

MINUTES OF STATE DEVELOPMENT REFORMS COMMISSION (SDRC) MEETING HELD ON 02-12-2004 AT 11.00 A.M IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF RAITONG BUILDING

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 this meeting had been called specially to chalk out the strategy for convening of the Pollution Control Conference, and pointed out the issues that emerged from the last Meeting relating to the unscientific mining of coal in Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills District, for which a detailed discussion with Mining & Geology Department, State Pollution Control Board and others was thought necessary. He said that serious thought should be given to hazardous effects of coal mining on water, air, paddy field/ agricultural land and particularly on the general health of the people. He said that it was the duty of the educated class and the persons in power to educate the common people about hazards of uncontrolled mining .

He then requested D.M.R. to give a brief on the ongoing coal mining activities in the state. D.M.R. outlined that mining had been carrying on for the last 30 years. About 30-40 million tonnes had been extracted so far as per his departmental records. Since there was no proper leases issued, as the mining was not officially sanctioned, the figures were based on transportation loads. The main coal belt comprised of about 29 sq km covering Bapung, Tooksie, Khliehriat and other areas. In Garo Hills, it was mostly in East Garo Hills District. Causes of pollution were

1. Unscientific mining
2. No effluent control measures
3. Ignorance of miners

He informed that the S.P.C.B. had tested the waters in the above area and Ph levels were 3 and below.

On their part Geology and Mining Department had conducted some training of miners programme. They had proposed a public awareness campaign and had recently submitted a scheme for training and orientation of miners.

Shri M. Suchiang, Co-Chairman, SDRC in his remarks said that public awareness campaign is the only way that should be conducted in the coal mining areas of Jaintia Hills & Garo Hills. The people should be educated on the detrimental effect of primitive method of mining on the general health of the people. In this regard it was felt necessary that MSPCB, Health Department together with Mining & Geology Department should jointly take up the matter of organizing awareness programme in the coal mining areas of the ill effect of primitive/unscientific method of coal mining. It was felt necessary that the awareness programme would be more effective if Health Department could collect data /reports from Hospitals etc of the number of people/patients suffered from coal mining related diseases. The Chairman of SDRC was also of the view that all public leaders like local MLAs, MDCs, Rangbah Shnong etc. of the coal mining areas should be involved in the awareness campaign/programme.

The MSPCB representative also felt that the problem of primitive method of coal mining is more serious than it appears and suggested that the important thing is to evolve a new scientific method of coal mining and in this regard the Mining & Geology Department is required to play a major role in this regard by strengthening the demonstration cum training programme etc.

It was informed that the SPB had earlier made the following recommendations to Government.

1. Public awareness campaign.
2. Inventory of mine owners.
3. Enforce suitable legislation.
4. Engaging consultants for finding out modern methods.

Identify suitable locations for dumping of coal so that runoff of water is controlled.

After detailed discussion by the members and officials present, the following decisions /action points were taken:-

a. SDRC to write to Health Department on the following issues:

- Medical teams to be deputed to all coal mining areas in the state.
- Collate and compile health statistics on coal mining areas.
- Identify the incidence of recurring illnesses

This information could then be presented academically in the Conference and recommendations forwarded to Govt for their necessary action.

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Shillong and Geology Department to obtain access to technical know-how for modernizing coal mining in the state by interacting with Indian School of Mines to provide services for mining plans.  
c. A conference will be organized sometimes in the month of March 2005 after Assembly Session.  
d. A Committee will be constituted to recommend solution/suggestion of controlling pollution in the coming Conference with the following as Members:-

- |   |  |       |   |
|---|--|-------|---|
| 1 | Chairman                               | -     | Shri M. Suchiang, MLA, Co-Chairman of SDRC  |
| 2 | Deputy<br>Chairman                     | -     | Mrs. S. Khonglah, Deputy Chairman of SDRC   |
| 3 | Members                                | (i)   | Shri F.B. Lyngdoh, Member, SDRC   |
|   |  | (ii)  | Mrs. S.R. Marak, Member, SDRC   |
|   |  | (iii) | Representative from Industries, DMR, Health & Family Welfare, MSPCB, PHE, Transport, Power (MeSEB), Forest Environment etc. |
| 4 | Convener<br>cum<br>Member<br>Secretary |       | Commissioner & Secretary of PID and Member Secretary SDRC/ Secretary PID  |


d(1). The Committee will chalk out the terms of reference and work out modalities/requirements for organising the Conference and to identify resource persons from North Eastern Hill University etc. and to request them to submit papers/issues to be placed before the Conference.

D(2) Where necessary, sub committees would be suggested for chalking out logistical requirements, publicity, venue, P.R. etc.

4. in the meantime, the MSPCB, Health Department and DMR to jointly coordinate on the matter of combating controlling the ill effects of primitive/unscientific method of coal mining by organizing awareness programme, demonstration cum training etc in Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills Districts as the Committee felt that the departments were not synergising on their common objectives.

5. The Commission also decided to undertake a field visit of the Industrial Estate at Barapani on 10-12-04. The Industries Department and SPCB will accompany with all the relevant information/reports. Industries Department will also make all necessary arrangements in the MeSEB I.B, Barapani.

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

  
(E.K. Mawlong)  
Chairman,

State Development Reforms Commission.

Memo No. SDRC. 3/2003-113-H

Dated Shillong, the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004

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 Private Secretary to the Additional Chief Secretary i/c Industries Department / Forests & Environment Department for kind information and necessary action of the Additional Chief Secretary.

(X)

ANNEXURE-I

List of Members and Officers present.

1. Shri E.K. Mawlong, Chairman, SDRC.
2. Shri M. Suchiang, Co-Chairman, SDRC.
3. Smti. S. Khonglah, Deputy Chairman, SDRC.
4. Shri. D.N.Joshi, Deputy Chairman, SDRC.
5. Shri M. Tympuin, Member, SDRC.
6. Shri F.B. Lyngdoh, Member, SDRC.
7. Shri M.D. Sangma, Member, SDRC.
8. Smti. S.R. Marak, Member, SDRC.
9. Shri P.S.Thangkhiew, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary and Member Secretary, SDRC.
10. Shri S.F. Khongwir, Addl. Secy, PHE & Power Department.
11. Shri A. Biswa, Chairman-cum-Member Secretary, MSPCB.
12. Shri Subhash Ashutosh, Conservator of Forests.
13. Dr. S.C. Katiyar, Scientist, MSPCB, Shillong.
14. Shri W.R.Kharkrang, Environment Engineer, MSPCB.
15. Shri J.H. Nengnong, Environment Engineer, MSPCB.
16. Shri S.K. Sen, Director of Mineral Resources (DMR).
17. Shri S.B. Gurung, Director, Industries Department.
18. Shri T.K.Chakraborty, Deputy Director, Industries Department.
19. Shri P.L.Nongbri, SRO, PID.
20. Smti. C.Tariang, RO, PID.
21. Shri D.S.Kharpan, ARO, PID.