

MINUTES OF THE REVIEW MEETING WITH THE HON'BLE FOREST MINISTER HELD ON 02-02-2010 at 1700 hrs IN THE OFFICE CHAMBER OF HON'BLE MINISTER OF FOREST ETC DEPARTMENT.

The meeting was attended by following:

1. Sri Jashabir Tripura, Chairman, TFDPC Ltd.
2. Sri R.P.Tangwan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala.
3. Dr.R.L.Srivastava, Managing Director, TFDPC Ltd.
4. Sri S.Talukdar,CCF,CEO Project Director, JICA
5. Sri B.Singh,CCF (Nodal Officer FCA)
6. Sri P K Das, Executive Director, TFDPC Ltd.
7. Sri Samarendra Das, DFO, Working Plan-II
8. Sri U.Tripura, Divisional Manager, Sadar (TFDPC)
9. Sri G.Debbarma,TFS,,Divisional Manager, South- II,Sabroom.
10. Sri B.Datta, TFS, Divisional Manager, South- 1, Santirbazar.
11. Sri Alok Pal, Sr.Manager, I/C General Manager, TFDPC IE.
12. Smt. M.Som, Dy.Manager, TFDPC IE.

The Hon'ble Forest Minister chaired the meeting and welcomed chairman, TFDPC Ltd and all officials of Forest Department and TFDPC Ltd.

The Managing Director, TFDPC briefed the Hon'ble Minister about the various activities of the Corporation and Agenda items were discussed in detail as follows.

Agenda item No.1 Release of forest for raising Rubber plantation by TFDPC and present status

Total 3873.786 ha forestland was released by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt of India for raising of rubber plantation in the year 2005 Till date Forest Department has handed over 2374.620 ha and balance area of 1499.166 ha is yet to be handed over.

The various aspects and issues involved in handing over of the balance land by Forest Department and the problems/constraints being faced in taking up plantation in already handed over land were discussed in detail. The PCCF, Tripura informed that some of the land could not be handed either due to existence of natural forests or the forest plantations. The MD, TFDPC focused on the encroachment scenario centre wise over the already handed over land due which TFDPC is not in a position to go ahead with the planting programme.

Following facts came to fore after discussion.

1. The entire forest land could not be handed over due to natural forests or plantations existing.
2. Some of the land could not be handed over due to natural habitat of bison.
3. Physical encroachments exist over released lands at many places.
4. At many places, Pattas have been issued under The Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Its extent is yet to be ascertained.
5. To tackle the complex issue over large areas, it was decided to constitute three committees in the three Sub-Divisions covering maximum such areas. One each for SONAMURA, BELONIA AND SABROOM SUB-DIVISIONS headed by DFO, Sadar for Sonamura Sub-Division & DFO, Bagafa for Belonia & Sabroom Sub-Divisions. Each committee will have following members.
 - Concerned Divisional Manager of TFDPC
 - Concerned SDM or his representative
 - DFO, Working Plan-I and II

The main mandate of each committee will be

- i) To assess the extent and type of encroachment and to identify alternative land.
- ii) Survey of the social status of the encroachers
- iii) To ascertain the position regard issuance of Pattas on the released lands.

The Forest Department will issue notification in this regard.

1.A. SURVEY, IDENTIFICATION & PREPARATION OF MAPS OF LAND HANDED OVER TO TFDPC SINCE BEGINNING TO RAISE RUBBER PLANTATIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES OF TFDPC Ltd.

Hon'ble Forest Minister desired to know the present status of use of Forest Land handed over to TFDPC Ltd since beginning including the extent of Rubber plantations raised and vacant land available /encroached etc.

The Managing Director, TFDPC briefed about the present situation as no survey has been done since establishment of the Corporation. However, records of raising plantations at different centers including replanting etc are available but complete scenario is not known. He opined that about a year's time would require to complete this herculian task.

The Hon'ble Minister desired to take up the work and complete in 8 months if not in 6 months i.e. by Sept'2010 with the help of an Agency Required Personals to be out sourced for conducting surveys etc.

Agenda item No.2. REPLANTING PROGRAMME:

After detailed discussions it was decided that target for Replanting to be enhanced & fixed after ascertaining the status of vacant land available after detailed Survey and Identification of forest land under control of TFDPC as decided in Agenda Item 1.A.

Agenda Item No.3. OPENING OF NEW BAMBOO DIVISION:

Detailed discussion was held on the issue of opening of a New Bamboo Division. The MD, TFDPC expressed his opinion about the potential and scope of TFDPC to enter into a commercial venture for value addition, new product development and marketing aspects, without entering in to the field of bamboo resource augmentation. He also briefed about the present status of activities as per MOU signed with Nanging Forestry University, China including the proposed meeting with the Hon'ble Forest Minister in presence of Director, CBTC, Guwahati in the last week of Feb"2010 when decision would be taken for new initiatives. MD,TFDPC emphasized to strengthen the managerial capacity of Industrial Estate including supervising level so that it can gear up its activities. It was advised by the Hon'ble Minister that TFDPC should focus on the value added Bamboo products for industrial use and not handicrafts.

Agenda Item No. 4. Development Issues of TFDPC Ltd.

4. A. Theft of Rubber:

Detailed discussion was held on the problem of theft of Rubber Latex, Rubber Lace and other products from the field due to increase in the rates of rubber. Hon'ble Forest Minister suggested to hold meetings with local people including tappers who are allegedly involved. He also opined for taking different activities to improve socio-economic conditions of the tappers. It was also suggested to involve tappers in other activities for improving their socio-economic conditions.

4. B. Supply of Latex to DS group.

Forest Minister suggested to extend the supply of latex to DS Group from more centers as far as possible. He also requested Chairman, TFDPC to look into the matter of supply of latex after making alternative arrangements for utilizing processing works in other activities.

4. C. Door Manufacturing Unit.

The progress of the work relating to setting up of Door Manufacturing Unit, reviewed in the meeting. MD, TFDPC briefed about the present status. Due to unavoidable circumstances the construction of factory building could not be started earlier. However the construction of factory building started from Nov'09 by the NPCC. Managing Director, TFDPC informed that very shortly one CNC Router Machine would be purchased to initiate the activity of Door Making from the Rubber Boards being produced in TRWF, Nagichera.

4. D. Financial Position:

The financial position of the TFDPC was also reviewed. It was suggested by the Forest Minister for consideration of depositing the Corpus Fund with Tripura Gramin Bank and State Cooperative Bank to maximum extent. He also suggested for exploring the different fields for investment corpus fund considering the present growth rate of economy and the Bank Rates.

Agenda Item No.5: Annual Action Plan

Annual Action Plan was reviewed. It was suggested for increasing the target in respect of raising of planting materials. It was also suggested for involving Self Help Groups in raising of planting materials.

Agenda Item No.6. Construction of Head Quarter Building

The progress of construction of HQ building is also reviewed. The Forest Minister requested for early completion of the works. Matter has already been discussed at different levels to continue the work.

Agenda item No.7. Over all scenarios of staff position and additional requirement

The staff position of TFDPC IE was reviewed separately after visiting Industrial Estate. A meeting would be convened in the 3rd week of Feb'10. It was also suggested by the Forest Minister to submit a concrete proposal in respect of recruitment of staff and additional requirement in TFDPC.

Meeting concluded with thanks to all the participants.

Sd/-
[Dr.R.L.Srivastava]
Managing Director

Copy to:

1. Shri Jashbir Tripura, MLA, Chairman, TFDPC Ltd.
2. Sri R.P.Tangwan, IFS, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Tripura.
3. Dr. R.L.Srivastava, IFS, MD, TFDPC Ltd.
4. Sri S.Talukdar,CCF,CEO Project Direrctor, JICA
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12. Smt. M.Som, Dy.Manager, TFDPC IE.
13. PA to MD, TFDPC Ltd, Agartala.
14. Guard file.

(P K Das)
Executive Director
TFDPC Ltd, Agartala