

Notes on Visit to Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

Dates: 19-20 February 2015

Upon arrival at Itanagar on 19th evening, proceeded to inspect places where works have been awarded and carried out under NLCPR and NEC. A list of projects in the town and nearby areas had been communicated earlier and the visit was confined to places quickly accessed within the daylight hours available.

No work has been taken up under the following projects and they were not inspected:

- ↓ Foot overbridges in Itanagar: NLCPR 2013-2014
- ↓ Promotion of Cash crop by NEC 2014-15
- ↓ Capacity building for eo tourism NEC 2013-14
- ↓ Outdoor staium Sagalee NEC 2014-15

Legislative Assembly Building, Itanagar: Designed by Manish Tibrewala, Active Consultants, Guwahati. The front portion of G+3 is partly done ad the rest is G+1. No work is commenced on the barracks and the Maintenance section. The Central Hall is done upto 6 m of the 12 m planned. The Side Halls adjoining the Central Hall are done but the Domes are not laid as yet. No plastering has been done for the structures completed. The frontage is planned with glazed Aluminium. No passive energy savings systems have been introduced despite the weather normal to this location and the plans to provide airconditioning and heating using electricity on top of the roof. As a consequence, there will be heavy electric consumption and high costs of operation. Even air gap between walls or higher R-value insulation has not been contemplated although this is a standard design factor. This speaks volumes of the quality of the architect who has, in this case, not served the interest of the client.

For fittings, MK-Legrand is planned for electric fittings and doors are to be teak. The roof is to be Dyan (Probably, Galvalume type) in parts and RCC in part. The windows are stated to be Aluminium type fabricated on site. I pointed out the superiority of double glazed windowns premanufactured such as Fenesta, Birla, Elgi, etc which would also help in conserving energy. Clearly, again the JE was not properly informed or the design is at fault.

Polcie Quarters and Mess: This project is primarily for the residential quarters for police staff and that is completed and occupied. This mess is also complete and plastered except for the laundry room building which is yet to be built. Funds need to be released for completion after receipt of all documents (said to have been received today in the Ministry).

Biological Park and Zoo: A guest house has been constructed within the Zoo premises with the funds provided. The building structure is completed but instead of external electrification as in common in column buildings, only external electrification has been provided. The estimates may be verified to ascertain the original sanction and how our engineers have approved an unprofessional plan which deters from the building's quality. The road access to the Zoo is extremely poor and needs to be relaid for a smooth entry for

vehicles. The entire zoo from entrance onwards presents a very shabby look and the department is advised to approach MoEF for funds to develop this Zoo as a tourist destination.

Visited the JNK School and Hostel premises just off the Central part of Itanagar. There is no clear development at site. Further exploration was not possible as it became dark. The Hostel building now consists of a foundation overrun with weeds and bears columns with rods showing bare. An aluminium shed beyond is shown as the school but seems too small to suit the school requirement. The Planning Department was asked to take photos of the School premises and e-mail to Ministry of DoNER on 20th February for examination. It also transpires that this project allotted about Rs 1.50 crores in 2007-08 was for a private school run by the then Minister R.K. Krimey and whose name forms part of the school's name. This is clearly irregular and the State shall refund the amounts at once along with interest on the misused funds. It is best left to the State to recover the amounts from the individual or to take over the school and run it considering its good location. It was also noted that the then Minister also owns a big school cum shopping complex just a little away on NH52 near the new Secretariat Building.

Visited on 20th February, the Itafort complex where funds for development have been given. The job is completed except for landscaping and for provision of street lights. On being asked, the JE said the landscaping was the responsibility of the Forest department and they had only planted some flowers and small bushes, etc which does not amount to landscaping. He said that there was no provision for streetlighting, which is clearly absurd for a tourist spot with many isolated locations.

Discussions were held with officials of various departments on issues for which funds were received from NEC primarily and also, NLCPR.

Health sector:

NEC has granted Rs 4.05 crores for establishment of Biomedical waste management centres in six hospitals in the state in 2009. Discussions with the doctor representing the department revealed that except for Ziro because of a land dispute, all the rest were functioning after proper commissioning. Field inspection on use is necessary. Dr Tani came on 20th along with the local software developer for discussing the HMIS project sanctioned for Rs 4.48 crores in 2012. The developer explained that this was a custom-designed HMIS and included several elements relating to Public Health MIS. The software was based on an Open Source SQL and the code would be handed over to the department. The contract provided for three years maintenance after commissioning although there was some doubt on whether this period commenced in 2012 or from date of commissioning which must be clarified. The warranty period is short considering that the software will need to be introduced in all 21 districts of the State and not only for Papum Pare district. The cost

seems abnormally high for a local developer and just for one district which includes Itanagar. Before disbursing any more funds, the software will need to be checked for security and operation and the terms of contract evaluated to ensure coverage of all districts. With this coverage, given the distance and isolation of some districts, it may be necessary for them to be hand-held for a longer period to ensure full training of staff and smooth operations. Another aspect to be verified is why this project could not be funded by NRHM which seems more appropriate. NEC may carefully review this project on priority.

Industries sector:

An Entrepreneurship Institute at Jote, 15 km away, has been supported with Rs2.066 crores of which Rs 1.6564 cr has been released. The last release was in February last year but it turns out that the executing agency received funds only now after a delay of one year. An immediate inspection by regular staff of NEC may be done to also assess if the costs have been exaggerated.

Information Technology sector:

Automation of Inner Line Permit has been supported with Rs 2.0061 crores in March 2010 and Rs 1.77 crores has already been released by November 2013. The project includes supply and installation of bar code reader and computer in 25 checkposts, 30 computers for DRC offices, in New Delhi and for training. Necessary cyber security check by NIC is yet to be done. The local contractor seems not to have provided for a secondary back-up to prevent data manipulation and data safety. These are elementary issues in software design of this nature and shows incompetent selection. Further, the software itself is a simple affair and should not have been merged with supply. Supply of computers, etc should have been made directly by the State Government and this is a waste of funds since the contractor would have made profits on this supply. NEC will need to verify in detail, the costs of supply against market rates and also explain how their Adviser, who should have applied his knowledge better to the issue, allowed such a badly designed proposal. Suitable action may also be taken against the Adviser for not advising the NEC properly.

Agriculture sector:

The Horticulture officers, who were responsible for the establishment in Papum Pare district of hi-tech garden in mandarin orange, etc for Rs 3.24 crores, and with establishment in Papum Pare district of Beekeeping units for Rs 2.0806 crores, were not present and no discussion could be held with them. This was important because of my previous visit to Ziro where it was found that all the benefits got conferred on a single farmer which was neither replicable nor fair. Further, it suggested a very bad picture of the NEC as more oriented to favour a few worthies to the neglect of all farmers. The reasons for such poor designs and the responsibility of the Adviser ,NEC who recommended such projects will need investigation and corrective actions.

A discussion was held with the Agriculture officer regarding the NEC scheme of Promotion and Development of Cash Crop in Arunachal Pradesh for Rs 448.02 lakhs in 2014-15 for which the first instalment of Rs 179.21 lakhs had been released on 16.12.2014. The officer pleaded lack of knowledge of such a scheme and after discussion, I suggested to him and to the Planning Department that the funds not be released. It also turned out that SRI for rice was not being practised anywhere nor did they have any knowledge of this practice. I suggested that the project could be redesigned as a scheme for promotion of SRI. For this purpose, I asked the officers to also include a visit to SRI areas in Trichy and Thanjavur districts while going on tour to the South the next week for looking at Biotechnology Centres. Meanwhile, the responsibility of the Adviser who recommended such a proposal to NEC may be determined and suitable action taken.

Piggery Development in the State and the North East:

I had a detailed discussion with the department's representative, Dr Tachi Taku, a Joint Director, AH&Vety on the structure of the department in the State. There are nearly 200 Veterinarians in various capacities in the State and also 256 paramedics (below the level of Livestock Inspector) located in Veterinary Aid Centres. There are two Liquid Nitrogen plants at Nirjuli (Itanagar) and at Pasighat. The doctor said that the frozen semen (FS) technology for pigs had been developed less than two years ago and they were focusing only on breeding and multiplication in farms for distribution to farmers. The supply of feed was entirely in private hands and costs were easily recovered by farmers at the time of sale of fatteners. He appreciated the new scheme proposed now for spreading FS in pigs for ensuring self sufficiency in the State in a few years. Regarding training of villagers for insemination, he said that some of the farms could be developed with hostel facilities and by ensuring that at least 50-60 pigs were available for each training group of 25 villagers. The Pasighat facility had dilapidated training houses and needed repair. He was not sure of the capacity of the LN2 plants and would provide full details when asked.


Attended a Dinner hosted by the Chief Secretary on 19th February for the visiting officials. Some discussions were held on reviving the hydroelectric projects in Arunachal Pradesh which were short of equity contributions by the State Government but for which commitments in terms of free power, fixed tariff power, and initial upfront payments had been made while executing MOUs with private developers. An issue relating to poor pace of DPR preparation in Meghalaya for its Hydroelectric projects was also discussed and NEEPCO wanted our intervention. The issue of BSNL using OPNGW of power transmission lines was also discussed for possible intervention by DoNER.

Attended the function organised for inauguration by the Prime Minister of the new Railway services to New Delhi by Rajdhani directly via Rangiya through the north bank of the

Brahmaputra and inter city service to Guwahati; the Comprehensive Power transmission line for Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh; and Itanagar Water Supply System. The Chief Minister presented a charter of demands in his memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister which referred inter alia, to the hydroelectric projects, special package for the border areas, support for the agriculture and plantation sectors, mineral exploration, a Sainik school, IIT, IIM, development of three Cities, Skill development, a Film institute, etc. The Prime Minister assured rapid development over the next five years in his speech for transforming the State. During the Prime Minister's speech, he mentioned Ministry of DoNER several (3) times in regard to the visits of Ministers, the visits of senior officials, and he also mentioned that DoNER was preparing a Perspective Plan for Make in North East as part of the Make in India initiative. He also said that defects in implementation of the schemes for the State should be actively watched by the people and action would be taken. He also welcomed the people to point out shortcomings and misdoings of all concerned including of the Central Government. His speech was very well received. During the function, an Arunachal State song was also sung but which could not gain popularity, I was told, because it could not recite the names of all the tribes and only mentioned four! However, during the Vote of Thanks rendered by the Chief Secretary, the presence of Secretary, DoNER was not acknowledged although I had also met the Chief Minister at the venue of the function and congratulated him on the occasion and for the arrangements. I had also met a few of the State Ministers at the function spot. This blunder was rather unfortunate.

Returned the same day in MHA helicopter and by the evening Air India flight to New Delhi.

20th February, 2015


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