



**RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
GANGTOK**

**No: 275/RM&DD/M**

**Dated: 26 /02/ 2013**

To,

Shri P.D. Rai,  
Hon'ble Member of Parliament  
(Lok Sabha)

**Sub: Minutes of the Meeting of the State Level Vigilance & Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at Conference Hall of Secretariat, Development Area.**

Sir,

Enclosed please find herewith the Minutes of the Meeting of held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at Conference Hall of Secretariat, Development Area, Gangtok for favour of your kind perusal and information.

Thanking You

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D.R. Nepal', written over a horizontal line.

(D.R Nepal)  
Secretary, RM&DD

**Enclosed: As above**

# STATE LEVEL VIGILANCE AND MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING

15<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, Gangtok

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The second meeting of the State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee for 2012-2013 was held on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 at Conference Hall of New Secretariat. It was chaired by Shri. C. B Karki, Hon'ble Minister- Rural Management and Development Department and attended by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) - Shri. P. D. Rai, MLAs of Daramdin and Lanchen-Mangan, Non-official members- Shri. Kunga Nima Lepcha, Shri. Acharya Lama and Shri Yuva Raj Rai, Commissioner –cum- Secretary FRED, Commissioner –cum- Secretary DPER&NECAD, and Secretaries/Representatives from AHLF&VSD, Forest Env. and Wildlife Management Department Social Justice, Energy and Power, RM&DD, Roads and Bridges, PHED, IFCD, officials of various departments and representatives of NGOs.

The meeting commenced with the welcome address by the Secretary, RM&DD followed by opening remarks by the Hon'ble Minister RM&DD. The HM RM&DD appraised the house on the various milestones achieved by the Government in areas of rural connectivity, electrification, sanitation, rural housing, rural employment and so on. The Government is working in mission mode towards achieving Kutcha House Free Status by 2015 through the Chief Minister's Rural Housing Mission (CMRHM) and Reconstruction of the Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses (REDRH) being implemented by the RM&DD. Further, he also announced that the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is soon to be implemented as flagship programme at Dzongu Block in the North District and Reghu and Khamdong Blocks in the East District.

### **The Action Taken Report was discussed and the following observations were given:**

1. With regard to the monthly disbursement of Old Age Pension, the Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department reported the non availability of 33% of CSS fund, which most of the time is released late and have to get concurrence from FRED and DPER&NECA Departments. It was also reported that the OAP has been disbursed by the Department to the Blocks till June 2012 and awaiting funds from the GOI. However, it has come to their knowledge that the few of the Block Development Officers have not disbursed the OAP even till June 2012.

The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) directed that the Department make serious effort to work towards payment of OAP every two months and then on monthly basis. He also informed that in the next three months ADHAR could also resolve the problem to some extent. With regard to requisition of additional staff for disbursement of OAP, it was suggested that survey could be conducted and additional staff be deployed.

2. The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) expressed his concern regarding the North District being digitally marginalised. As a result the district has become operationally highly inefficient. No productive action seems to have been taken either by the IT Department or the BSNL to improve the connectivity in the North district in-spite of repeated discussion in the SLV&M meetings.

The IT Department informed that they were facing various land issue problems which are to be resolved and also a case has been registered against the BSNL regarding the harmful effects of the microwaves from the towers.

The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) directed the Department to submit the Action Taken Report within three months regarding the status of the impediments mentioned by the Department.

The ATR discussion was then followed by the presentations on Integrated Watershed Development (IWDP) under DPAP, DDP (Hariyali) by the Forest Env. and Wildlife Management Department, Computerization and Modernization and Land Records Scheme by LR&DMD, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme by SJE&WD, Internet Connectivity to Blocks and GPUs by IT Department, RGGVY by Energy and Power Department and Centrally Sponsored Schemes by RM&DD.

The following observations/ decisions were made during the course of discussions:

### **FOREST ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

1. As the Department had number of success stories to project under the IWMP Scheme, the details of Entry Point Activities (EPAs) are to be provided to the concerned area MLAs, so that they can give proper inputs regarding the needs of their area as most of them are still not aware of such EPAs under IWDP. They will also be able to give proper guidance to their people.
2. The Department informed that all activities under IWDP can be accessed by any individual in their web portals- slnasikkim.org and iwmpmis.nic.in. The Ministry, GOI also monitors the progress/ success of the EPAs through the GPS coordinates provided in the web portal of the Department.
3. The Cabinet had approved the waiving off of payment of royalty of forest products (stone, sand, timber etc) for the beneficiaries of CMRHM and REDRH. Despite the relaxation, it has been reported that the beneficiaries are still paying the royalty. Hence, the Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) has directed the PCCF to look into the matter and waive off the forest royalty under CMRHM and REDRH at the earliest as approved by the Government.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

1. The Department is to increase the publicity of not only the IGNOAPS but also other welfare schemes under it so that more beneficiaries are covered.
2. Any correspondence with the Block Development Officers must be intimated to the Head Office, RM&DD and also the concerned office of the ADC (Dev) to ensure compliance of the same.

**LAND REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT** – No specific issues.

## **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

1. The ADC (Dev) North informed with regret that all accounts with the State Bank of India in the North District is being closed down due to poor internet connectivity and link problems causing innumerable hardships to the local people. This in itself is a matter of concern.
2. The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) emphasised that only district connectivity is not sufficient in this fast tech world. The Government policy to take the broadband connectivity to the Blocks, GPUs and finally to the Wards is crystal clear. However, no improvement has been observed in the past three years. The IT Department is to come up with a proposal to implement this Government policy on priority. Proper road map needs to be prepared done by the DIT to ensure that the backbone of development i.e internet connectivity reaches the Ward level. The road map should project not only the innovative ideas but all the problems/hindrances as well. The same is to be submitted to the Government on priority.
3. With reference to the case against BSNL regarding the negative effects of microwaves emitted by the towers, the IT Department is to make effective efforts to counsel the local people.

## **ENERGY AND POWER DEPARTMENT**

1. Shri. T. Wangdi, MLA (Mangan Lachen) informed that the distance between the electric posts that have been constructed is too wide which needs to be looked into by the Energy and Power Department.
2. The ADC (Dev) North also informed the house that the field officers of Energy and Power Department were not aware of the dovetailing of the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) with CMRHM and REDRH.
3. The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) directed the Department to ensure the dovetailing of RGGVY with CMRHM and REDRH and to ensure proper construction of the electric posts.
4. The Department is to intimate the dovetailing of the RGGVY with CMRHM and REDRH within 15 days to all their field officers. Further, they are also to collect the details of the beneficiaries of CMRHM and REDRH from the Districts within 15 days.
5. The Department is to carry out wider publicity of the Scheme to improve quality of rural electrification.
6. The GM BSNL needs to be invited to attend the next meeting of the SLV&M Committee.

## **RURAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

### **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**

- The Special Secretary (MGNREGA) appraised the house that there is 100% transfer of the wage component into the bank and post office accounts of the job card holders. Local materials are being purchased directly from the people and MPCS is being given priority for supply of stock materials, thereby empowering the local community.
- The system of Social Audit being conducted under MGNREGA is looked upon as a model by all the other states and has been appreciated by the GOI. Shri B. B. Rai Director, Social Audit Unit also appraised the house on the procedure being followed for conducting social audits in the state of Sikkim.
- Although the scheme is transparent, the Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) suggested that the material component may also be transferred from the BAC to the GPU level to empower the Gram Panchayats as is mandated by the MGNREG Act, 2005. Training on this may be given to the panchayats.

The Special Secretary informed that the GPs currently jointly manage the material component with the BACs, since the bills are released from the BACs on the basis of the Material Consumption Certificate provided by the Worksite Material Monitoring Committee which is headed by the concerned Ward Panchayat. Also, a clarification will be sought from MoRD on whether the MGNREG Act, 2005 makes it mandatory to transfer the material component to the GP level or not. Also, at the GP level, with no regular technical and accounts staff posted, it will be difficult for them to maintain accurate financial and technical records which are mandated under the SPWD Code and Sikkim Financial Rules. Transferring this function of management of the material component (which is sizeable) at the GP level without providing adequate functionaries, will negatively impact a well performing scheme.

- The Special Secretary also informed the house that the main problems being faced in implementing the scheme was in the MIS entry of the muster rolls due to poor internet connectivity especially in the North and West Districts. He also informed that the state share shortfall was affecting the central release, and may cause disruptions to the programme in the near future, unless urgent steps are taken to release the backlog in state share.

Hon'ble MP requested FRED to consider this flagship programme as a long term programme at the time of budgeting which will solve a lot of problems as far as fund is concerned.

### **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**

The Chief Engineer, RM&DD discussed some of the problems faced in the construction of the PMGSY roads:

- Maintenance of the constructed roads @ Rs.84,900/- per km sanctioned from the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for the year 2011-2012 is insufficient. Low maintenance cost has attracted criticism to the Department.

- Construction of PMGSY Phase VIII (Stage II) work of East district was put to tender six times, but no one participated in the bid. Now, once again the tender has been floated for the seventh time.
- The sanction cost per km for new connectivity under the Roads and Bridges Department is much higher compared to the sanctioned cost under PMGSY. In addition, the construction of major protective works and clearance of debris are not being agreed to by the Ministry as projected in the DPRs, for which the Department is pursuing the matter vigorously with the Ministry.
- Further, the Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) also directed that the Department pursue the matter with the Ministry on priority and settle the problem at the earliest. He also suggested that the Department resolve this long standing issue of higher construction costs in mountain terrain of the State as compared to other hilly states. The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) was also requested for his kind intervention at the appropriate forum.
- Land compensation gets delayed due to time consuming assessment procedures. Further, due to the low land compensation rate the land donors are willing to part only with the land located in the steep terrain.
- Shri. Kunga Nima Lepcha, Non-official Member suggested that the Department make it mandatory to seek for land stability reports from the Mines and Geology Department before initiating the construction of the roads. He also informed that some of the PMGSY roads are left incomplete which needs to be looked into by the Department. E.g. the Ranipool-Middle Syari road and the Thathangchen road.

### **Rural Water Supply Scheme (RWSS)**

- The Chief Engineer, RM&DD informed that the Jalmani program was to be taken up in 340 schools in Sikkim.
- He pointed out that the scattered habitation is one major problem leading to high cost.

The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) observed that the problem is an inbuilt fallacy and directed the department to make proper designs and DPRs for the various scattered habitations before laying the pipeline connections.

- Shri. Kunga Nima Lepcha, Non-official Member emphasised on creating awareness amongst the people at the village level itself to conserve water.

### **Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)**

- It was informed by the Secretary, RM&&DD that from 2013-2014, the per unit cost of the IAY house has been enhanced from Rs.48,500/- to Rs. 75,000/-.
- The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) was also pleased to inform the house that during the meeting of the Finance Commission with the Planning Commission in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February, 2013, the dovetailing of IAY with CMRHM was discussed and was highly appreciated.

## **Reconstruction of Earthquake Damaged Rural Houses (REDRH)**

- The Hon'ble MLA, Shri. T Wangdi expressed his concern regarding the delay of delivery of stock materials to the North District by STCS which has hampered the progress of the construction of the REDRH houses. After detailed deliberations, the house unanimously decided that RM&DD needs to explore the possibility of availing the services of SIMFED for supply of stock material under REDRH, to supplement the efforts of STCS, so as to ensure that this NC related activity does not get hampered especially since our working season is short. Also, SIMFED would need to supply the stock material on similar terms and conditions as have been framed for STCS. Shri C. B. Karki, Hon'ble Minister RM&DD directed RM&DD to initiate exploratory talks with SIMFED and submit a proposal for consideration of the Government at the earliest.

The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) also directed that STCS be asked to attend the next meeting of the SLV&M Committee.

## **ADHAR/UID**

The Hon'ble MP (Lok Sabha) enlightened the house regarding ADHAR being the Government of India Scheme under the Planning Commission. He also informed that there will be no duplication of the UID number and the ADHAR card will not be a replacement for Certificate of Identification. This will enable direct transfer of cash to the account of the beneficiaries especially of MGNREGA.

The meeting concluded with the following remarks from the Hon'ble Minister, RM&DD:

- All decisions taken during the meeting must be taken seriously and all works under the various departments must be done for the development of the poor.
- The various developmental schemes must be made easily available and accessible for the poor with high level of awareness and especially the BACs must play a vital role.
- The PMGSY damaged roads must be repaired with the existing fund available with the RM&DD and the same may be discussed in detail by all concerned.
- The IT Department and Energy and Power Department must be more proactive.
- All the departments are to provide the details of the schemes being implemented to the concerned area MLAs within 15 days to enhance proper implementation of the schemes.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by the Special Secretary, RM&DD and requested for full cooperation from all the Departments to take immediate action on all the issues discussed in the meeting.



**(D.R Nepal)**

**Secretary**

**Rural Management and Development Department**