh recruitment but existing personnel would be sent for training outside the state. The old machines are being replaced by modern machines in the Govt. Press at Shillong and Tura. During the last financial year an Automatic folding machine was purchased at the cost of Rs.25 lacs. The Department also proposes to purchase one vehicle for the Branch Press at Tura.

The Government has stopped private works for the last 4-5 years due to heavy Government works. Regarding health problems connected with printing works it was informed that this problem would be solved tremendously with the induction of modern technology.

The Department was asked to furnish a list of the percentage of women working in the Govt. Presses alongwith the facilities available to them.

On Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Press, it was informed that the Press is being manned by trained personnel. During the current financial year it is proposed to purchase a colour printing machine. The allotment of fund of Rs. 12 lacs during 2004-2005 for the Assembly Press is too meagre. Most of the fund goes for salaries. The Press require about Rs.30-40 lacs annually.

The Working Group noted the failure of the Department of Weights and Measure to attend the Review Meeting although the information called for was submitted by the Department.

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

Sd/-
(E.D. Marak)
Co-Chairman,
Meghalaya State Planning Board.