

**Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Programme Steering Committee of OTELP
held on 04.12.2007 at 11.30 A.M. in the 2nd Floor Conference Hall of Orissa
Secretariat, Bhubaneswar**

List of Members present is at Annexure – I

1. At the outset, the Commissioner cum Secretary, STSCDD and the Chairperson, OTELP welcomed the Chief Secretary and all other members of the committee and with the permission of the Chair, asked the Programme Director, OTELP to initiate the discussion on the agenda items. The following issues were discussed and decisions taken there in.

2. Confirmation of Proceedings of 5th meeting of PSC:

The minutes of the 5th meeting of PSC held on 13.04.2007 has been circulated to all members vide ST & SC Development Department letter No.15960 dtd.02.05.2007. No suggestion or objection has been received from any quarter. The proceedings of the meeting dt. 13.04.2007 was therefore confirmed.

3. Special survey operation in programme area and monitoring of land rights issues

123 cases in Gajapati district have been settled under OPLE Act restoring 33.46 Ac of land in favour of the tribal households. Similarly 867 households in the programme districts have been given 17.76 Ac of homestead land and 269 households have been given 89.1 Ac of agricultural land under Vasundhara scheme. All the FNGOs will be asked to give a certificate to the effect that no tribal lands have been encroached by others in their area of operation. The P.D. will collect this report and submit to Govt. within 15 days. Homestead land will be given to all the landless tribal families of project villages within 3 months positively.

Special survey operation in the Phase I programme villages of OTELP has been notified vide notification no. S-142/07-34973/RDM dt. 31st August, 2007. The PSU is in the process of procuring the required equipments as suggested by the Director, Land Records. Ten special survey units, each unit comprising of an Asst. Settlement Officer, a Consolidator, Grade II and one Amin are to be posted within a fortnight at the ITDAs to take up the survey operation in the ten Phase I blocks of the programme. Effort will be made to complete the survey and settlement operation within 20 months time. As suggested by the Comm cum Secy, Revenue & Disaster Mgt Deptt., the technical team constituted for recommending the technical specification of the equipments will be sent to Hyderabad for studying similar on going operation in Andhra Pradesh. The P.D. OTELP will facilitate the visit of the Technical Committee. On return they will propose for procurement of the required equipments. The procurement will be completed within two months. The P.D, OTELP will also collect the information on the reports of the respective District Level Committees for ascertaining the status of Forest lands in the programme villages.

4. Up scaling to Phase II – Selection of Facilitating NGOs.

The programme has graduated to Phase II with effect from 27th March, 2007 subsequent to the Mid Term Review of Phase I. Thus nine more blocks in the existing districts are to be included in the programme during 2007 and 11 more blocks in three more districts namely Rayagada, Nawarangpur and Malkangiri will be included in the programme in 2008 as per the recommendations of MTR Mission.

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Steps have been taken for selection of Facilitating NGOs to be associated with programme in the new areas of the existing districts. In pursuance to the advertisement published by the Programme Director, OTELP inviting expressions of interest, 175 applications were received from 160 NGOs expressing interest to function as FNGOs during implementation of OTELP in Phase II. The internal committee consisting of officers of Programme Support Unit namely the Finance & Administrative Officer (Chairperson), Programme Officer (C.B.) and Programme Officer (L&NRM) scrutinized the applications and short listed 64 applications basing on the qualifying criteria as below.

1. Registered body under Registration Society Act-1860.
2. Minimum 3 years audited statement of expenditure.
3. Minimum 3 years of experience of implementing programme funded by external funding agencies.
4. Indication of name of the district and block applied for.
5. Minimum Fixed Asset of Rs.5 lakh (minimum).
6. Experience in implementing watershed related project.

The internal committee then prioritised the same on the basis of 9 points parameter with assigning specific marks. The district wise priority list was placed before the scrutiny-cum-selection committee constituted for the purpose by the Govt. under the chairmanship of the RDC, Southern Division, Berhampur. The committee took up detailed scrutiny of the district wise priority list and endorsed the qualifying criteria as fixed for screening. The respective proposals were also gone through for an objective analysis. The District Collectors supplemented the analysis with their field knowledge about the performance of the short listed NGOs in their respective district. Accordingly the committee recommended two NGOs per block to be associated in implementation of OTELP during Phase-II as FNGOs.

It was decided that the recommendation of the Selection committee along with the evaluation of the scrutiny committee will be further analysed by the Administrative Department taking into consideration the past five years working experience and the staff strength of all the short listed NGOs in the respective blocks. Accordingly, the final list will be prepared within ten days and placed before the Chairperson of PSC for approval.

5. Strengthening ITDAs of Phase II districts.

Three more districts namely Rayagada, Malkangiri and Nawarangpur will be included during Phase II implementation of the programme in 2008. The concerned ITDAs will have to be strengthened with eight Subject Matter Specialists namely Programme Officer (Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation), Watershed Development Officer, Agriculture Officer, Forestry Officers, Programme Officer (Capacity Building), Micro Finance Officer, Finance Officer and MIS Executive. It was decided that the Govt in the Revenue Department will be requested to post three officers in the rank of O.A.S (Jr - I), having experience as B.D.Os to function as P.O. (PME) in the respective ITDAs. However, applications from retired O.A.S. Officers may also be invited through open advertisement for the posts of P.O.(PME). Other posts of Subject Matter Specialists will be filled up by recruiting professionals on contract basis through open advertisement.

6. Annual Work Plan & Budget for the year 2007 - 08

The AWPB for the year 2007 - 08 has been drawn up projecting a financial outlay of Rs. 41.85 crores including the unspent balance of Rs. 8 crores by the end of 31st March, 2007. As against the above, the expenditure up to October, 2007 has been to the tune of Rs. 7.96 crores. Steps are

to be taken to expedite the activities for achieving the physical and financial target for the year 2007-08.

7. Incentives to Govt. staff and Enhancement of remuneration of contractual staff

- a. As decided in the 4th meeting of the PSC, the committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Forests & Environment recommended that the Govt. may adopt the same procedure as was done earlier in case of OTDP and the Govt. officers/staff posted under OTELP may be designated against their respective promotional rank and their pay be notionally fixed at the initial of the pay scale of the promotional post.

The recommendation of the above Committee has not been agreed to by the Finance Department and the FD has sanctioned a project allowance to officers of different grades up to a maximum of Rs 250 per month.

The matter was deliberated by all the members at length in the 5th meeting of PSC and the recommendation of the above committee was approved by the PSC. Accordingly the Finance Department has been moved for the needful. The response is awaited.

- b. Further, the SLPMC in its 7th meeting has approved the proposal for revision of the remuneration of the Contractual staff under OTELP in the same line as under Western Orissa Rural Livelihood Programme (WORLP), duly approved by the Finance Department. Accordingly the proposal has been sent to FD. The PSC in its 5th meeting approved the decision of the SLPMC. The Finance Department was requested to do the needful. The FD has not agreed to the proposal and has suggested for undertaking a review of the impact of programme activities on the livelihoods of the villagers.

The Mid Term Review of the programme during September, 2006 and the subsequent reviews during May, 2007 and November, 2007 have clearly indicated the positive impact of the programme interventions on the livelihoods of the tribal communities. There is a demand from the non OTELP villages for inclusion in OTELP.

It was decided that the Govt. officials working under OTELP will be given 10% of their basic pay as incentive subject to a maximum of Rs. 1500/-. The contractual staff under OTELP will be given the consolidated remuneration same as under Western Orissa Livelihoods Programme.

The P.D. is to implement the above decision expeditiously, keeping Finance Department informed.

8. Any Other Matter:

The Review Mission conducted from 19th November to 3rd December has placed before the Govt. the following recommendations, on which the committee may take necessary decisions:

- Regular monitoring of implementation of Vasundhara scheme for giving land to landless.
- Operationalisation of special survey operation.
- To implement the MTR recommendation of bifurcating the finance and administration function at PSU, with the recruitment of a chartered accountant on contract to manage the finance operation of the programme, its cost be part of the programme budget. The current finance and administration officer will henceforth be re-designated as revenue and administration officer and will be responsible for administration and the revenue component of the programme.

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- Audit Report for the year 2006-07 to be supplemented with the Auditor's report on the Statement of Expenditure submitted for reimbursement.
 - M& E software developed by the M& E consultant to be operationalised at the earliest.
 - Implementation of recommendation of the high level committee on special allowance to Govt. staff under the programme.
 - Salary and allowance package of contractual project staff would be identical to that which is applicable to WORLP, project funded by DFID in Orissa.
 - PSU staff to be further strengthened by visiting similar projects in the country to update themselves of innovative things being tried successfully, as well as inviting experts in the various fields relevant to the programme like water shed development, strengthening CBOs including SHG growth and development in the context of the programme and financial management at all levels, on a regular basis. Contractual arrangement with reputed NGOs, training institutes and consultancy firms be carried out so that such services could be availed on a continuous basis throughout the year. There are many reputable NGOs in the country, of which MYRADA is one of them who has associated closely with OTELP. Taking into account their relative strength, MYRADA may be considered along with other NGOs
 - I.E.C. activities through Pala, Daskathia and films through ORSAC be done.

The P.D., OTELP is to take necessary follow up and report compliance.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and Members present.

LIST OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	
1.	Sri. Anil Kumar Tripathy, IAS Chief Secretary	Chairman
2.	Sri R.N. Bohidar, IAS Development Commissioner and Addl. Chief Secretary	Member
3.	Smt. Rajalakshmi, IAS Chief Administrator, KBK Districts	Member
4.	Dr. Taradatt, IAS Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt ST & SC Development Department	Member Secretary
5.	Sri G.V.V. Sarma, IAS Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt Revenue & Disaster Mgt Department	Member
6.	Smt. Mona Sharma, IAS Commissioner cum Secretary to Govt Women & Child Development Department	Member
7.	Sri B.C. Mohapatra, IAS. Addl. Secretary to Govt. Finance Department	Member
8.	Sri G.B. Reddy, IFS Director, Orissa Watershed Development Mission	Member
9.	Sri R.K. Choudhury, Director & Addl. Secretary to Govt. Panchayat Raj Department	
10.	Sri Biswajit Mishra, IAS Addl. Secretary to Govt. ST & SC Development Department	Member
11.	Sri Deepak Mohanty, IFS Programme Director, OTELP	Member