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File name
Minutes of the
meeting held at
4.00pm on 25.8.95
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Minutes of the meeting held at 4.00 PM. on 25.8.95 in the
Chamber
C Chamber of Minister (Excise & SC/ST Dev.Dept.) to discuss
the problems faced in the implementation of project/Schemes
in the tribal settlements located in forest areas.

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The Minister (Excise & SC/ST/DD) chaired the meeting.
The list of participants is appended.

2. At the outset, the Commissioner and Secretary(SC/STDD)
explained the background against which the meeting was convened.
He pointed out that substantial amount of funds earmarked under
Tribal Sub-Plan of Kerala Water Authority are being got lapsed
every year and that most of of the Collectors have been pointing
out the difficulties in getting these schemes completed for
want of materials, funds, etc. The Chief Engineer, Water
Authority explained that the funds lapsed because of non-avail-
ability of materials like pipe, etc.

3. The Commissioner & Secretary (Irrigation) Suggested
that there should be a system, as in the case of the release of
funds under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi
National Drinking Water Mission, and for that 40% of funds
earmarked under TSP/SCP in respect of Water Authority can be
released to the District Collectors towards purchase of materials
and an early decision on the purchase can be taken by placing
the matter before the District Working Group so as to have
uninterrupted supply of materials for the implementation of
drinking water supply schemes under TSP/SCP.

4. The following decisions were taken after detailed
discussions on the problems of Water Supply Schemes under
SCP/TSP.

a) 40% of funds earmarked under SCP/TSP in respect of
Kerala Water Authority shall be ~~xxxx~~ released to the Executive
Engineers for the purchase of materials and executing works.
Balance of funds should be released subsequently, in any case,
by the end of the financial year.

b) The amount allotted shall be operated jointly by the
District Collector and Executive Engineer. Water Authority by

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opening a Treasury Savings account. Funds allotted to District Collectors every year shall not be taken back. Funds that could not be spent in a year should be carried over to the next financial year and spent at the earliest.

(c) The purchase of materials shall be made on all Kerala Rate Contract basis as and when finalised by the Water Authority, as decided. Pending finalisation of rate contract, urgent purchase can be made locally for which executive Engineers would be authorised.

5. Problems of implementation of schemes in the Forest areas were discussed next. The District Collector, Thiruvananthapuram said that she had written thrice to the Forest Department regarding the obstructions/impediments made by forest officials in implementing the TSP/SCp Schemes in the locations at Thannimude, Karakkanthode and Chettiyampara in Thiruvananthapuram District. But there was no response from the forest officials.

6. The Secretary (Forest) explained that as per the Conservation of Forest Act, no ~~xxxx~~ construction can be permitted in forest areas. The Commissioner & Secretary (SCSTDD) emphasised that welfare schemes in respect of SCs/STs have to be implemented and Forest Officials should co-operate for its smooth implementation as they are meant for the most weaker sections of the society. It was explained that tribals being part of the forests, any work ~~xxx~~ done for their welfare should be treated as such. Then the Chief Conservator of Forests stated that he would get the nature of works studied and suggest a practical method to take up the works. For that it was decided that the Commissioner and Secretary, SC&ST Departments would address all District Collectors requesting to furnish the details of works pending or otherwise to the Chief Conservator of Forests. On getting such details the CCF has agreed to look into the matter and suggest a pragmatic solution to the problem.

7. Regarding the problems of electrification in tribal settlements, i.e., cutting of trees/branches for electric lines, the director of Sch. Tribes Development will furnish details of such cases to the CCF.

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8. There is a scheme in Forest Department to supply free of cost, 1 1/2 c.ft. timber of each tribal family limiting the number to 500 families for construction of their houses in each year. The Director of Sch. Tribes Development will furnish the names and addresses of these families who are eligible for the concession to the C.C.F.

9. TSP/SCP works of Forest Department as decided by Working Group shall be asset-creating works and not simple wage-earning works.

10. As part of the Food Support Programme in Wayanad District, Secretary (Forest) has agreed to supply reeds to tribal for making houses, as bamboos cannot be supplied. Regarding supply of bamboos to Tribals, it was decided that the Industries Department will be addressed for persuading the Bamboo Corporation to supply some bamboos to tribals as raw materials for work. The Director of Sch. Tribes Development will furnish proposals in this regard.

11. Chief Conservator of Forest has agreed to dig tube wells at the locations pointed out by the Director of Sch. Tribes Development and also near the hostels to be pointed out by the Sch. Tribes Department.

12. According to the water supply scheme under the Department and Forest Department, the Ground Water Department will dig bore wells in tribal areas as pointed out by the Sch. Tribe Department at the cost of Ground Water Department as per their scheme. When it is not possible to bring the rigs, open wells will be provided.

General :

13. Separate accounts shall be maintained in respect of SCP/TSP by each sectoral departments.

The insurance scheme for primitive tribals in forest areas, which expired in 3/94, has to be renewed. The Director of Sch. Tribes Development will take action in this regard.

The meeting came to an end at 6.15 P.M.

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