

Minutes of Review Meeting of the Progress in Permanent Shelter Construction

Date: 07th October 2005, Friday
Time: 10:30am to 2:00pm
Venue: Main Conference Hall, Collectorate, Nagapattinam
Chaired by: Dr. J. Radha Krishnan, the District Collector, Nagapattinam
Mr. Ranvir Prasad, Additional Collector, Relief & Rehabilitation

The meeting began with, Additional Collector (AC) asking the various NGOs about the progress in shelter construction in the areas allotted to them. An account on the number of houses allotted and under construction status – in-situ or new land –was taken from the NGOs. Few NGOs have developed blue prints, others will finalize the layouts before the last week of October and few are still struggling with acquisition of land. To make this reporting simpler and regular, the district Sub Collector distributed a prescribed format to the participants (the NGOs) which they have to fill up every week and submit to the Tsunami Section, District administration. This will help identify and solve the hurdles faced by the NGOs and proceed with the construction work.

Prescribed Format: *See Annex A*

List of Participants: *See Annex B*

The district collector started by briefing the floor about the need and importance of speeding up permanent shelter construction work.

- He requested the NGOs to fasten the construction activities by starting work in places wherever land is acquired.
- First preference shall be given to in-situ construction and then construction should start in the near by newly acquired land at the earliest.
- It was a conscious decision made in the beginning that reconstruction in Nagapattinam district shall be first NGO- driven, otherwise individual- driven and then otherwise the Government will do the rehabilitation work itself.
- Since all the NGOs acted together in a coordinated manner, permanent shelter construction work has been totally handed over to the NGOs with government teams only to monitor and coordinate the work. But the slow progress is very disheartening as very less work has taken place.
- The district Collectorate is taking up all the issues and problems in construction work in a chronological manner and attempting to solve them at the early. Petty issues faced with

the communities or land occupation in certain areas shall be taken up and solved by the NGOs themselves.

- He very genuinely told that all the NGOs should be happy that they have such a friendly Collectorate to help them help the needy. Utilizing them efficiently and to the fullest shall help in faster development and reconstruction of Nagapattinam district.

Collector also flagged issues related to government departments with regard to shelter construction and he provided necessary instructions to the respective department heads.

- Public Works Department (PWD) shall do a survey of all the areas where permanent shelter construction is going to taking place. Specifications of 'length and breadth' of land to be left for road and other public infrastructure construction in every area has to be prepared and provided at the earliest. This will help the NGOs plan a 'clear layout' for the housing work.
- The district's Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) Board have to provide technical plans and the blue prints to lay pipelines for water supply and also drainage system for all the destinations of new shelter construction. This will avoid interference of any kind when shelter work is under progress.
- Similarly, TN Electricity Board (TNEB) is requested to make prior arrangements to provide sufficient electricity to all the necessary destinations on time, to avoid any hindrance in the successful completion of housing in the district.

All the above departments are also instructed to provide guidelines, if any, to the NGOs immediately so that the entire reconstruction work goes on smoothly without any disputes and confusions.

To restore maximum normalcy in Nagapattinam district before the first anniversary of the 'destructive waves' (26th December 2005) is desired. In this context, the collector stated that the governing body is the state and central government. The district Collectorate is only a deputation of the government given the authority and delegation for district level issues and activities. Hence, in any of the press releases, publications, advertisements and website reports we shall not forget to acknowledge and appreciate them for the cooperation, freedom and help given to us with regard to land acquisition and other similar matters for rehabilitation in Nagapattinam district.

Words and phrases like "in partnership with", "in support from", "in collaboration/cooperation with", "public- private partnership" shall be used in the publications. This will mutually help in getting uninterrupted help from the Governing bodies.

The NGOs have been told to maintain and provide records of the list of individual groups and SHGs to whom funding has been given. Lot of duplication and double funding has occurred in past and any such event should not occur again. To maintain transparency throughout the rehabilitation process, necessary data shall be provided to the administration which will be published and also uploaded on the official websites and no conflicts shall arise thereafter.

Amidst all this, the activities and actions by one of the local NGO called SNEHA, working in Nagapattinam district since twenty five years, has been very disappointing.

- The collector personally addressed the issue with reference to a report given by SNEHA in a leading newspaper, which criticises the district administration and the NGOs too.
- The organisation, which has been fighting for the rights of fishermen community, feels that relocating them 200-500m away from the sea coast will pave way to tourism and industrialisation on the sea shore.
- The collector told that none of the individuals or communities are being forced to relocate. The option to relocate has been given to them for the safety and security from any future disasters and not to seize their sea shores.
- Houses of those who are willing to retain in the same location but beyond a minimum of 200m, are being mend and reconstructed. On the other hand, acquiring new land involves lot of procedures, paper work and also consumes time. It is all done for the well being of the public and no misapprehension should take place.
- The issue was sorted out with the representatives of SNEHA present there and an appeal has been made to them not to criticise and demoralise the good work being done purely for the well being of the communities in the district.

In this context, NGO Coordination and Resource Centre (NCRC) has been instructed to collect and highlight the evidences of all the work done by the NGOs in the district and provide a solution for all such criticism. There are organisations who have clear account of each penny spend, what significant difference has been made to many tsunami affected lives and so on. The friendly and three-tier link between the district administration, the NGOs and the communities shall remain untouched by such issues and work should progress.

The next issue addressed was about handing over of construction work entirely to contractors. The government has laid various guidelines and norms for the permanent housing. The high-ups and coordinators of the NGOs are only aware of these conditions. Also, the community recognizes the representatives as the organisation and hence the official

representative's presence on the construction site will serve as an assurance to the people. Along with the contractor's site/field engineers, the NGOs must appoint field organizers to supervise and monitor the work.

Mr. Ranvir Prasad interacted with the NGOs to clearly identify the requirement of electricity supply and drainage system at the reconstruction sites.

- The in-situ house connections need to be only renewed. For the new land houses, the quantity needed shall be defined by NGOs themselves as they are more familiar with the need and locality.
- TNEB can provide one transformer per 200 houses. Applications for the same has to be given well in advance. It has been decided that Tamil and English versions of all the necessary documents for construction work will be uploaded on the websites of the district administration, NCRC and other official websites.
- Once a clear list of the required quantity is given, the EB shall proceed with providing connections.
- The confirmation of connection needed can be done once the foundation for every house is laid. As monsoon is commencing, climatic interference in construction process will be faced. Hence giving perfect number of electricity connections will be difficult.
- The EB may cooperate with NGOs and assist in availing electricity without any problem.
- On the other hand, TWAD Board also has to work simultaneously to provide qualitative and quantitative drinking water supply and drainage system. No house shall be deprived of the same.

On the contrary, the Temporary Shelter (TS) status is becoming poorer and worse – roofs are broken, toilets conditions are unhygienic, surroundings are unclean. Also, occupation of TS cannot be the primary condition to avail Permanent Shelter (PS). Replacements of TS is leading to possessions to two or more shelter by individuals which will lead to misconception of getting that many Permanent Shelters. Necessary action be taken by NGOs to avoid this.

In view of monitoring the progress in construction work and providing houses to the affected at the earliest, it has been decided that a review meeting with the district officials and all the NGOs will be conducted every Friday. The NGOs were once again reminded to bring the weekly report in the prescribed format.

NCRC

Annexes:

- A. Prescribed Format
- B. List of Participants

Annexure A : Prescribed Format

WEEKLY REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF PERMANENT HOUSE CONSTRUCTION										
Name of the NGO:										Date:
Sl. No.	Name of the Habitation	No. of Houses allotted	No. of houses constructed	Earth work	Foundation Laid	Lintel Level	Roof laid	Total	Balance	Probable date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Annexure B : List of Participants

List of Organisations who participated for the Collector's meeting (07.10.2005) at Main Conference Hall, Collectorate, Nagapattinam				
Sl. No	Organisation	Name of the Person/Designation	Phone/Mobile	E-mail
1	HESO	A. Chinnathurai	94433-99914, 93451-55827	chinnadurai_heso@yahoo.com
2	Kudumbam	S.E. John Sunder	92451-90034	
3	World Vision	V.S. Suratha	94437-12760	suratha_samuel@wvi.org
4	World Vision	P.Ganesan	94430-95425	
5	Peace Trust	S. Raja	242866, 98657-72766	peacetrust@vsnl.com
6	UELCI	P. Raj Kumar	98651-94249, 98400-22025	rajkumarpmk@yahoo.com
7	Hope Foundation	S.P. Nathan	98653-21056	
8	Srinivasan Services Trust	K. Srinivasan	94438-63915	sst@sct.co.in
9	SIFFS	Ephrem	94431-43711	ephrem@siffs.org
10	TWAD Board	K. Balakrishnan, EE1, TWAD Board, RWSDN, Nagapattinam	94436-72792	twadngpm_kmb@sancharnet.in
11	TMSSS	S.Vincent, Engineer	94433-95055	
12	Tata Relief Committee	Capt. S.T. Rao	92821-09943	captstrao@vsnl.net
13	Shree Vallabha Foundation Trust	Mr. Chandra Vithlani	98942-64938	
14	Tata Relief Committee	R.Ganesan	92821-09935	
15	Lutheran World Services India	N.C. Datta	04142-293062, 93676-46740	lwsits@sancharnet.in
16	CASA	P. Jeagan, S. Sreedharan	94442-59425, 98424-61718	vkmsea_try@yahoo.co.uk , kadai_try@yahoo.co.uk
Sl. No	Organisation	Name of the Person/Designation	Phone/Mobile	E-mail

17	Campus Crusade for Christ	P. Balaganesan	98434-37287, 98941-41121	varghese paul@seindiaccc.org
18	Holy Cross	P. Prabhakaran	289256	
19	IID	S. Philip	93600-41968	pjohnbritto@yahoo.com , pradeepa_john@yahoo.com
20	EFICOR	S. Pandian	98425-48181, 04368-230100	naga@eficor.org
21	The Salvation Army	Capt.Moses Durairaj	04365-225663, 98425-55948	mosesdurairaj@rediffmail.com , thesalvationarmy@sancharnet.in
22	CSI	Rev.M. Benjamin, Mr. Sundaram	98425-65285, 0431-2760969, 94438-95566	csittd@hotmail.com , csittd@rediffmail.com
23	CEE- Karaikal	K. Arun Prasad, Srinivas babu	93448-21352	ceekaraikal@cccindia.org
24	Sevai	A. Kalaivani	98424-42832	karai_sevai@sancharnet.in
25	GGF	V. Ramani, Director; V. Solairani, Coordinator;	94431-33355, 98651-62122	tggf@gandeepam.org
26	SPEECH/RCPDS	S. Vairavalingam	94432-41911	
27	GGF	K. Balasubramaniam		
28	Help A Child Of India	J.Jebaraj	98650-76761	mdu_hac@sancharnet.in
29	DPG	Ponraj	98429-78860	dpgsulo@md2.vsnl.net
30	Kudumbam	J.Jesitha	93627-11954	jjesitha@yahoo.com.sg
31	NCRC	Annie George	93454-00074	annie.anniegeorge@gmail.com
32	NCRC	Antony Xavier	98429-02397	aaxfer.ncrc@gmail.com
33	TNEB	S. Haridass, EE/GL	04365-224403	
34	GGF	R. Selvi	98428-26068	
35	Real	G. Shanmugasundaram	94435-68891	real@md4.vsnl.net.in
36	SNEHA	D. Rajarajan	98424-53744	
37	SNEHA	R.Kumar	98424-98829	
38	PWD	R.K. Balaraman, EE Bldgs.	94431-45317	
39	OXFAM	Shylet	94433-90659	shyletbeena@rediffmail.com
40	OXFAM	Chiranjeev Das	94431-85249	cdas@oxfam.org.uk
41	SIFFS	X.Joseph	98949-99361	joseph@siffs.org
42	KARAM, Coimbatore	S.Rajesh	98432- 45157	rajesh_2370@rediffmail.com
43	PDA	Mr. Joevelu	98421-81124	joepda@sancharnet.in
44	PDA	Ashok Raja	98656-14024	joepda@sancharnet.in
45	BUILD	Jackson	98435-44059	build@vsnl.com
46	Jamaath-e-islami Hind	Amir	98432-16790	
47	DA SOS Children Homes-Chainath homes	B. Ramakrishnan	98949-99454	
48	JEH	Rajesakaran	94432-35636	
49	UELCI	B. Sundaramurthy	94430-71243	