

Minutes of Shelter Review Meeting

Date : 11/ 08/05

Venue : Mini Conference Hall, Collectorate

Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, the District Collector along with officials, started the shelter review meeting by 4 P.M. with a few specific remarks concerning the construction of permanent shelters.

- He requested the NGOs to start construction activities at the earliest by identifying areas and communities that had no dissonance in sites or beneficiaries selected. It was generally requested that the NGOs concentrate on construction activities and reduce the time, effort and resources expended on public functions.
- Additional land would be procured and made available in the eventuality of the land already procured being insufficient to meet the entire requirement. However, this reason by itself need not be taken as a cause for delay in starting of construction activities.
- In- situ constructions, where beneficiaries were ready and willing for demolition of the damaged houses, were to be given first priority. In in- situ constructions, the earlier land holding of the beneficiary concerned was to be protected.
- With such large-scale constructions to be started, he warned that resources in terms of building materials and skilled labour would be a constraint. This problem would only be vitiated with the impending monsoons in late September. He urged the NGOs to take adequate steps to procure all such resources well in advance to mitigate this problem.
- He also stated that the list of beneficiaries provided by the administration was not frozen and that additions, corrections and deletions were possible if found valid. The NGOs were requested to verify the list in their area and bring instances of oversight, duplications, and corrections to the notice of the local team or the Collector himself, for necessary modifications.
- The common guidelines with regard to eligibility for new constructions were very emphatically and unequivocally stated as
 - Priority to be given for conversion of all kutchha houses, in the affected zone, to pucca houses
 - In- situ to be encouraged wherever feasible and possible
 - Demolishment of partially damaged pucca houses to be avoided
 - Ownership of multiple houses under the tsunami reconstruction programme would be viewed as a criminal offence
- To increase accountability, the Panchayat level elected representative would be made a member of the committee that draws up the final list of beneficiaries.
- The importance of dialoguing with the community on their views and needs was reiterated and the NGOs were urged to ensure community participation throughout the entire process of habitat construction.

In the course of the common discussions, while appreciating the generosity of the NGOs and donors, the Collector also cautioned them against indiscriminate distribution of boats

leading to over supply and duplication. It was also requested that the NGOs take steps to register the boats issued by them as a part of the data base for future reference and disaster preparedness.

The necessity for the continuation of the very successful and much lauded private- public partnership in the district was reiterated. As unfounded accusations, allegations and fault-finding between partners would only be counter- productive and self-defeating; the NGOs were cautioned against such activities. The NGOs were also requested to build up the morale of the affected community by concentrating on success stories.

This discussion was followed by a quick village- wise progress review by the Collector. Thanking the NGOs for their continuing commitment and participation, the Collector brought the meeting to a close by 6 pm.