

MINUTES OF THE STATE DEVELOPMENT REFORMS COMMISSION (SDRC) MEETING HELD ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2003 AT 11.00 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE HALL OF MAIN SECRETARIAT, SHILLONG.

The list of participants is as at Annexure I.

The meeting was presided over by Shri E.K. Mawlong, Co-Chairman, SDRC who welcomed all the members and officers present and explained the issues that emerged from the last meeting with Industries Department. Among the various issues discussed, there were those relating to environmental protection, pollution control and investment subsidies for which a detailed discussion with the Forest & Environment Department, PHE Department/ State Pollution Control Board and the NEC Consultant on Industries was thought necessary so that necessary clarifications and suggestions could be obtained from their side. The Co-Chairman also reminded the Industries Department to furnish to him the list of industries, the employees profile and the industry-wise subsidies granted with necessary details. He also said that he has been receiving lots of complaints about polluting industries not only in the EPIP, Bynihat but also in other industrial areas like the one in Umiam Khwan. Considering the fact that a cement plant on the one hand and an electronic industry, a food industry and a mineral water bottling plant on the other hand are located in the same industrial area, he was wondering whether permissions were granted without actual site inspections and without full examination of implications. He also requested the NEC Consultant on Industries to furnish him with further details on the NEC schemes relating to promotion of industries. (Action: Industries Department & NEC).

Responding to certain points made by the Co-Chairman, the Commissioner & Secretary, Industries Department stressed on the urgent need for rationalization of all existing capital subsidy schemes since there is no bar as of now to industrial units to avail of subsidies from all the three sources. The Director of Industries also informed the Co-Chairman that the information desired by him were being supplied within one week while a co-ordination meeting with the Meghalaya Urban Development Authority, the Shillong Municipal Board, the District Councils and the State Pollution Control Board had already been convened by him on the 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2003.

Participating in the deliberations, the NEC Consultant on Industries informed the meeting that the obtaining of subsidies from multiple sources is not presently barred under the NEC guidelines. He also defended this policy of the NEC by saying that many industries failed in the North East due to their inability to service term loans and interest thereon. However, now that interest rate has come down significantly and is likely to remain so for at least the coming few years, there may be a need to think about rationalization. 22 (twenty-two) units from Meghalaya have been granted capital subsidies by the NEC and the total amount involved was Rs.2.72 crores. While sanctioning assistance under the scheme, the NEC is now giving more importance to areas/ fields in which the region has more competitive edge. Since the cost of bringing raw materials from outside the region also offsets all subsidies, the NEC is now thinking of encouraging more industries utilizing more and more of locally available raw materials like hide and skin, bamboo, medicinal plants and so on.

Coming to control of industrial pollution, the Chairman, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) informed the meeting that no polluting industry is allowed to start operation unless and until specified pollution control devices are installed. Action is also promptly taken whenever specific cases of violation of anti-pollution laws are brought to the notice of the Board. The meeting was also informed that as of now there is no laid down policy to prohibit certain types of industries to be located in certain areas but the Chairman, SPCB felt that this was a welcome suggestion that should be looked into by the Government since it would be definitely helpful in safeguarding the environmental health. Shri E.K. Mawlong requested the Industries Department to look into the possibility of ensuring that certain industrial areas are absolutely pollution-free so that agro-based and food industries can be set up under better and cleaner physical environment. It was also suggested that SPCB should come up at the earliest with a zoning atlas to indicate which industries can be set up where with a view to minimizing pollution.

(Action: Industries Department & SPCB).

The Chief Secretary, Shri J. Tayeng, IAS desired that the State Pollution Control Board should come up with an impact study on Spencer Bread and on the drinking water plant located in the Barapani Industrial Area due to the location of a cement plant in the same industrial area. While the emission norms might have been adhered to by the cement plant, its effects on the bread and water being produced there in the vicinity have to

studied. The Chairman, SPCB has agreed to carry out tests on the bread and water immediately and come up with a report by the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2004. Shri Mawlong also wanted Industries Department to organize a joint visit to this industrial area within the middle of January 2004.

**(Action: SPCB & Industries Department).**

Shri D.N. Joshi, Deputy Chairman, SDRC expressed grave concern over theft of power and the unemployment problem which has not abated even after he coming up of bigger industrial units in areas like Byrnihat. He wanted Industries Department to find out why locals are not employed in desired number despite everything said in the Industrial Policy. The Co-Chairman said that MeSEB should be called to the next meeting of the Commission after receipt of the SPCB report.

**(Action: Industries Department & MeSEB).**

The Chief Secretary also directed the Industries Department to incorporate in the new Industrial Policy all interim suggestions received so far from interactions with this Commission and to forward them direct to the Cabinet under intimation to the State Development Reforms Commission.

**(Action: Industries Department).**

While concluding the meeting, the Co-Chairman, Shri E.K. Mawlong desired that the Industries Department, the NEC and the SPCB should submit to him all the necessary details including pollution control guidelines so that the Commission can further deliberate on these matters before it can formulate its final views thereon and place them before the Government.


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

  
(E.K. Mawlong)

Co-Chairman,  
State Development Reforms Commission.

Copy to:-

1. The Private Secretary to the Co-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of the Hon'ble Co-Chairman.
2. The Private Secretary to the Deputy-Chairman, State Development Reforms Commission, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of the Hon'ble Deputy-Chairman.
3. The Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Govt.of Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information of the Chief Secretary.
4. The Private Secretary to the Additional Chief Secretary, to the Govt.of Meghalaya, i/c PID/ Finance Department/ Planning Department for kind information of the Additional Chief Secretary.
5. The Private Secretary to the Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt.of Meghalaya i/c Industries Department/ Forest & Environment Department for kind information of the Additional Chief Secretary.
6. All members of the State Development Reforms Commission for kind information and necessary action.
7. The Secretary, North Eastern Council, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
8. The Consultant (Industries), NEC Secretariat, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
9. The Principal Secretary to the Govt.of Meghalaya, Public Health Engineering Department for kind information and necessary action.
10. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Industries Department for kind information and necessary action.
11. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
12. The Chief Public Health Engineer, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
13. The Director of Industries, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
14. The Chairman, State Pollution Control Board, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.

  
(W. Synrem),  
Officer on Special Duty to the Govt.of Meghalaya &  
Member Secretary,  
State Development Reforms Commission