

DRAFT

Minutes of Permanent Shelter Review Meeting

Date : 13th February' 2006 (Monday)
Time : 5:00 pm to 6:30 p.m.
Venue : Mini Conference Hall, Collectorate, Nagapattinam.
Chaired by : Dr. J. Radhakrishnan, District Collector, Nagapattinam.
Mr. Ranvir Prasad, Additional Collector, (R & R), Nagapattinam.
Mr. Arul Singh, Executive Engineer, Rural Development

BDOs were requested to provide information on the progress of construction in their respective areas, according to the checklist and accompanied by latest photographs of the construction activities.

The Collector has expressed concern about the significantly slow progress being shown by many NGOs on the construction of permanent shelters and, therefore, has requested NCRC to initiate dialogue with OXFAM, CARITAS/TMSSS, EFFICOR, PDA, DPG, CASA and World Vision. The Collector has also requested NCRC to ascertain if the necessary 'contracting arrangements' have been concluded for construction by these donor agencies and their partner NGOs. NCRC was also requested to offer any technical assistance to the NGOs, if required, to overcome their constraints. The Additional Collector has also suggested to NCRC that a study tour could be organized by major State-level donors/NGO leaders to provide them the most realistic insight in to the construction of shelters, for which they provide the funding.

The Collector once again emphasized that speeding up permanent shelter construction would help gradually dismantling of the temporary shelters in the district. This, in turn, would help minimize chances of fire accidents.

The Collector has encouraged the NGOs to complete construction of houses wherever they are at the finishing stages. He has requested the NGOs, who are about to finish completion of certain number of houses, to try and indeed complete those number of

houses by 1 March so that they can be inaugurated – e.g., 25 houses may be completed in Koozhaiyar, 15 in Kameswaram, 20 in Vizhundhamavadi and some in Veppancherry and Chinnamedu, Vanavanmahadevi and Vellapallam. He has asked the BDOs to facilitate availability of electricity connections and other services, wherever requested by the NGOs to enable them to proceed with the construction activities. The NGOs were requested to put up their boards at each location giving the actual information on the latest situation of progress.

The Collector has informed that an allotment of Rs. 400 crores is available under the World Bank aid for shelter construction in the district. However, according to the World Bank norms, the first priority for construction is to be given to NGOs, second to the Self Help Groups and only in the absence of these first two options, then the government shall do the construction. The Collector has also indicated that the administration could take over only if the NGOs officially withdraw their activities.

Since some of the NGOs were not present during the meeting, the Collector suggested that another meeting could be convened on Friday, 17 February to meet with them. This meeting has since been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at the Mini Conference Hall of the Collectorate on the date scheduled.

The Collector mentioned that this meeting is a good way of bringing together the NGOs as well the concerned BDOs, Tahsildars and other officials and advised the NGOs to stay in touch with these officials directly regarding any issues in their respective areas.

The BDOs were requested to provide clear and detailed reports according to the checklist, about the construction work in every site, including reporting on the presence of required number of labour force and quantity of materials available at the sites.