

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE CHAIRMAN/CO-CHAIRMAN/DEPUTY
CHAIRMAN, STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON 16.3.2006 WITH AGRICULTURE AND
ALLIED SECTORS REGARDING DRAFT APPROACH PAPER TO THE ELEVENTH PLAN
(2007-2012)**

Members and Officers present at Annexure – I.

The meeting was Chaired by Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board who welcomed the Agricultural Production Commissioner and the officers of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Fisheries and Irrigation Departments to the meeting.

At the outset the Chairman remarked that Agriculture has always been a prioritised area for development through out the Plans be it at the state level or central level. It is however surprising to note that out of the 10th Plan Projected Outlay of Rs.78.45 crores for this sector the total expenditure during the 10th Plan would come to only around Rs.49.12 crores involving a shortfall of Rs.29.33 crores. Although it is understood that due to resource constraints the amount of Plan funds is reduced every year and Government has to impose cuts on the Plan allocations of most Departments it is felt that Agriculture & Allied Sectors should be excluded from Plan cuts being the key services for economic growth.

The Hon'ble Member, Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh reiterated the views of the Chairman. He is of the view that it appears that there has not always been a commensurate cut in all sectors with some sectors getting more. If Plan cuts cannot be avoided he stressed on the importance that it should not be done at the cost of 80% of the population out of which 66% being the actual farming community.

On the views of the Members, State Planning Board the Agricultural Production Commissioner who is also the Principal Secretary, Planning Department informed that out of the 10th Plan Projected Outlay of Rs.3000 crores the actual funds received from year to year shows a different picture. Based on the Revised Plan figures it has been necessary to reduce the Sectorwise Annual Plan allocation from year to year. During 2005-2006 Rs. 80 crores Bank Loans has not been forthcoming. Regarding some sectors in which an upward revision is effected it is pointed out that Community & Rural Development is given more fund because of matching shares and most of the schemes under Power Sector comes in the form of loans

The Board would like to have information on the percentage of cut effected under Agriculture and Allied Sector during the 1st 4 years of the 10th Plan of the above sectors with special reference on augmentation production of meat, eggs and milk in line with the All India Level, raising of fertilizer consumption from 16 Kg. to 27 Kg. etc.

Planning Department may work out the percentage of cuts effected sectorwise on Revised Plan Allocation during the 1st 4 years of the 10h Plan period for a comparative study by the Board.

The following Departments were discussed briefly :-

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary :- The Department briefed on the schemes of the Department and informed that Rs.36 crores is expected to be expended against Rs.38.5 crores. It is informed that the Department will utilize NABARD Loans during the current year and next year. The average per capita availability of Milk, Eggs etc., is briefed by the Commissioner & Secretary against the All India figures.

Horticulture :- Understanding that floriculture is coming up in Shillong area the Chairman suggested to find a place for sale of flowers in the heart of city to help the flower growers. The Department informed that land which belong to Forest Department near Ward's Lake was identified

for sale of cut flowers and pot flowers but it was declined by Forest Department. The Agricultural Production Commissioner suggested that the Department may identify an area in the Directorate of Agriculture Complex which is agreed by the Department.

Irrigation :- The Department briefed on Non-Revivable projects which it proposes to wind off and on 21 Revivable projects, it proposes to complete in a phase manner. On the view of the Department that Medium and Minor Irrigation and Flood Control should be tagged under one Department and should be called “Water Resources” Department. The Agricultural Production Commissioner informed that a decision has been taken to tag Medium and Minor Irrigation under Irrigation Department apart from the Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project.

Fisheries :- In the course of discussion the Board observed that although the Government is trying up to boost up fish production through the scheme of “1000 fish ponds” it is noted that the Directorate is very weak. There are all the advantages for fishery development in the state but the delivery system should be strong.

The Chairman proposes to have another meeting sometimes in the month of April, 2006.

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

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