

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP 'E' OF STATE
PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 19TH AND 20TH OCTOBER, 2006 IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOM YOJANA BHAVAN TO REVIEW THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF PLAN SCHEMES DURING 2005-2006.**

Members and Officers present at Annexure – I.

Shri S.D. Khongwir, Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board welcomed the Members and Officers of the respective Departments to the meeting. He stated that in reviewing the progress and implementation of Plan Schemes during 2005-2006 focus may also be given to the strategy and approach to the 11th Plan in respect of crucial schemes.

The following Departments were taken up :-

19.10.2006

1. **Agriculture** :- The Deputy Chairman expressed his disappointment with the Department for not submitting a brief write-up/note on the scheme alongwith the information furnished by them.

On production of foodgrains, the Hon'ble Member, Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh, remarked that the achievement is not good compared to the targets of the 10th Plan. The Department however, stated that the achievement for Rice is good vis-à-vis target but achievement under wheat is low as there is a shift over to Boro Paddy Cultivation. The demand for maize is mainly for domestic consumption and not for feed purpose, however 2(two) districts viz., West Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi District have been selected under cluster approach for maize cultivation for the purpose of feed to be taken up in the 11th Plan. The Hon'ble Member, Shri Rowell Lyngdoh, stressed on the need for identification of the type of maize that would be suitable for feed purpose. A point was raised on ownership of agricultural land in West Khasi Hills and whether it is a fact that such ownership are by people from outside the district. The Department was asked to furnish information on this.

The Working Group raised a point on the economic viability of setting up of a Seed Farm. The Department stated that they have adopted a Seed Village Concept where progressive farmers are identified for the purpose. With its introduction the dependence of seeds from the National Seed Corporation is minimized. The Working Group stressed on the need for improvement in the production of oilseeds. On query whether the Department plan to go all out for organic farming during the 11th Plan the Department stated that in those areas where fertilizers is used discontinuance of the same may have an adverse effect on production As such, the Department favoured on use of fertilizers and organic farming side by side. On Agricultural Engineering (Mech), the Department briefed on Power Tillers where subsidy is not uniform from State and Central Schemes i.e., Rs.45,000/- and Rs.30,000/- respectively as against the cost of Rs.1 lakhs to Rs.1.10 lakh per Power tiller.

2. **Horticulture** - :- The schemes of the Department were discussed. Stress is made on plantation of Organic Pineapple in Ri-Bhoi District as there is demand for export. There is a good market for raw pineapples in Nepal and Bangladesh. The Working Group suggested on the need of setting up fruit processing units.

During discussion on Potato production the Department informed that it is taking up to procure potato seeds which can be used for potato chips processing. The Working Group wanted information on the following regarding potato production.

- (i) Approximate number of households engaged in potato growing.
- (ii) The price of potato in the last 3 years and the cost of production.

3. **Minor Irrigation** :- During discussions the Working Group underlines the need to bring more areas under irrigation. On Irrigation coverage the Department informed that the All India average is 33% but in Meghalaya, it is only 11%. However it is hoped to achieve 25% by the 11th Plan period. The Working Group asked the Department to submit the coverage figures of the N.E.States. and a brief note on the main strategy to increase to 25% during the 11th Plan.

The Working Group is of the view that to facilitate double cropping especially in the Border areas of the state it is very much necessary to build up irrigation facilities.

4. **Fisheries** :- The Department stated that out of the 10th Plan allocated amount of Rs.1,805 lakhs the likely expenditure by the end of 10th Plan is Rs.1,100 lakhs. During discussions on strengthening of the establishment at the technical level of the Directorate, the Working Group asked the Department to submit a note on the position and the proposal for strengthening of the Directorate. The Working Group was informed that the total requirement of fish for consumption in the state is 11000 M.T. out of which 5000 M.T. comes from outside the state namely from Andhra Pradesh and Assam. In Garo Hills, fish production is good. Assam and Bangladesh also supply fish to Garo Hills. The Department stated that 8000 M.T. production is targetted during the 11th Plan.

Although Departmental farms have been converted to nurseries for production of fingerlings this is not sufficient and have to be imported from outside to meet the requirement. The Working Group recommended that the Department should encourage setting up of more private farms and expressed desire to visit some private fishery farms which are doing well.

The Working Group asked the Department to submit a note on the status of Umiam Lake in regard to release of fingerlings and progress of the 1000 ponds schemes including achievements during 2006-2007.

5. Economics & Statistics :- The Working Group was informed of the existence of the Crop Forecast Committee at the State and District Level respectively. At the State Level the Agricultural Production Commissioner is the Chairman with Members drawn from Agri/Soil/Forest/Planning Departments etc. and at the District Level, the Deputy Commissioner is the Chairman and the District Officers are the Members. Random sampling, is taken up at least upto the Block Level of 10 to 20 villages in each Block. Regarding creation of posts in the Directorate the Department expressed difficulty in payment of salaries due to shortage of funds. The Working Group asked the Department to submit a note indicating the posts required with justifications and the financial implication for creation of the posts.

Discussing the ranking of states in respect of development as published in India Today the Department was asked to submit a note as per statistics available in the Department the areas of development in our state which are progressing and doing well and areas which are having lesser/least development.

20.10.2006

6. Animal Husbandry & Veterinary :- During the course of discussion the Working Group feel that reduction/cut of Plan funds from year to year has greatly affected the Department especially in veterinary services and animal health. Veterinary hospitals are not full-fledged, only outpatients facilities are available and very less number of specialists to man the hospitals. On the matter of feed, the Department stated that it is mainly imported from West Bengal and Bihar. Though maize is an important ingredient of feed, the type of maize used is not the one locally grown. The matter is being taken up with a Company located at Byrnihat (which is supplying feed to Agartala) for supply of feed to the Department and also to discuss whether the type of maize required for feed could be planted in the state.

On Livestock Insurance Scheme insurance for cattle started only in August, 2006 where 50% is to be borne by farmers and 50% by Govt. of India.

The Hon'ble Member, Shri Rowell Lyngdoh, pointed out that while he was in Denmark, the Indo-Danish project is doing well but this does not appear to be the case in Shillong. The Department stated that in this particular scheme, all along the pressure is on milk production which otherwise should be secondary. The primary object of the scheme is for breeding purpose. Recently, the Department decided to put more stress on the breeding part of the scheme. At present, the project has 142 Nos. of Cattle.

On the matter of slaughter house the Department informed that Government Land is most appropriate. Land has been identified at Mawiong and the scheme is to be taken up on private public participation. The Scheme was sent to NEC and may require Rs.3 to Rs. 4 crores depending on the area of the slaughter house. The Working Group felt that the State Government should consider this and the Department should attached priority to this scheme.

On the issue of pending bills to the milk suppliers, the Department informed that all pending bills have been cleared and there is good supply of milk to the Department.

7. **Home Guards and Civil Defence** :- The Department informed that works of the Civil Defence and Home Guards Complex at Mawdiangdiang is in progress and almost completed. The Additional Central Assistance for this project is Rs.25 crores. However, the Department may require about Rs.50/60 lakhs more for related works at Mawdiangdiang. PWD has sent requirement of Rs.7 crores for land preparation for Rescue Tower etc. and the proposal for this was sent to Planning Department.

The Working Group proposes to convene a meeting with PWD(B) for discussions on works related to the Civil Defence and Home Guards Complex at Mawdiangdiang.

8. **Sports and Youth Affairs** :- During the course of discussion it transpires that with a view to promote different sports in the state the Sports Policy is being framed with emphasis to tap talent, in urban and rural areas, with due consideration to gender equality and community participation. The Sports Talent Search Scholarship was started from 2005-2006.

The Working Group expressed disappointment of not having a standard play ground whether in the state capital or district headquarters. Regarding the J.N.Stadium at Pologround, the turf laid is not scientifically done. The Department informed that with assistance from DONER, a better turf will be scientifically laid. On allotment of works to the District Sports Officers the Department informed that a calendar has been issued for different activities to be taken up by the District Sports Officers.

The Working Group expressed interest in setting up a Gymnasium and felt that the Department should seriously consider introducing this discipline to promote more sports activities in the State.

The Working Group asked the Department to furnish a report on its committed liabilities.

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

Sd/-
(S.D.Khongwir)
Deputy Chairman
State Planning Board.