

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE DEVELOPMENT REFORMS COMMISSION HELD ON 30-07-2007 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF MEGHALAYA SECRETARIAT, RILANG BUILDING AT 11.00 A.M..**

The list of Members and Officers who attended the Meeting is at Annexure – I.

The meeting was chaired by Shri E.K. Mawlong, Chairman of the State Development Reforms Commission. At the very outset, the Chairman welcomed all members present especially the new Vice-Chairmen and also the Officials who attended this Meeting of the Commission. He recalled the deliberations of the last meeting which was held on 28-06-2007 chaired by Shri M. Suchiang, Co-chairman of SDRC in which the Commission approved the proceedings and recommendations of the Workshop on pollution. The report of the workshop is under printing. As soon as it is printed, the report will be circulated to all members and submitted to the Government. As far as field visit to the Industrial areas is concerned, members were requested to get in touch with Shri M.Suchiang, Co-Chairman for finalizing the date. Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Government for announcing this year 2007 as the year of the farmers. This had been initiated previously by the Chairman himself when he was Chief Minister but the initiative got disrupted when he ceased to be Chief Minister. Now he was happy that the Government is doing it again.

**Points of discussions taken up in the Meeting:**

1. Problems of educated un-employed: Chairman stated in the meeting that Ministers have been going here and there to invite investors to come and invest in our State especially in the field of Industries and Information Technology to generate employment in these sectors. However, he felt that we should be much more concerned about the rural economy also. The people engaged in agriculture, horticulture, veterinary and fisheries constitute about 65% to 70% of the work force. There is, therefore, an urgent need to see if the present policies had produced the desired results and how to improve the overall scenario especially in the context of globalization whose effect is bound to be felt sooner or later.

Chairman also informed in the meeting that during his tenure as Chief Minister a lot of attention was given to Dairy farming. At that time there was a problem with settlement of bills of milk suppliers which affected procurement and distribution. The Department has solved that problem now. He also said that Amul is worth emulating and that diversification of the range of products should take place. Discussion on other reforms and new initiatives are, therefore

needed. Coming to agriculture, he noted with satisfaction that power tillers are supplied to the farmers @ Rs.45,000/- . The Commission should come up with suggestions on what more could be done for farmers for overall improvement of the sector. He called upon members to give their views on these matters.

2. Shri S.G.Momin, Vice-Chairman, informed that there is a big marketing problem in Garo Hills for the agricultural produce like ginger, cashew nut, turmeric, pineapples etc., Problems of marketing have therefore, to be seriously looked into by the Department so that it will help the farmers in this year of the farmers. The Chairman informed that in Umroi also ginger grows very well but it cannot fetch a good price. In the absence of better market facilities for the farmers both within and outside the State or even outside the country, there is no future for the farmers.

3. Animal Husbandry & Veterinary : Shri P. Naik, Commissioner & Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department informed that the Government has conducted a workshop for tackling bird flu. Government is, therefore, prepared to face the problem if it occurs in the State. Committees and Task Forces have already been set up by the Department. But at present there is no case of bird flu diseases in Meghalaya. If culling has to be done, compensation will be paid to the farmers with Government of India assistance of up to 50%. Joint Director informed that all District Officers have been trained to tackle the bird flu and four doctors have gone to Manipur for acquiring first-hand experience in combating the problem. Commissioner & Secretary also informed that the Department has proposed to produce swine fever vaccine within the State itself. A Biological Centre for Animal Husbandry & Veterinary is being set up with NEC funding. He also suggested that the entire infrastructure in the State should be vastly improved; for example, good roads and communication etc. to connect with growing area and provision of adequate power, water supply, education, health and sanitation. Regarding employment generation in the sector, Commissioner & Secretary informed that the Department is implementing a self – employment scheme on poultry farming in which subsidy is given to the farmers. The Department has also conducted awareness programme and taken up coordination activities for the beneficiaries. As far as requirement of budgetary resources is concerned, the Veterinary sector needed Rs. 20 cr. during the current year but it got only Rs. 16 cr. And out of this, Rs. 4 cr is earmarked for dairy farming. There has been a shortage of medicines for swine fever but the Department will tide over that problem shortly.

4. Shri M.Suchiang, Co-Chairman informed that in his constituency 300 birds died recently in-spite of vaccination. He therefore wondered whether the vaccine was spurious. Joint Director

said that the matter had not been brought to the notice of the Department. The Department has to be informed so that investigation team will be sent immediately to assess the situation. He also agreed that there is a swine fever but not in poultry.

5. Shri D.N.Joshi, Deputy Chairman said that the quality of milk which used to be very good has now deteriorated. Director informed that cream percentage as well as milk density goes down after pasteurisation. However, Commissioner & Secretary informed that our people also do not like to take milk and that he has taken up this issue with the Health Department.

Chairman agreed that better infrastructure like good roads and communication etc. are urgently needed in our State. Regarding shortage of vaccine and high cost of feed, these will be discussed in detail in the sub-committees/sub-groups.

6. Agriculture: Shri P. Kharkongor, Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture and Fisheries Departments informed the Commission that the Agriculture Department had all along been employing a supply-driven strategy. That has been changed now and it is now the cultivators who have to come forward and tell the Department what they want from it. The Department has organized workshops in all the 39 Blocks and invited interested farmers to tell their specific needs from the Department. The Department has also introduced an element of competition among farmers by declaring the best managed farms and orchards as centres of excellence which entitle them for more inputs. The Department is, however, concentrating more on major crops. Supply of inputs is now at the farmers' doorsteps and transport cost has been factored in. The Department supplies necessary inputs per farmers' indents. Farmers will also be taken on exposure trips outside the State. The Department will organize Power Tiller melas in 4 or 5 more places in the State. Commissioner & Secretary informed that the Department is giving 50% subsidy on fertilizers and pesticide.

The Commissioner & Secretary also informed that Boro paddy will be introduced in the plain areas. Boro paddy is an important breakthrough for the farmers. There are clusters in every District for demonstration. The tools and seeds will be supplied at the door steps of the farmers. The Department is also encouraging the farmers to replace the seeds with High Yield Varieties in order to increase their productivity and total output. Technology also changed from broadcasting to transplanting and newer techniques. Yields in demonstration plots are about 5 to 6 tonnes. The Department also has a special maize scheme in which it is giving inputs to farmers who then supply their entire produce to the feed mills. If feed-mills get their supply of maize

from within State, the cost of feed will appreciably come down. Chairman suggested that we should encourage the people to grow maize thrice a year.

7. Horticulture: It is noted that the farmers have no holding capacity. The Department has come up with a master plan to set up chains of cold storage facilities especially for those perishable fruits such as pineapple, pears, plump etc. in areas adjoining Jowai, Shillong, Byrnihat and in Garo Hills. Smaller storages in other areas as well are being taken up in order to encourage growing of exotic Crops. We must encourage people to capitalise on new opportunities like floriculture whose produce have low volume but high value. Flowers are even now being exported to London and Dubai and this is bound to generate substantial employment avenues.

Organic Food : Farmers should be encouraged to produce organic food. Organic food has to be certified by internationally recognized certifying agencies. It may, however, take 3 to 4 years for the produce to get itself established in the international market. The Commissioner & Secretary is confident that by the end of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, the State will be in a position to supply organic foods.

8. Minor Irrigation: The Department will be providing rain-water harvesting structure so that during dry season like winter, water will be available to the farmers.

9. Processing : There are cottage scale processing activities in many areas. Commissioner & Secretary also informed that packaging is not that good. Bottling and labelling must look attractive to the customers. People usually prefer to purchase the products of companies from outside because the packaging is better. Quality considerations are sometimes relegated to second place while purchasing even food products.

10. Fisheries: The Commissioner & Secretary informed that workshops have been held in all the Blocks. FFDA scheme are being implemented in private hatcheries also with the intention of bringing down the cost of fish seed and lessening the problem of acclimatization, etc., The Department is currently implementing the 1000 - Ponds scheme with an outlay of Rs. 3 lakh/ha. Shri S.G. Momin suggested to the Department that with the implementation of NREGS; many more ponds should be dug out. Commissioner & Secretary informed that the Department is encouraging private hatcheries to dig out more ponds and increase production.

The Chairman suggested that all fish ponds should be provided with all inputs and then given to the farmers after making them fully functional. He also stated that farmers need immediate cash for which the Department should look into the marketing aspect so that the fishes are sold at remunerative prices.

Chairman suggested that sub-committees should be formed with the following members whose reports should be compiled by the end of October, 2007.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Names of Group members</b>	<b>Name of Department</b>
1	(i) Shri M.Suchiang, MLA Co-Chairman, (ii) Shri M.Tyngpuin, Member	Agriculture Department including Minor Irrigation
2	(i) Shri K.K.Dkhar, MLA Co-Chairman, (ii) Smti. S.Khonglah, Deputy Chairman,	Horticulture Department
3	(i) Shri S.G.Momin Vice.Chairman (ii) Shri M.D. Sangma, Member (iii) Smti. S.R.Marak, Member	Fisheries Department
4	(i) Shri.A.Lyngdoh, Vice.Chairman (ii) Shri F.B.Lyngdoh, Member (iii) Shri W.G.M. Philip, Member	Veterinary Department
5	(i) Shri E.K.Mawlong, Chairman, (ii) Shri D.N.Joshi, Deputy Chairman	Dairy Department

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

Sd/- E.K.Mawlong  
24-08-07  
Chairman,  
State Development Reforms Commission

Copy for kind information and necessary action to :-

1. P.S.to Shri E.K.Mawlong, Co-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Chairman.
2. P.S.to Shri M.Suchiang, Co-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Co-Chairman.
3. P.S.to Shri K.K.Dkhar ,Co-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Co-Chairman .
4. P.S. to Shri D.N.Joshi, Deputy Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Deputy Chairman.
5. P.S.to Smti S.Khonglah, Deputy Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of Deputy Chairman.
6. P.S.to Shri S.G.Momin, Vice-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Vice-Chairman.
7. P.S.to Shri A.Lyngdoh, Vice-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission for kind information of the Vice-Chairman.
8. Shri M.Tyngpuin, Member, State Development Reforms Commission for information.
9. Shri M.D.Sangma, Member, State Development Reforms Commission for information.
10. Shri F.B.Lyngdoh, Member, State Development Reforms Commission for information.
11. Shri W.G.M. Phillip, Member, State Development Reforms Commission for information.
12. Shri S.R. Marak, Member, State Development Reforms Commission for information.
13. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Animal Husbandry & Vety. Department for information.
14. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Programme Implementation Department for information.
15. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Agriculture/Fisheries Department for information.
16. Smti. R. Laloo, Planning Officer & Ex-officio Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Planning(R) Department for information.
17. Smti. D.T. Kharshiing, Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Finance (EA) Department for information.
18. Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
19. Director of Agriculture, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
20. Director of Fisheries, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
21. Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.
22. Director of Horticulture, Meghalaya, Shillong for information.

Sd/-

(W.Synrem)

Officer on Special Duty to the Govt. of Meghalaya,  
Programme Implementation & Evaluation Department  
& Member Secretary, State Development Reforms Commission.

## ANNEXURE - I

List of Officers/Members present in the Meeting of the State Development Reforms Commission held on the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 in the Conference Room of Meghalaya Secretariat, Rilang Building

Sl.No.	Name & Designation
1	Shri E.K.Mawlong, Chairman, SDRC
2	Shri M.Suciang, Co-Chairman, SDRC
3	Shri D.N.Joshi, Deputy Chairman, SDRC
4	Smti. S. Khonglah, Deputy Chairman, SDRC
5	Smti.Skylance G.Momin, Vice-Chairman, SDRC
6	Shri Anthony Lyngdoh, Vice-Chairman, SDRC
7	Shri F.B.Lyngdoh, Non-Official Member, SDRC
8	Shri M.D.Sangma, Non-Official Member, SDRC
9	Shri M.Tympuin, Non-Official Member, SDRC
10	Shri P.Naik IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department
11	Shri P.Kharkongor IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture Department
12	Dr.D.Khonglah, Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary
13	Dr .D.Lyngdoh, Joint Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary
14	Shri A.F.Syiem, Fishery, Information Officer,
15	Smti. D.T. Kharshiing, Deputy Secretary, Finance (EA) Department
16	Shri A.D.Kynjing, Director, Agriculture
17	Shri P.S.Lyngdoh, Chief Engineer (Irrigation)
18	Shri L.Marbaniang, Secretary, Marketing Board
19	Shri S. Rahman, Director, Horticulture
20	Smti R.Laloo, S.O. & Ex-officio Under Secretary, Planning (R) Department.

