

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEDC HELD ON 27th JULY 2005 IN
THE MAIN SECRETARIAT CONFERENCE HALL, SHILLONG.

Shri R.G.Lyngdoh M.L.A. and Chairman MEDC chaired the meeting.

1. Members Present at Annexure I

2. Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

3. The Action Taken Report on decisions taken in the last meeting was read out and noted by members. Further decisions on the issues arising out of the action taken report are as follows.

(i) All suggestions on the impact and advantages of uranium mining are to be submitted by 31st July 2005 positively and suggestions will be duly forwarded to those authentic and recognized agencies on the implications of uranium mining for their views and comments.

(ii) Shri C.Cajee, Member informed that CII is organizing a Seminar on 29th August 2005 in Shillong on investment opportunities and how to avail easier access to Bank credit. All interested members are to submit their names by 14th August 2005 to Shri Cajee through the MEDC Secretariat.

(iii) With respect to the two recommendations sent by Chairman to Chief Minister, Member Secretary will follow up with Chief Minister's Secretariat.

(iv) Shri C.Cajee, Member informed that the detailed IT investment proposal will be presented in the next MEDC meeting.

4. A Presentation was made by Shri T.Blah, Convener of Sub Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development etc. (Details of Presentation at Annexure II) In response to the main points in the presentation, Commissioner & Secretary C&RD & Agriculture:

a) Broadly agreed with the sub-committee's assessment of the C&RD scenario and said that the Department is also aware of the constraints and has taken steps to correct the top down approach for formulation and implementation of rural development schemes

b) He contradicted the assessment that the Green Revolution had had not impact in the state and pointed out that it had succeeded in increasing the productivity in rice from 700Kg per hectare to 2500 and 3000Kg per hectare.

c) Regarding the observation by the sub-committee on the potential and development of Horticulture activities, he advocated the setting up of Horticulture Marketing Board which would take care of the critical stages of pre production, production and post production and also be proactive in gathering market intelligence. He said that the state's farmers would not be competitive working within the present governmental setup.

d. With regards to the other recommendations of the Sub-Committee and observations of some members, he outlined the action recently initiated by the Department as follows:

i. The reconstitution of Agriculture Marketing Board - Its bye-laws are being amended/replaced through the adoption of a Model Act

ii. On the potential of Jatropha-Soil Conservation Department has been allocated some funds for planting Jatropha on waste land areas on experimental basis.

iii. On issue of the higher costs of production of poultry and piggery in the state due to the high cost of feed - Maize (a major component of animal feed) production is on the increase and prices of feed are coming down.

iv. On Shri C.Cajee's reference to Leh Berry juice, a product of a joint venture of Ladakh Government and Godrej Corporation - C&S Agriculture informed that talks are on with private players; Dabur and Priya Board. The latter has taken a place in EPIP, Byrnihat for starting a joint venture with the State Government for making Soft Drinks with the Brand name-. 'Priya Meghalaya Gold'.

v. On Shri O.L. Nongtdu's observation that that Organic farming be encouraged- Commissioner & Agriculture informed that Organic certification is very difficult but however the department is attempting to acquire certification for Tea.

5. A Presentation was then made by Dr. W.Kharshiing, Convener of Sub-Committee of Health and Education (Details at Annexure III)

During the ensuing discussion both the Secretary Education and the Director Health informed that they had just received a proposal of the Sub-Committee and since it involves policy matters the Department would require sometime before they could send their responses to MEDC.

Shri R.A. Lyngdoh, Member pointed out that Dr. Kharshiing had over looked the decision by the Sub-Committee regarding legalizing of country liquor and bringing it within the organized sector. He said that not only would the State benefit from the increase of revenue but the health of some poorer sections of the Society would also be improved. After discussion it was decided that the matter be examined in detail by the Sub-Committee on Tourism.

6. Presentation by Shri D.D.Laloo, Convener of Sub-Committee on Tourism and Handicrafts.

It was observed by the Chairman that the presentation was general in nature and did not spell out a specific strategy. The Chairman instructed that the Sub-Committee make specific recommendations in the next meeting. The issue of the proposed tourism policy was raised by Shri D.D. Laloo and some other members. After detailed discussion it was decided to request the Tourism Department to announce the new tourism policy only after the inputs/recommendations had been forwarded by the Council to Government.

7. After all the invitees had left the members had a detailed discussion on the deliberations of the meeting. It was decided to make the following recommendations to the State Government.

a. The C&RD may follow a top-down approach in the formulation and implementation of schemes for rural development.

b. The Agriculture Department should lay more emphasis on Horticulture for both existing and new crops.

c. To fully exploit the market for wines, the Council recommends that the existing Licensing arrangements for production and sale of wine are to be transferred from Excise to Horticulture Department.

d. The Bye-laws for Agriculture Marketing Board should be drafted in consultation with recognized experts.

e. The State government should endeavour to facilitate farmers to easily and inexpensively obtain Organic Certification for their products.

8. It was decided that the next meeting of the MEDC would be held on 14th September 2005 at 1100 hrs in the same venue

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

Sd/-
Shri R.G. Lyngdoh
Chairman M.E.D.C.
Shillong, Meghalaya

Memo No MEDC/SECCT/9/2005/173 Dated Shillong the 3rd August 2005

Copy for information and necessary action to

1. P.S. to Chief Minister for kind information of Chief Minister
2. P.S. to Chairman M.E.D.C. for kind information of Chairman
3. All Members of M.E.D.C.
4. Commissioner & Secretary Agriculture/A.H. & Vety/Community & Rural Development/Health and Family Welfare/Tourism
5. Heads of Departments Agriculture/A.H. & Vety/Community & Rural Development/Health and Family Welfare(MI)/Tourism

By Order, etc.
P.S. Thangkhiew
Commr. & Secy Planning Department
& Member-Secretary, M.E.D.C.