

**Tour Note of visit of Shri Lakshmi Chand, Secretary and Dr. Hari Krishna, Joint
Secretary, M/o DONER to Sikkim from 5th to 9th July 2005**

6.07.2005

(1) Visit to BADP scheme at Tsangu

Visited the site of Border Area Development Programme Scheme executed at Tsangu executed for tourism development. Tsangu is a very small town and is important from the point of view of Tsangu Lake, which is a very attractive tourism spot on account of the very big lake at a height of 12,600 ft. Under the Border Area Development Program, a Car Parking place was being developed at a cost of Rs. 50 Lakh. As this small township is on route to Nathula, it has further scope for development. The State Government may plan for it.

(2) Visit to Nathula

It is an important place and has acquired further importance because of recent developments on the proposal of opening border trade with China. Government of Sikkim is planning to develop adequate infrastructure at this place for this purpose. Here, we visited Indian Army check post and camp at the border of China. The place does not have electricity supply and there is a proposal of the Government of Sikkim for having a transmission line up to this place for funding under NLCPR. Because of the strategic importance from defense point of view as well as for the sake of providing adequate infrastructure for border trade, the project of construction of transmission line up to Nathula is certainly required which may be considered in the Ministry of DONER for sanction after its techno-economic examination.

There is a temple in the name of Baba Harbhajan Singh – an ex soldier of Indian Army. This place has acquired importance because of faith of people in Baba's soul said to be residing there and the belief is that a person's desire by visiting the temple is fulfilled. There is a proposal for development/construction of Car Parking place here also under the BADP. Government of Sikkim has already planned to build it but no work as yet has been started. Looking at the general geography of the area, a good car parking with

public amenities is certainly required here. The Superintendent Engineer, Tourism was advised to widen the space for car park as far as practicable towards the stream site.

The Secretary, DoNER felt that the area around Nathula, Serathang and Baba Mandir are ideal for development from tourist's points of view. There are lots of potentials to be developed under tourism sector. The secretary was of the view that the state government may engage experts within and even outside the country to develop tourism infrastructure in the area on the line of recent development being adopted in most of the European countries. The Secretary also desired that DoNER might provide financial assistant to the State Government to prepare DPR by the experts.

(3) Meeting with Chief Secretary, Sikkim to review progress of the NLCPR funded Projects

Secretary, M/o DONER held a meeting with the Chief Secretary and other officers concerned with the NLCPR funded projects. Dr. Hari Krishna, Joint Secretary, M/o DONER was also present during the review. Secretary reviewed the progress of implementation of all the ongoing NLCPR funded projects and also the progress with regard to the projects for which original/revised DPRs were to be submitted by the State Government. The Minutes of the meeting have already been issued separately.

(4) Meeting with the Chief Minister, Sikkim

In the evening, called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sikkim. He was briefed about the points that emerged as a result of review of NLCPR projects held with Chief Secretary and other senior officers of the State Government. He was particularly requested about the need of State Government's efforts for faster implementation of road and bridges projects, which were lagging behind their schedule of implementation.

7.07.2005

(1) Visit to Paljor Stadium

The project was sanctioned under NLCPR in 2001-02 at a cost of Rs. 10.96 core and later cost escalation occurred in the project and further Rs. 4.40 crore were sanctioned and

released in 2003-04. The entire amount of Rs. 15.36 crore had been released and the project had been completed. The State Government from other sources had provided some of the funds, apart from Rs. 15.36 crore from NLCPR funds. The project had not as yet been commissioned and the State Government was requested to start using the facilities created at the earliest.

(2) Visit to Rumtek Monastery

It is one of the oldest monasteries in the country and is one of the tourist attraction points.

(3) Inspection of Mamring-Phongla Road

It is a 25 km. road stretch which was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 2.35 crore against which the entire amount has been released to the State Government by the Ministry of DONER. The project had almost been completed. The road apparently looked to be in a good condition. However, at some places, where rainwater has to cross from hillocks side to the downhill side, causeways need to be constructed with cement concrete so as to avoid damage to the road on these sites and to provide permanent solution to the problem of damages due to heavy storm water flow.

(4) Inspection of Rangit-Melli Transmission Project

We visited the site of installation of 132/66 KV Sub-station at Melli. The transformers had been laid and 132 KV Single Circuit Transmission Line from Melli to Rangit had also been laid. Only the synchronization of a transformer was yet to be done at the time of our visit. The cost of the project was Rs. 28.17 crore against which the entire amount had been released. The State Government authorities present at the site informed that they would commission the entire scheme within July 2005 and would submit the Completion Certificate as well as the Utilization Certificate for the balance of Rs. 3.13 crore.

(5) Inspection of Upgradation of Ravangla-Makha Road project in South Sikkim.

It is a 26 km long road project. It was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 9.94 crore against which Rs. 3.48 crore had been released. Works on 9 km. had been completed. Work was going on for rest of the portion. Soling, WBM would be over by October 2005. Bridges works would be completed by August 2005 and the entire roadwork would be completed by March 2006. It was reported that almost 60% of the work has been carried out. The quality of works during the visit looked to be good. The State Government was to submit a quarterly progress report, work plan and the utilization certificate. Some of the photographs provided to us at the time of our visit are at Annexure-1 (A, B, C & D).

(6) Inspection of Goshkhan Jhora

Phase-I

It is a project implemented by Irrigation and Flood Control Department from NLCPR funds for training of strong water drain from the hillside around Namchi town. The cost of the project was Rs. 55 Lakh. It had already been implemented.

Phase-II

Another project Gosh Khan Jhora Phase II has also been implemented at an approved cost of Rs. 50 Lakh. It had also been completed in 2003-04 and existed on the site and was serving the purpose of draining strong drain water.

(7) Visit to the site of Statute of Guru Padma Sambhava in Namchi town.

The site had been developed with an imposing Statute of Guru Padma Sambhava and very huge complex. Commissioner (Tourism), Government of Sikkim – Shri Alok Srivastava, who was accompanying us informed about the proposed project for laying ropeway from a site near Circuit House to the site of Statue with one stop over in between at Rock Garden. The project although looks to be very good and ambitious but as the cost of the project was told to be more then Rs. 20 crore, it might not be an economic viable proposition. However, the Commissioner was requested to further develop this site by having adequate facilities for car parking, public amenities and some shops in the complex.

(8) Assistance to Kamrang College

The project was approved at a cost Rs. 3 crore. It had been completed in 2003-04. It was informed that some grant had come for the project from other sources also. College building looked to be impressive but most of the space (classrooms) had not been put to use, as probably they are not required as yet.

8.07.2005

(1) Visit to Rayong School

It was a roadside primary school. Building has not as yet been constructed under any scheme and it was found to be in absolutely dilapidated condition. We visited the school at around 10:15 am. Out of 4 teachers posted there, only one was present and out of 34 students, 15 were present at that time. It was decided that the condition of the school building as well as that of the functioning of the school would be brought to the knowledge of the State Government.

(2) Carpeting / surface improvement / protection works & drainage along Namchi- Damthang-Ravangala road

Total length of road is 26 Km. Project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs 12.07 Crore in 2004-05. It would provide good connectivity to Namchi, Upper Ghurpishey, Samdrupse, Jaubari, Damthang, Dew, Chaemchey and Ravang. Rs 4.22 Crore had been released for the project and physical progress has been reported to be 18%. During our visit the work for implementation was going on. At the entry point to the Namchi Bazar hill cutting for widening for road was going on for 300 meters length so as to widen the road to 8-meter width in order to create roadside parking space.

(3) Damthang Secondary School

Construction has been carried out at a cost of Rs. 14.23 Lakh under NLCPR. Works were completed and classes were going on. However, it was observed that the School being on the roadside, the project should have included construction of boundary walls.

(4) Up gradation of Ravangala- Legshep road in South Sikkim

It is an 18 km long road and the project was sanctioned in 1999-2000 at a cost of Rs 2.34 Crore. The works executed are pavement work, P/W works, and drains (hill side and cross drains). In the 18th Km there is sinking area. Project implementation was completed in 2004-05. However, during our visit it was observed that the road was damaged at several points due monsoon. The damaged stretches were particularly at 13th Km- formation washed away, 15th Km landslide. The State government should take up the restoration works immediately from their own funds.

(5) Visit to Omchung Village Primary School

Six rooms had been completed under NLCPR and the classes were going on.

(6) Construction of 65 Meter span suspension Foot Bridge over Rangeet Khola at Legshep in West Sikkim

The suspension bridge had been constructed over Rangeet Khola in between Legshep Bazar and Shiva mandir. This Shiva mandir is very famous temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. People from all over Sikkim, other parts of India and Nepal were told to visit this temple for offering prayers to Lord Shiva. This bridge is the only means of crossing river fro the people residing on the other side of the river to reach the nearest market of Legshep for selling their agricultural produce.

Bridge span is 65 meters and the width is 1.20 meter. The project was sanctioned in 2002-03 at a cost of Rs 22.34886 lac. It has been completed. The structure contains 1:2:4 plum concrete anchor house, abutments, RCC tower posts and iron materials like 25 mm dia tension cable, 15 mm dia suspenders with iron cross, long beams and chequered plates.

(7) Surface improvement / widening, carpeting of Pelling–Dantam road and bridge replacement on Gyalsing-Soreng Road:

Project was sanctioned in 2003-04 at an estimated cost of Rs 12.51 crore. Rs 1.65 Crore had been released in 22.03.2004 but the progress of works was dismal. No progress was

made on Pelling side as was seen in Pelling but the works on Dantam side were told to be under progress.

(8) Augmentation of Gyalsing Water Supply Scheme

The project was sanctioned under NLCPR in 2003-04 at a cost of Rs. 7.52 crore. So far, Rs. 4.50 crore had been released against which the utilization was reported to be Rs. 4.38 crore. Raw water pipeline from source to the filtration tank is to be laid in 40 Kms. And from filtration tank to Gyalsing town in 10 Kms. Pipes had been procured 100% we could see some of the pipes procured and were informed that work on the laying of pipes had already been started and already laid in 10 km. The target date for completion of the project was Mach 2006. However, the officers informed that the project was having a time overrun and now the revised date for completion was September 2006. The concerned officers, present at the time of the visit, were requested to expedite and complete implementation of the project in time.

(9) Visit to Khechupheri Lake

It is supposed to be a very sacred and blessing lake and, therefore, is a very important tourist destination. The lake as well as surroundings including approach road need to be developed. The State Government may plan and the Ministry of DONER may consider sanctioning it as a tourism development proposal.

- A. **Road from Pelling to Rimbi:** It was observed that from Pelling to Rimbi in a 13 km stretch had been constructed with WBM to carpet stage at a cost of Rs. 125.06 Lakh under NLCPR. The project was sanctioned in 1999-2000 and was completed in 2001. However, the road in places had undergone damages and it would need immediate attention of the State Government for major repairs at one or two places and patch repairs in most of the places
- B. **Replacement of Bridge over River at Rimbi:** The project sanctioned and the bridge was found to be under construction.
- C. **The road form Rimbi to Khechupheri Lake** was in very bad condition although it looked that it was being taken up under some other schemes. The State Government officers were advised to complete the works at the earliest.

At the Khechupheri Lake, the Secretary and the Joint Secretary observed that the size of the lake is being slowly decreased due to siltation. The Secretary was impressed by the natural view of the lake. He instructed the undersigned to bring it to the notice of the Government that the DoNER would be happy to finance any project to upgrade, provide infrastructure for the tourist and cleaning of lake. He desired that there would have been some provision for resting place and also some small shops so that the visiting tourist can buy something at the spot. The Secretary said that the state Government might study and submit a suitable project to DoNER. Efforts may be made to maintain sanctity of the lake and also the infrastructure facilities may be provided for benefit of the visiting tourist at the same time.

9.07.2005

(1) Multi Stage Pumping for Drinking Water from River Rangit to Namchi

The project was sanctioned in 2002-03 at a cost of Rs. 9.01 crore. So far, Rs. 5.10 crore had been released. Physical progress of the project was reported to be 50% and we could see from the other side of the river that water intake works from the river were being carried out. However, it was reported that the project was having cost escalation because of design change. The concerned officers were requested to send a detailed report in this regard.
