

**MINUTES OF STATE DEVELOPMENT REFORMS COMMISSION (SDRC)
MEETING HELD ON 10-05-2005 AT 11.00 A.M IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF
RAITONG BUIDING**

The list of Members / officers present is at Annexure-I

The meeting was presided by Shri.E.K.Mawlong, chairman of SDRC who welcomed all the Members and officers present. He informed that the meeting had been called to discuss the issues/agenda that emerged from the discussion during the last SDRC meeting held on 2nd December 2004. He also pointed out that since the Sub-Committee meeting under SDRC will be held on 17-05-2005, the discussion on this matter be deferred.

The matter of smoke pollution from vehicles in the State was taken up thereafter. In this respect, the Chairman desired to know the steps taken to control the same. The Commissioner & Secretary, PHE informed that in so far as air pollution was concerned, the primary cause is vehicular pollution from exhaust emissions. Checking thereof comes under the purview of the Rule 116 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. These Rules empower the Police/Transport authorities to require a vehicle owner to undergo test for vehicular exhaust emission. The Commissioner of Transport informed that as per the above mentioned rules the Department has already taking action as under :-

1. Framed and notified the vehicular exhaust emission standards.
2. Testing of vehicles had already been started since 1984. One vehicular emission testing centre for diesel vehicles has been set up at Mawiong and one for petrol vehicles at Sawlad, Shillong. A certificate is issued after testing which is valid for 6 months only. The cost of checking is prescribed as per type of vehicle.
3. The Department has additionally identified 13 (thirteen) private permanent vehicular emission testing centres for both diesel and petrol driven vehicles. These are expected to start functioning by August 2005 as soon as the site preparation is ready. It was suggested by the SDRC that more centres may be identified.
4. It was also desired that the SPCB have a cross check carried out by the Transport Department on vehicles and such stations.

The MSPCB has also in accordance to the Section 20 of the Air (PCP) Act, 1981 has been taking up with Transport Department the matter of implementing of the vehicular emission standards to control vehicular pollution. On the initiatives of the MSPCB the State Govt. had constituted a monitoring Committee of vehicular pollution in the State during the year 2001. This Committee has identified various measures viz., introduction of mechanism for regular pollution check, separation of city traffic from highway traffic etc.

2. The SPCB had also in the recent years organized camps for conducting testing of vehicles.

Overloading of Coal Truck : The Commissioner & Secretary Transport informed that two months back a meeting was called and the decision that emerged from the meeting was that no vehicles/trucks be allowed to ply on the road with a load of more than 15 tonnes and a strict instruction in this regard was issued with a penalty/fine of Rs. 100/- per metric tonnes excess of loading be imposed on the defaulters. As of now, no more complaints have been received since imposition of this restriction 2 (two) months back.

Regarding the speed limit of all vehicles, it was also felt necessary to check the speed limit of all vehicles/trucks plying in the road particularly in Shillong town since accidents keep on recurring every now and then with the culprit always getting away scot-free. It was suggested that high security measures may be introduced and if desired, the SDRC may put forward the recommendation to the Government of introducing a system of writing the number of the vehicles on both sides of trucks etc plying in the State.

During the course of discussion relating to water pollution, the Director of Urban Affairs, was asked to comment on the role played by the Department in this respect. The Director informed that the authority of the Urban Affairs Department is limited only to the Municipal areas and that the 'bye laws' are implemented in those areas only. He also narrated the incident where, even in the Municipal areas, there is no cooperation from some of the Headmen and it is very difficult for the Department to check unhygienic sewerage and drainage practices.

After detailed discussion amongst the members and officials present the following decisions were taken:-

1. SPCB and Transport Departments to submit a write up on the ways and means to control pollution to State Development Reforms Commission.
2. Speed limit of all vehicles to be enforced.
3. More centres may be identified for installing testing machines.
4. The SPCB is to undertake cross check on vehicles undergoing vehicular exhaust emission testing.
5. A meeting may be convened with the headmen of Shillong town and the Syiem of Myllem seeking their co-operation on checking pollution of rivers etc. The date for the proposed meeting will be notified later.

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



(E.K.Mawlong)
Chairman,
State Development Reforms Commission.

Copy to:-

1. The Private Secretary to the Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission, Meghalaya, Shillong kind information of the Chairman.
2. The Private Secretary to the Co- Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Co-Chairman.
3. The Private Secretary to the Deputy Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Deputy-Chairman.
4. All Members of the State Development Reforms Commission (both official & non-official) for kind information.
5. The Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
6. The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Public Health Department for kind information and necessary action.
7. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Public Health Engineering Department for kind information and necessary action.
8. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Programme Implementation Department for kind information.
9. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Transport Department for kind information and necessary action.
10. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Mining & Geology Department for kind information and necessary action.
11. The Chairman, State Pollution Control Board, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
12. The Commissioner of Transport, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
13. The Deputy Commissioner of Transport, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
14. The Director, Mineral Resources (DMR) Meghalaya, Shillong.
15. The Director, Urban Affairs Department Meghalaya, Shillong.
16. The Chief Public Health Engineer, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information.

By Order Etc.,

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17/6/05

(P.S.Thangkhiew)

Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
& Member-Secretary,
State Development Reforms Commission

List of Members and Officers present.

1. Shri E.K. Mawlong, Chairman, SDRC.
2. Shri K.K. Dkhar, Co-Chairman, SDRC.
3. Shri. D.N.Joshi, Deputy Chairman, SDRC.
4. Smti. S. Khonglah, Deputy Chairman, SDRC.
5. Shri F.B. Lyngdoh, Member, SDRC.
6. Shri M. Tympuin, Member, SDRC.
7. Shri P.S.Thangkhiew, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary and Member Secretary, SDRC.
8. Shri C.D. Kynjing, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, PHE.
9. Shri P.W. Ingty, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Transport.
10. Shri Pankaj Jain, IAS, Secretary, PID.
11. Shri B.K. Panda, Director, Urban Affairs.
12. Shri S.K. Sen, Director, DMR
13. Shri M. Kharmujai, Commissioner of Transport.
14. Shri P.J. Sawian, Deputy Commissioner of Transport.
15. Shri A. Biswa, Chairman-cum-Member Secretary, MSPCB.
16. Dr. S.C. Katiyar, Senior Scientist, MSPCB, Shillong.
17. Shri W.R. Kharkrang, Environment Engineer, MSPCB.