Reconstruction of Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses (REDRH) Project Departmental Coordination Meeting

5th August, 2013, RM&DD head office

A coordination meeting was held in RM&DD head office under the chairmanship of Shri D. R. Nepal, Secretary RM&DD to sort out the various issues pertaining to freezing of beneficiaries for REDRH Project which is funded under the PM's Special Relief Package for Sikkim. The meeting was attended by , Shri G.T.Dhungel, Chief Engineer, RMDD, ADC (North) Shri Chewang Gyatchho, ADC (Chungthang) Shri Tenzing Kaleon, ADC (East) Shri A.B.Karki , ADC (Pakyong) Smt Roshni Rai, ADC (West) Shri S.T.Tamang, ADC South , Smt. Benu Guring , ADC (Ravangla) Shri Tashi Choppel, and Jt Secy (MGNREGA).

At the outset, the Secretary informed the meeting that the progress of REDRH houses has been below satisfactory and all the districts must give utmost priority to ensure that the project is completed in time. Further he assured them that if there are any issues and problems that have arisen during the implementation of the REDRH project the ADC's the same should be brought to his notice and would be resolved instantaneously. He then asked the districts to submit the status of implementation in their respective areas.

1. Status of REDRH project in South district:

The ADC (South) informed that the South District has identified total number of beneficiaries allotted to the district i.e. 911 numbers. Total number of houses completed as per MIS was 156 out of which 58 have been handed over to the beneficiaries. The reason for slight delay was because of the inconsistent supply of material in May June. However, lately the supplies have picked up and the houses are progressing in full swing. The ADC (South) also informed that a lot of genuine cases of people whose houses were damaged in the earthquake of 18th September, 20122, have been left out in the South District due to restricted number of 911 houses. She requested that if more houses could be allotted to the South District then justice would be done for the victims of the Earthquake.

2. Status of REDRH project in West district:

The ADC (South) informed that the West District has identified total number of beneficiaries allotted to the district i.e. 1477 numbers. Total number of houses completed as per MIS was

88 out of which 43 have been handed over to the beneficiaries. The reason for delay was due to irregular supply of raw material in May June. However, lately the supplies seem to have picked up. However, supply has still not been adequate enough Further in blocks like Yuksom and Soreng that have 424 and 395 houses to be constructed, the progress has been very very slow mainly due to lack of adequate number of engineers in the ground leve and frequent transfers of the field functionaries.

The ADC (West) also reiterated the submission of the South District wherein he informed that a lot of genuine cases of people whose houses were damaged in the earthquake of 18th September, 20122, have been left out in the West District due to restricted number of 1477 houses. He requested that head office may like to consider allotment of additional number of houses to the West District also.

3. Status of REDRH project in East district:

The ADC (East) informed that the East District has identified total number of 2291 beneficiaries as against 2596 houses allotted to the district. Total number of houses completed as per MIS was 100 out of which 34 have been handed over to the beneficiaries. The reason for delay was due to inconsistent supply of raw material in May June & July. Lately the supplies seem to have picked up, however, it is still not adequate enough. Further ADC (east) has also in blocks like Regoh, Rakdong Tintek, Martam and Gangtom the number of houses to be constructed is more than 250, and since only one JE is posted in the blocks the progress has been very very slow. In view of the same he has requested that the number of JEs in blocks where houses to be constructed is more than 250 be augmented adequately. Further approval may be accorded to allot some of the remaining houses to genuine cases falling in the outskirts of the municipal areas. Since time was running out probably the head office should reallocate around 175 houses from the East District pool for other districts.

4. Status of REDRH project in North district:

The ADC (North) informed that the North District has identified total number of 1937 beneficiaries as against 2988 houses allotted to the district. Total number of houses completed as per MIS was 30 out of which 10 have been handed over to the beneficiaries. He submitted that the target per Block level team is substantially higher compared to the other districts, which has hamper the timely completion of the project, especially since North is also very prone to natural disasters and corresponding working season is lower. Therefore he requested

that the existing technical team of JEs in the Blocks be adequately augmented so that we reach the level of 1 JE per GPU, which will facilitate and accelerate the implementation of this project. For this, there is a need to post 15 JEs in additional to the existing JEs to the North District to meet the deadlines. Further in the month of may - June, the supply had almost stopped which further hampered the implementation of the project. However, lately the supplies has picked up. He also submitted that since time was running out and North District had almost saturated allotment of houses to genuine beneficiaries probably the head office could freeze the houses for North at 2000 number and the remaining 988 be reallocated to genuine victims of other districts.

In conclusion the Secretary informed the meeting that both the SIMFED and STCS would be requested to gear up the supplies of raw materials for all the districts. The requirement of JEs in the blocks that have more than 300 houses had already been posed in the coordination meeting with the Chief Secretary held on the 23rd of July, 2013 and follow up action would be taken immediately. With the recruitment of JEs the problem would sort out . Further approval of the Government would be sought to:

Transfer the surplus physical target of 1,163 houses from the North and East districts to the eligible households of South and West districts

· Approval to take up reconstruction of eligible households in rural pockets in the outskirt of urban areas

\$ hewang Gyachho ADC (North)

A.B.Karki ADC (East)

Roshni Rai ABC (Pakyong)

D.R.Nepal Secretary - RMDD

> Benu Gurung ADC(South

S.T.Tamang

ADC (West)

Tashi Choppel ADC (Ravangla)

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