

HALF-YEARLY
PERFORMANCE REVIEW
OF
WEST BENGAL'S
ANNUAL PLAN 2005-06
(April to September 2005)

By
Shri Chandra Pal,
Adviser (State Plans – East)

Government of India
Planning Commission
New Delhi
(16th & 17th November 2005)

CONTENTS

	Page Number
Introduction	1-
Statement of Outlay & Anticipated Expenditure	2-8
State of Finances	9- 10
Agriculture & Allied Sectors	11- 14
Rural Development	15-20
Special Areas Programmes	21 -23
Irrigation & Flood Control	24-30
Energy	31-34
Industry & Minerals	35-37
Transport	38-41
Science, Technology & Environment	42
General Economic Services	43
Social Services	44 - 58
General Services	59
Wrap-up Minutes	60-65
Participants from Planning Commission (Annex. I)	66
Participants from West Bengal Govt. (Annex. III)	67-70

MINUTES OF THE FIRST HALF-YEARLY PERFORMANCE REVIEW (HPR) OF ANNUAL PLAN 2005-06 OF WEST BENGAL HELD ON THE 16TH & 17TH NOVEMBER 2005 AT KOLKATA.

Introduction:

The review meeting was held under the co-chairmanship of Shri Chandra Pal, Adviser (SP-East), Planning Commission and Shri P. Bhattacharya, Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal. The list of officers both from the Planning Commission and the Government of West Bengal who attended the meeting is at Annexure II and Annexure III respectively.

The approved Annual Plan outlay of West Bengal for the year 2005-06 is Rs.6476.00 crore. Of this, Rs.2089.05 crore (32.26%) is State's Own Resources and Rs.4386.95 crore (67.74%) is Central Assistance. The component of Central Assistance is given below:

<u>Components</u>	<u>Rs. in crore</u>
a. Normal Central Assistance	1611.17
b. One time Additional Central Assistance	100.00
c. ACA for Externally Aided projects	1898.43
d. Others	777.35

The expenditure for the first half (April to September) of the Annual Plan 2005-06 of West Bengal is **Rs.2162.96 crore which is 33.40% of the approved outlay.**

The Heads of Development-wise and Department-wise outlay and expenditure figures are given in the Table below. The overall performance of the State during the year is by and large satisfactory given the fact that they have targeted to achieve an expenditure figure of around 35% of approved outlay. In future, the State has been advised to increase the target to not less than 40% in the interest of better implementation and fuller utilization of Plan allocation. **Compared to the corresponding period of last year, financial progress this half-year has improved by 13.30%.** The achievement of each sector is given below under various heads of development.

Review of Half Yearly Expenditure in respect of Annual Plan 2004-05 & 2005-06

							Rs. in lakhs
Heads of Development	Annual Plan 2004-05			Annual Plan 2005-06			Difference of 2005-06 Expenditure compared with 2004-05
	Approved Outlay	Half Yearly Expenditure ending 30.9.04	%age of half- Yearly Expend.	Approved Outlay	Half Yearly Expenditure ending 30.9.05	%age of half- Yearly Expend.	
	1	3	4	5	6	7	
I - Agriculture and Allied Activities							
1.Crop Husbandry							
Agriculture Deptt.	2163.00	1070.91	49.51	2669.00	756.22	28.33	-21.18
Cottage & Small Scale Industries Deptt.	11.50			15.00			
Total - Crop Husbandry	2174.50	1070.91	49.25	2684.00	756.22	28.18	-21.07
2.Horticulture							
Food Processing Industries & Horti. Deptt.	266.00	77.15	29.00	442.00	32.67	7.39	-21.61
3.Soil & Water Conservation							
Agriculture Deptt.	48.00	23.76	49.50	40.00	11.33	28.33	-21.18
Development & Planning Deptt.	9.00	3.63	40.33	13.00	5.55	42.69	2.36
Forest Deptt.	12.20			19.52			
Total - Soil & Water Conservation	69.20	27.39	39.58	72.52	16.88	23.28	-16.30
4.Animal Husbandry							
Animal Resources Development Deptt.	752.00			782.00	126.55	16.18	16.18
5.Dairy Development							
Animal Resources Development Deptt.	325.00			389.00	62.95	16.18	16.18
6.Fisheries							
Fisheries Department	3195.00	89.41	2.80	3295.00	748.25	22.71	19.91
7.Forestry & Wildlife							
Forest Deptt.	1940.95	200.00	10.30	2221.52	384.64	17.31	7.01
8.Plantations							
Food Processing Industries & Horti Deptt.	183.00	53.07	29.00	90.00			-29.00
Commerce & Industries Deptt.	170.00	20.90	12.29	170.00	37.66	22.15	9.86
Total - Plantations	353.00	73.97	20.95	260.00	37.66	14.48	-6.47
9.Food, Storage and Warehousing							
Agriculture Marketing Deptt.	13.00	2.85	21.92	33.00			-21.92
Food & Supplies Deptt.	3.07			3.07			
Total - Food, Storage and Warehousing	16.07	2.85	17.73	36.07			-17.73
10.Agricultural Research and Education							
Agriculture Deptt.	610.00	302.01	49.51	790.00	223.83	28.33	-21.18
Forest Deptt.	6.10			9.76			
Total - Agri. Research and Education	616.10	302.01	49.02	799.76	223.83	27.99	-21.03
11.Agricultural Financial Institution							
Finance(IF) Deptt.	186.00			186.00			
12.Co-operation							
Co-Operation Deptt.	689.73			1384.95	272.71	19.69	19.69
13.Other Agricultural Programme							
Agriculture Marketing Deptt.	179.00	39.21	21.91	267.00			-21.91

Agriculture Deptt.	10.00			15.00			
Total - Other Agricultural Programme	189.00	39.21	20.75	282.00			-20.75
Total I - Agriculture and Allied Activities	10772.55	1882.90	17.48	12834.82	2662.36	20.74	3.26
II- RURAL DEVELOPMENT							
1.Special Programmes for Rural Dev.							
a) Agriculture Deptt. (DPAP)							
c)Science & Tech. Deptt. (IREP)	15.00	2.34	15.60	17.80	3.19	17.92	2.32
d)P& RD Deptt. (Intg. Waste Land Dev. Progm.)	10.00			15.00			
e)Panchayat & Rural Dev. Deptt.(SGSY)	2500.00	1375.35	55.01	2503.00	1604.79	64.11	9.10
f)P& RD Deptt. (DRDA Administration)							
g)Dev. & Planning Deptt. (RSVY)	12000.00	4836.83	40.31	12000.00	5123.21	42.69	2.39
Total : Spl. Programmes for Rural Dev.	14525.00	6214.52	42.78	14535.80	6731.19	46.31	3.52
2.Rural Employment							
a)Panchayat & Rural Dev. Deptt.(SGRY)	10432.00	5739.07	55.01	9200.00	5898.55	64.11	9.10
3.Land Reforms							
Land & Land Reforms Deptt.	140.00	0.18	0.13	400.00	128.45	32.11	31.98
4.Other Rural Development Programmes							
Panchayat & Rural Development Deptt.	17875.00	9833.78	55.01	32521.00	20850.73	64.11	9.10
Land & Land Reforms Deptt.	1.00			1.00			
Total : Other Rural Dev. Programmes	17876.00	9833.78	55.01	32522.00	20850.73	64.11	9.10
Total : II-Rural Development	42973.00	21787.55	50.70	56657.80	33608.92	59.32	8.62
III-Special Areas Programme							
a) Hill Areas							
Animal Resources Development Deptt.	25.00			25.00			
Agriculture Deptt.	25.00	12.38	49.52	50.00	14.17	28.34	-21.18
Commerce & Industries Deptt.	150.00	18.44	12.29	150.00	33.23	22.15	9.86
Education(Mass) Deptt.	0.10			0.10			
Education (School) Deptt.	10.00			10.00			
Fisheries Deptt.	15.00			15.00			
Forest Deptt.	30.75			49.20			
Hill Affairs Deptt.	2544.00	1172.00	46.07	2844.00	824.25	28.98	-17.09
Health & Family Welfare Deptt.	150.00	72.00	48.00	150.00	24.29	16.19	-31.81
Information & Cultural Affairs Deptt.	1.22			1.22			
Irrigation & Waterways Deptt.	13.00			15.00			
Public Health Engineering Deptt.	130.00			130.00	35.76	27.51	27.51
Public Works (Roads) Deptt.	20.00			60.00			
Tourism Deptt.	10.00			20.00			
Urban Development Deptt.	3.75			6.85			
Water Investigation & Development Deptt.	35.00			50.00			
Total : Hill Areas	3162.82	1274.82	40.31	3576.37	931.70	26.05	-14.25
b) Other Special Areas Programme							
i) Border Area Dev. Programme (BADP)							
Home (Political) Deptt.	3956.00	24.00	0.61	3956.00	432.20	10.93	10.32
ii) Grants under Art.275 (I)							
Backward Classes & Welfare Deptt.				1532.00	452.18	29.52	29.52
iii) Others							
Agriculture Deptt.	20.00	9.90	49.50	20.00			-49.50

Dev. & Plang. Deptt.(PUP,UBUP,BEUP)	10743.58	4330.41	40.31	10883.00	4646.32	42.69	2.39
Sunderban Affairs Deptt.(Sun. Dev.)	3200.00	631.12	19.72	4200.00	1114.49	26.54	6.81
Panchyat & RD Deptt. (CADC)	1900.00	1045.27	55.01	1900.00	1218.18	64.11	9.10
Total Others (iii)	15863.58	6016.7	37.93	17003.00	6978.99	41.05	3.12
Total : Other Special Area Programme	19819.58	6040.70	30.48	22491.00	7863.37	34.96	4.48
Total : III-Special Area Programme	22982.40	7315.52	31.83	26067.37	8795.07	33.74	1.91
IV - Irrigation and Flood Control							
1.Major & Medium Irrigation							
Irrigation & Waterways Deptt.	8945.00	1337.28	14.95	10671.00	2736.70	25.65	10.70
Water Investigation & Development Deptt.	180.00	4.48	2.49	42.00			-2.49
Total : Major & Medium Irrigation	9125.00	1341.76	14.70	10713.00	2736.70	25.55	10.84
2.Minor Irrigation							
Water Investigation & Development Deptt.	3535.00	88.02	2.49	4808.00	2024.30	42.10	39.61
3.Command Area Development							
Water Investigation & Development Deptt.	750.00	18.67	2.49	750.00	315.77	42.10	39.61
Irrigation & Waterways Deptt.	10.00			1.00			
Total : Command Area Development	760.00	18.67	2.46	751.00	315.77	42.05	39.59
4.Flood Control							
Irrigation & Waterways Deptt.	12738.00	1904.33	14.95	13413.00	3439.92	25.65	10.70
Total : IV - Irrigation and Flood Control	26158.00	3352.78	12.82	29685.00	8516.69	28.69	15.87
V - E n e r g y							
1. Power							
Power Deptt.	156748.00	16880.37	10.77	207855.00	66014.40	31.76	20.99
2. Non-Conventional Sources of Energy							
Power Deptt.	400.00	43.08	10.77	500.00	158.80	31.76	20.99
Total : V - E n e r g y	157148.00	16923.45	10.77	208355.00	66173.20	31.76	20.99
VI - Industry and Minerals							
1. Village & Small Industries							
Cottate & Small Scale Industries Deptt.	1438.50	930.06	64.65	3435.00	2972.81	86.54	21.89
Food Processing Industries & Horti. Deptt.				377.00	27.87	7.39	7.39
Total : Village & Small Industries	1438.50	930.06	64.65	3812.00	3000.68	78.72	14.06
2. Other Industries (Other than V SI)							
Commerce & Industries Deptt.	3407.20	418.80	12.29	6060.20	1342.64	22.16	9.86
Information Technology Deptt.	150.00	222.38	148.25	450.00			-148.25
Finance (IF) Deptt.	303.00	0.50	0.17	303.00			-0.17
Industrial Reconstruction Deptt.	773.00	600.00	77.62	850.00			-77.62
Power Deptt.	100.00	10.77	10.77	500.00	158.80	31.76	20.99
Public Enterprises Deptt.	6663.00	26.22	0.39	4951.00	120.68	2.44	2.04
Food Processing Ind.Deptt.	460.00	133.42	29.00				-29.00
Total Other Industries (Other than V SI)	11856.20	1412.09	11.91	13114.20	1622.12	12.37	0.46
Minerals							
Commerce & Industries Deptt.	420.00	51.63	12.29	420.00	93.05	22.15	9.86
Total : VI - Industry and Minerals	13714.70	2393.78	17.45	17346.20	4715.85	27.19	9.73
VII - Transport							
2. Civil Aviation							
Transport Deptt.	50.00			50.00	23.50	47.00	47.00
3. Roads and Bridges							

Commerce & Industries Deptt.	0.80			0.80			
Public Works(Roads) Deptt.	37598.00	6507.70	17.31	39259.00	10312.58	26.27	8.96
Public Works Department	6068.00	1835.20	30.24	7268.00	549.57	7.56	-22.68
Transport Deptt.	125.00			195.00	91.67	47.01	47.01
Total : Roads and Bridges	43791.80	8342.90	19.05	46722.80	10953.82	23.44	4.39
4. Road Transport							
Transport Deptt.	4946.00	9.45	0.19	5173.00	2431.90	47.01	46.82
5. Inland Water Transport							
Transport Deptt.	220.00			385.00	180.99	47.01	47.01
6. Other Transport Services							
Public Enterprises Deptt.	3.00			3.00			
Total : VII - Transport	49010.80	8352.35	17.04	52333.80	13590.21	25.97	8.93
VIII - Communications							
IX-Science, Technology and Environment							
1. Scientific Research							
Environment Deptt.				240.00	80.93	33.72	33.72
Science & Technology Deptt.	112.00	17.49	15.62	282.20	50.51	17.90	2.28
Information Technology Deptt.	1262.00	1870.95	148.25	1262.00	56.34	4.46	-143.79
Transport Deptt.	40.00						
Total : Scientific Research	1414.00	1888.44	133.55	1784.20	187.78	10.52	-123.03
2. Ecology and Environment							
Environment Deptt.	251.00	15.99	6.37	11.00	3.71	33.73	27.36
Total :IX-Science, Tech. & Environment	1665.00	1904.43	114.38	1795.20	191.49	10.67	-103.71
X- General Economic Services							
1. Secretariat Economic Services							
Development & Planning Deptt. Deptt.	42.97	17.32	40.31	94.15	40.20	42.70	2.39
2. Tourism							
Tourism Deptt.	401.00			691.00	112.74	16.32	16.32
3. Census,Survey & Statistics							
Development & Planning Deptt.	23.60	9.51	40.30	30.00	12.80	42.67	2.37
4. Civil Supplies							
Consumer Affairs Department	350.64	179.03	51.06	484.20	78.08	16.13	-34.93
Food & Supplies Deptt.	15.00			15.00	2.6	17.33	17.33
Total : Civil Supplies	365.64	179.03	48.96	499.20	80.68	16.16	-32.80
5. Other General Economic Service-							
a) Weights and Measures							
Consumer Affairs Deptt.	41.36	21.12	51.06	46.80	7.55	16.13	-34.93
b(i) District Planning							
Development & Planning Deptt.	1428.65	575.85	40.31	1515.55	647.04	42.69	2.39
b(ii) Others (Gen. Econ. Services)							
Home (Police) Deptt.	100.00	18.89	18.89	555.00	71.26	12.84	-6.05
Total - Other General Economic Services	1570.01	615.86	39.23	2117.35	725.85	34.28	-4.95
Total : X- General Economic Services	2403.22	821.72	34.19	3431.70	972.27	28.33	-5.86
XI- Social Services							
1. General Education							

Education (Higher) Deptt.	457.20	99.51	21.77	743.00	211.27	28.43	6.67
Education (Mass) Deptt.	929.80	113.28	12.18	1050.90	210.36	20.02	7.83
Education (School) Deptt.	44645.30	7206.69	16.14	51947.68	16639.79	32.03	15.89
Total - General Education	46032.30	7419.48	16.12	53741.58	17061.42	31.75	15.63
2. Technical Education							
Education (Higher) Deptt.	110.45	24.04	21.77	5017.70	1426.74	28.43	6.67
Technical Education & Training Deptt.	375.19	112.64	30.02	613.00	151.47	24.71	-5.31
Total - Technical Education	485.64	136.68	28.14	5630.70	1578.21	28.03	-0.12
3. Sports and Youth Services							
Education (Higher) Deptt.	9.45	2.05	21.69	26.10	7.42	28.43	6.74
Education (School) Deptt.	31.75	5.12	16.13	31.75	10.17	32.03	15.91
Sports Department Deptt.	742.00	100.00	13.48	816.00	587.77	72.03	58.55
Youth Services Department	2622.00			2622.00	76.20	2.91	2.91
I & C.A. Deptt.				2.00			
Total - Sports and Youth Services	3405.20	107.17	3.15	3497.85	681.56	19.49	16.34
4. Art and Culture							
Education (Higher) Deptt.	54.90	11.95	21.77	93.20	26.50	28.43	6.67
Information & Cultural Affairs Deptt.	472.17	455.46	96.46	330.78	411.29	124.34	27.88
Total - Art and Culture	527.07	467.41	88.68	423.98	437.79	103.26	14.58
Sub.Total - Education	50450.21	8130.74	16.12	63294.11	19758.98	31.22	15.10
5. Medical & Public Health							
Municipal Affairs Deptt.	198.00	17.76	8.97	150.00	45.74	30.49	21.52
Labour Deptt. (ESI)	48.80			48.80	12.23	25.06	25.06
Health & Family Welfare Deptt.	23493.00	11277.93	48.01	40009.00	6480.06	16.20	-31.81
Total - Medical & Public Health	23739.80	11295.69	47.58	40207.80	6538.03	16.26	-31.32
6. Water Supply And Sanitation							
Urban Dev. Deptt.	15.00			20.00			
Public Health Engineering Deptt.	13520.00	245.91	1.82	14019.00	3856.52	27.51	25.69
Total - Water Supply And Sanitation	13535.00	245.91	1.82	14039.00	3856.52	27.47	25.65
Housing (incl. Police Housing)							
Co-operation Deptt.	0.05			0.05			
Finance (Tax) Deptt.	5.00			5.00			
Housing Deptt.	1772.00	20.29	1.15	1879.00	226.34	12.05	10.90
Home (P & AR) Deptt.	41.30			47.90	47.46	99.08	99.08
Judicial Deptt.	71.00	18.74	26.39	70.00	67	95.71	69.32
Labour Deptt.	0.30			0.30			
Parliamentary Affairs Deptt.				50.00	87.62	175.24	175.24
Panchyat & Rural Development Deptt.	1.00			1.00			
Home (Police) Deptt.				10.00			
Home (Defence) Deptt.							
Public Works Deptt.							
i) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)							
Panchayat & Rural Dev. Deptt.	650.00	357.59	55.01	2132.00	1366.92	64.11	9.10
Total : Housing incl. Police Housing & IAY	2540.65	396.62	15.61	4195.25	1795.34	42.79	27.18
8. Urban Dev. Incl. State Cap. Projects							
Development & Planning Deptt.	1.20			0.30			
Municipal Affairs Deptt.	41663.00	3740.30	8.98	50006.00	15250.15	30.50	21.52

Urban Development Deptt.	4873.25	270.97	5.56	6365.15	303.76	4.77	-0.79
Fire Services Deptt.	1390.00	15.63	1.12	1000.00	194.30	19.43	18.31
Total : Urban Dev. Includ. State Cap. Projects	47927.45	4026.90	8.40	57371.45	15748.21	27.45	19.05
9. Information & publicity							
Information & Cultural Affairs Deptt.	325.61	314.09	96.46	316.00	390.56	123.59	27.13
10. Welfare of SCs, STs & OBCs							
Backward Classes Welfare Deptt.	10401.00	180.00	1.73	10868.00	3207.73	29.52	27.78
11. Labour & Employment							
A. Labour Welfare							
Labour	156.04			156.54	39.23	25.06	25.06
Public works Department				4.00			
Total - Labour Welfare	156.04			160.54	39.23	24.44	24.44
B. Employment Services							
Dev. & Planning Deptt.							
Labour Deptt.	2.00			2.00			
Total: Employment Services	2.00			2.00			
C. Craftsmen Training							
Technical Education & Training Deptt.	87.81	26.36	30.02	350.00	86.48	24.71	-5.31
Total - Labour & Employment	245.85	26.36	10.72	512.54	125.71	24.53	13.80
12. Social Security & Social Welfare							
Information Technology Deptt.							
Education (Mass) Deptt.	522.10	63.60	12.18	385.00	77.06	20.02	7.83
Panchyat and Rural Dev.(NSAP)	7155.00	3936.26	55.01	7957.00	5101.60	64.11	9.10
Rufugee Relief & Rehabilitation Deptt.	649.00	51.00	7.86	665.00			-7.86
Relief Deptt.	31.00	0.24	0.77	39.00	11.04	28.31	27.53
Women & Child Dev, and Social Wel. Deptt.	1710.00	895.63	52.38	4068.00	3627.60	89.17	36.80
Food & Supplies Deptt.(NSAP)	1634.00			1634.00			
Total -Social Security & Social Welfare	11701.10	4946.73	42.28	14748.00	8817.30	59.79	17.51
13. Nutrition							
Education (School) Deptt.	84.95	13.72	16.15	946.57	303.20	32.03	15.88
Women & Child Dev. and Social Wel. Deptt.	9715.00	5088.33	52.38	11357.00	10127.48	89.17	36.80
Total - Nutrition	9799.95	5102.05	52.06	12303.57	10430.68	84.78	32.72
14. Other Social Services							
Co-operation Deptt.	0.22			5.00			
Finance (Tax) Deptt.	200.00	12.51	6.26	2040.00	1411.85	69.21	62.95
Minorities Development & Welfare Deptt.	599.00	0.58	0.10	659.00	73.39	11.14	11.04
Labour Deptt.	3792.86		0.00	3792.36	950.44	25.06	25.06
Total - Other Social Services	4592.08	13.09	0.29	6496.36	2435.68	37.49	37.21
XI - Total Social Services	175258.70	34678.18	19.79	224352.08	73104.74	32.58	12.80
XII - General Services							
1. Jails							
Home (Jails) Deptt.	84.00	41.59	49.51	444.00	208.85	47.04	-2.47
2. Stationery & Printing							
Commerce and Industries Deptt.	44.00	5.40	12.27	44.00	9.75	22.16	9.89
3. Public Works							
Home (Civil Defence) Deptt.	5.00			10.00	6.75	67.50	67.50
Excise Deptt.	19.00			21.00	12.00	57.14	57.14

Finance (Audit) Deptt.	12.00	6.46	53.83	12.00	15.00	125.00	71.17
Food & Supplies Deptt.	81.93			91.93	15.97	17.37	17.37
Finance (Tax) Deptt.	100.00	6.25	6.25	100.00	69.21	69.21	62.96
Home (Police) Deptt.	1045.00	197.38	18.89	2435.00	312.62	12.84	-6.05
Home (P & AR) Deptt.	130.20	0.70	0.54	143.60	142.28	99.08	98.54
Judicial Deptt.	475.00	125.34	26.39	451.00	431.71	95.72	69.34
Land and Land Reforms Deptt.	59.00		0.00	99.00	31.79	32.11	32.11
Parliamentary Affairs Deptt.	26.81	329.10	1227.53	218.00	382.05	175.25	-1052.27
Public Works Department	7632.00	2308.22	30.24	8428.00	637.29	7.56	-22.68
Relief Deptt.	69.00			71.00	20.10	28.31	28.31
Home (Defence) Deptt.	5.00			5.00	5.00	100.00	100.00
Home (Jails) Deptt.	326.00	161.40	49.51	380.00	178.74	47.04	-2.47
Commerce & Industries Deptt.	8.00			8.00			
Total - Public Works	9993.94	3134.85	31.37	12473.53	2260.51	18.12	-13.25
4. Other Administrative Services							
Fire Services Deptt.	50.00			322.00	62.56	19.43	19.43
Finance (Audit) Deptt.	288.00	155.06	53.84	208.00	260.11	125.05	71.21
Finance (Tax) Deptt.	295.00	18.44	6.25	335.00	231.85	69.21	62.96
Home (P & AR) Deptt.	27.50			27.50	27.25	99.09	99.09
Judicial Deptt.	750.00	197.91	26.39	817.00	782.05	95.72	69.33
Parliamentary Affairs Deptt.	22.19	272.39	1227.53	70.00	122.68	175.26	-1052.28
Home (Police) Deptt.	1346.00	254.24	18.89				-18.89
Total - Other Administrative Services	2778.69	898.04	32.32	1779.50	1486.50	83.53	51.22
XII - Total General Services	12900.63	4079.88	31.63	14741.03	3965.61	26.90	-4.72
GRAND TOTAL	514987.00	103492.54	20.10	647600.00	216296.41	33.40	13.30

STATE OF FINANCES

The approved Plan outlay for the State during the current Annual Plan period is Rs.6476.00 crore. However, the State's Principal Secretary, Finance Department informed that due to low intake for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), a slight decrease in the actual expenditure can be expected at the end of the year. Taking a look at the overall financial position of the State, he reminded the meeting that the 5th Pay Revision had an acutely adverse impact on the finances of the State since salaries and pensions of non-Government schools and colleges are also borne by the State Government. Immediately this led to a 40% jump in salary expenditure. The impact could be seen in the widening revenue deficit and fiscal deficit of the State despite efforts to tighten control on non-plan expenditure. In 1997-98, the ratio of revenue deficit to revenue receipt was 25.4, the ratio of State's own tax collection to State Domestic Product was 4.6 and the Plan expenditure was Rs.3,697.00 crore. Thereafter, in 1999-2000, the ratio of revenue deficit to revenue receipt increased sharply to reach 91.0 and the ratio of State's own tax collection to the State Domestic Product fell to 3.9. Moreover, the State's Plan expenditure also gradually came down to the level of 2,571.00 crore. An attempt was made to bring down salary expenditure by squeezing recruitment and by filling up vacancies only after obtaining ACC approval. Besides, the State Government is giving dearness allowance at the rate of 59% only compared to the Central dearness allowance rate of 71%. Pension reforms are, however, not yet done.

The rate of growth of tax revenue is also low. The Tax/ GDP ratio at the All-India level is above 7% while in West Bengal it is below 5%. This is also attributable to the growth pattern of the different sectors of the State's economy. The secondary sector contributes hardly 15% of the State Domestic Product and the presence of a very large number of unorganized manufacturing units in this sector further worsens the already low Tax/ GDP ratio. The average growth rate of the primary sector, the secondary sector and the tertiary sector has been of the order of 5.5%, 8% and 10% respectively. It is expected that with the introduction of VAT, the scope for evasion will be much less than what has been the case under the earlier tax regime.

The State Government has, however, taken its own efforts for coming out of the financial crisis. Main thrust has been given on increase in the growth of collection of its own tax revenue and reduction in the growth of non-plan expenditure. As a result of these efforts, the collection of State's own tax revenue has increased by about 91% over the period from 1999-2000 to 2004-05. During the same period, the growth of non-plan revenue expenditure was restricted to 51%. Thus, the ratio of State's own tax collection in the State Domestic Product which has fallen from 4.6 in 1997-98 to 4.1 in 1999-2000, has now again increased to the level of 4.9. Similarly,

the ratio of State's revenue deficit to revenue receipt which had increased from 25.1 in 1997-98 to 91.0 in 1999-2000 has now come down to 43.9 in 2004-05 and will fall further to 29.0 in the next year. The State is also trying to increase the collection of non-tax revenue through sources such as user charges, coal royalty, and online lottery, etc. For certain health services rendered by the Government hospitals, etc. the users are made to pay up to 35% of the market rate and in others cases, the private sector is allowed to set up their facilities within the Government hospitals' premises subject to sharing of revenue with the State. The Government has also been successful in improving the recovery of arrear taxes from defaulters.

The enormous debt burden of the State is, however, a cause of concern. As on 31.3.2005, the total debt burden stood at Rs.92,000 crore and this is mainly due to Central loan (NSSF loan). The State Government is paying interest at the rate of 9.5% on such loans while the Government of India is paying interest at the rate of 8% only. The State government has, therefore, requested for some reduction in the rate of interest. The Twelfth Finance Commission recommended some debt relief measures like reduction of interest on outstanding loans from 11.5% to 7.5% but NSSF loans were excluded from the purview of these recommendations. The State Government is waiting for an early decision by the NDC Sub-Committee which has been appointed to look into this particular problem of the State. If the State's suggestions are accepted, fiscal deficit of the State can be reduced to three percent by 2008-09.

AGRICULTURE & ALLIED ACTIVITIES

Out of the total agreed outlay of Rs. 128.35 crore, the half-yearly expenditure as on 30.9.2005 was Rs.97.05 crore which is 26.62% of agreed outlay. This figure is 3.26% more than the figure for the corresponding period of the previous year. The State claimed to have achieved a satisfactory level of crop diversification.

As reported during the last review meeting, the various schemes under this sector continue to contribute significantly towards employment as well as income generation. However, it was pointed out during the meeting that greater efforts have to be made not only to sustain the present level of development but also to achieve greater breakthroughs so that the State can really consolidate the gains and become still more agriculturally prosperous in the coming years. The impact of this high growth rate should also be seen in the lower incidence of poverty in rural areas in terms of percentage of BPL families in the rural areas of the State. Adviser (SP-East) suggested the drawing up of village-wise agricultural plans so that total production and productivity will increase throughout the State. Thereafter the preparedness of the farmers to implement the plan should be ensured. Department-wise details are as under: -

1. Animal Resources Development Department:

The financial performance of this Department during the first half of the year was not to the desired level. It was only 16.18% of approved outlay for 2005-06. The Department was required to come up with a plan for full utilization of the balance outlay during the remaining four and half months.

2. Cooperation:

The Department was allocated Rs.13.84 during 2005-06 and the amount released so far has been Rs.2.97 crore only. The meeting was informed that the balance amount would be received only in the month of March 2006 and disbursement to societies would be made the following month, i.e. in April 2006. The State Government was advised to spread the allocation more evenly in all the four quarters of the year so that a major part of the allocation is spent within the current year itself. Out of the above-mentioned total allocation, Rs.12.00 crore will go to the Integrated Cooperative Development Project being implemented in four Districts. The important components of the project are construction of go-down, provision of mini-banking facilities, provision of minor irrigation facilities, and procurement of tractors and other ploughing machines. There are 600 societies which have been identified to receive assistance under this project in these four Districts where a

majority of the defunct and dormant societies is concentrated. In the State as a whole it is estimated that about 4000 out of 8000+ societies are defunct/ dormant and the main cause is low recovery of loan.

3. Food Processing Industries & Horticulture:

The amount already released to the Department was 33.40% of the total allocation for 2005-06. The State Government informed that many projects including the Malda Food Park could not make desired progress during the second quarter due to heavy incessant rainfall. Now it was reported that all works are progressing well and the Department of Food Processing Industries has assured that the entire allocation would be fully utilized by March 2006. As far as the horticulture sector is concerned, the meeting was informed that the concerned Department has already many proposals in hand and in the pipeline and hence there would be no problem at all in utilizing the entire amount allocated to the Department during 2005-06.

4. Agriculture:

The financial performance of the Department during the first half of 2005-06 is less than what it was for the corresponding period last year. This year only 28.33% of the approved outlay could be spent. The Department was advised to accelerate the progress of expenditure during the remaining months of the year. Nevertheless, Planning Commission appreciated the State's efforts towards crop diversification, raising productivity and encouragement of demand driven production of crops to enhance farmers' incomes and the efficiency of the use of resources. On the whole, the agriculture sector of the state is performing well but it was informed that marketing is still a formidable problem especially for areas which are far away from Kolkata and other more important urban centres. That is why certain crops like broccoli and baby corn are doing well only around such urban centres. APMC Act is not operational in West Bengal. The State has formulated its own marketing Act whose passage is being expedited for the immediate benefits of farmers.

5. Agricultural-Marketing:

The Department has been allocated Rs.3.00 crore during 2005-06 but nothing could be spent during the first half of the year because infrastructure development projects have to be vetted by Public Works Department and Zilla Parishad Department which delayed submission of the proposals for release of funds. An amount of Rs.1.00 crore was released to the Department only during October 2005 and out of this, Rs.1.33 lakh only was spent on a training programme. The matter has been taken up with all concerned departments and now it is expected that progress would pick up. The meeting was also informed that 30 out of 45 markets were

computerized and 14 out of the remaining 15 are being computerized now. Computerization of the remaining one market in Purulia could not be taken up due to non-availability of a suitable person to man the facility being created. This problem is being looked into. The department was advised to go for modernization of its fruits and vegetables markets for ensuring better prices to the farmers. It was also suggested that waste products should be utilized for setting up goobar gas plants for the benefit of areas adjacent to the plants.

6. Forest:

The approved outlay during 2005-06 was Rs.22.22 crore out of which the expenditure during the first six months came to just Rs.3.85 crore (17.31%). Forest Department officials attribute this to the fact that forest activities are seasonal. The Department has assured that the balance allocation would be spent in the remaining part of the year. It was desired that an action plan for the period October 2005 to March 2006 should be submitted. It was also suggested that there should be outside monitoring of the activities of the Department.

7. Fisheries:

The approved outlay for 2005-06 is Rs.32.95 crore. The expenditure during the first half of the year was Rs.7.48 crore which is just 22.71% of the agreed outlay. Although this is an improvement over the performance during the corresponding period last year, the performance is still far from satisfactory. The Department was, however, hopeful of being able to utilize its allocation during the remaining months of the year.

Important issues/ Recommendations:

- i) About 16 lakh farmers have been given credits cards in the State. The number of SC/ST beneficiaries under this scheme should be ascertained so that they are adequately covered since they have been the worst sufferers in this regard.
- ii) The micro-nutrients are important determinants of crop yields. Their deficiency field-wise must be ascertained for effective remedial measures especially in areas like North Bengal where productivity is low.
- iii) Passage of the State Marketing Act should be expedited.
- iv) For extension work to be really more effective, greater thrust should also be given to making water available in every field in addition to timely distribution of inputs.
- v) Floriculture and horticulture need to be given added emphasis in view of their growing economic importance.

- vi) Rice productivity is stagnating at a low level of 2.5 tonnes per hectare. It was suggested that research efforts of both the agricultural universities of the State and ICAR would need to be intensified to develop location specific HYV so as to enhance the agricultural productivity.
- vii) Efforts should be made to identify low productivity areas, which could be diversified for any suitable cash crops fetching higher earnings and giving higher productivity. Crops such as high-tech floriculture/ horticulture, etc are very crucial factors for eradication of rural poverty in the state.
- viii) It was noted that 50% of the primary agriculture cooperative credit societies are either defunct or in the red. This is another area which needs added attention of the State Government for restructuring and reviving the agricultural cooperative credit structure in the State.
- ix) It was further suggested that an Action Plan should be drawn for modernization of all fruits and vegetables mandis and equipping them with basic infrastructure facilities such as grading, sorting, washing, storage, packaging, easy transportation of agricultural commodities and scientific disposal of fruits and vegetables wastage preferably by setting up of bio-gas plant. This will facilitate the Food Processing Industries to get the right quality of raw materials and also ensure better prices to the farmers.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The agreed outlay under this sector during 2005-06 was Rs.566.58 crore out of which the half yearly expenditure is Rs.336.09 crore (59.32%). Compared with the corresponding period last year, the expenditure level is higher by 8.62% which is a substantial improvement. A major problem faced by the department is the change in the parameters for assistance under the scheme Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). There are many beneficiaries who already got first installment and started construction of their houses but they cannot now get the second installment for completing the construction. The Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to sort out this problem at the earliest. The Department requested for higher budgetary allocation towards training and capacity building for adequate coverage of the 60,000 panchayat members in the State. As far as SGSY is concerned, the State has been trying to focus on the poorest of the poor which led to comparatively slower progress. Another problem which the department is facing from the Government of India side is 'release of fund' at the fag end of the financial year. About 45,000 to 50,000 SHGs are being mobilized during 2005-06. The department was requested to highlight some success stories.

The Financial and Physical performance under major centrally sponsored schemes as furnished by the Ministry of Rural Development (MORD) for Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) during the Tenth Plan period is given in Annexures I & II respectively.

Progress of implementation of PMGSY:

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched at the fag end of 2000-01 with the primary objective to provide connectivity by way of an all weather road to the eligible unconnected habitations in the rural areas in such a way that all unconnected habitation with a population of 1000 persons and above are covered in 3 years and all unconnected habitations with a population of 500 persons and above by the end of the 10th Plan Period (2007). In respect of hilly areas as well as tribal areas, the objective would be to connect habitations with a population of 250 persons and above. A habitation which was earlier provided all weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad. The PMGSY also permits the up gradation of the existing roads in those districts where all the eligible habitations have been provided all weather road connectivity.

For proper planning of the work, District Rural Road Plan (DRRP) was prepared to indicate the entire existing road network system in the district and also to clearly identify the proposed roads for providing connectivity to unconnected habitations in an economic and efficient manner in terms of costs and utility.

Annexure - I

Financial Performance under SGSY, SGRY, NFFWP and IAY during Annual Plans 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 – **West Bengal.**

(Rs lakhs)

Progs.	Opening Balance	Total Allocation	Total Releases	Total Available Funds	Total Expenditure	%age Exp. to Available Funds
2002-03						
SGSY	7649.84	5200.15	1418.79	9068.63	5355.23	59.05
SGRY-I	11339.60	16018.53	13249.38	24588.98	14264.23	58.01
SGRY-II	8224.87	15621.15	14311.94	22536.81	15775.80	70.00
IAY	5239.71	17369.21	13548.11	18787.82	14951.88	79.58
2003-04						
SGSY	4342.38	7184.39	3405.34	7747.72	5310.91	68.55
SGRY-I	10774.86	18551.18	12512.24	23287.10	15380.23	66.05
SGRY-II	6633.90	18150.72	15426.19	22060.09	16484.76	74.75
IAY	3766.33	19670.44	17065.50	20831.83	15478.41	74.30
2004-05						
SGSY	2891.63	8992.56	6068.51	9310.60	7317.61	78.59
SGRY**	13641.22	39365.68	33676.91	48452.51	32836.27	67.77
IAY	5497.11	25876.16	25446.00	30943.11	27296.38	88.21
NFFWP	0.00	11449.81	11449.81	11449.81	1451.64	12.68
2005-06						
SGSY*	1982.62	8992.56	4275.23	6327.58	3193.41	50.47
SGRY#	11052.52	47162.91	28267.13	39637.37	14078.02	35.52
IAY\$	3387.85	26024.53	14093.33	17481.18	10545.44	60.32
NFFWP	9490.70	25496.32	6769.45	16268.38	5565.66	34.21
#						

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

*upto September, 2005.

upto August, 2005.

\$ upto October, 2005.

** upto February, 2005.

SGSY: Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

SGRY: Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

IAY: Indira Awaas Yojana

NFFWP: National Food for Work Programme

Annexure – II

Physical Performance under SGSY, SGRY, NFFWP and IAY during Annual Plans 2002- 03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06–West Bengal

Progs	Unit	Target	Achievement	%age
2002-03				
SGSY	Total Swarozgaries assisted (Nos)	-	28748	-
SGRY-I	Employment lakh mandays	-	171.20	-
SGRY-II	Employment lakh mandays	-	243.19	-
IAY	Houses constructed	10421 5	86377	82.88
2003-04				
SGSY	Total Swarozgaris Assisted (Nos)	-	140622	-
SGRY-I	Employment lakh mandays	-	684.49	-
SGRY-II	Employment lakh mandays	-	231.45	-
IAY	Houses constructed	20022 4	190950	95.37
2004-05				
SGSY	Total Swarozgaris Assisted (Nos)	-	28280	-
SGRY*	Employment lakh mandays	-	377.56	-
IAY	Dwelling Units (No)	12420 6	150515	121.18
NFFWP	Foodgrains Utilised (MTs)	32740	10189	31.12
2005-06				
SGSY#	Total Swarozgaris Assisted (Nos)		9440	
SGRY**	Employment lakh mandays		215.04	
IAY\$	Dwelling Units (No)	10409 8	440.38	42.30
NFFWP @	Foodgrains Utilised (MTs)	-	57623	-

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

*upto February, 2005

upto September, 2005.

** upto August, 2005.

\$ upto October, 2005.

@ upto August, 2005.

Simultaneously, Core Network (CNW), comprising through routes and link routes has been prepared to identify the roads required to assure each eligible habitations with a basic access (single all weather road connectivity) to essential social and economic services. Accordingly, the Core Network consists of some of the existing roads as well as all the roads proposed for new construction under PMGSY.

As per the DRRP and CNW prepared, the following figures emerge:

- 1] Total unconnected habitations having population more than 1000 – 12551 Nos.
- 2] Total road length required to be constructed for giving connectivity to Habitations having population more than 1000 - 19481.72 Km.
- 3] Total unconnected habitations having population more than 500 – 10237 Nos.
- 4] Total road length required to be constructed for giving connectivity to habitations having population more than 500 - 8420.89 Km.

The exact allocation (package-wise) and release of fund vis-à-vis the expenditure made till date is indicated below:-

(Rs. in crore)						
Package Year	Allocation	Release	Expenditure (upto 31.10.05)	KM of length constructed (upto 31.10.05)	Number of habitations connected (upto 31.10.05)	Remarks
2000-01	135.00	135.00	126.08	793.94	830	
2001-02	135.00	309.17	271.27	1057.13	837	
2003-04	135.00	599.26	351.98	816.34	627	
2004-05	135.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Projects worth Rs.311.90 crores for length of 975.53 KM. And habitations to be covered 883, cleared by the Government of India on 11 th March, 2005. Tenders have been floated and work orders are under issue.
2005-06 (ADB)	313.71	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Projects worth Rs.313.71 crores for length 999.48 KM. with 911 habitations have been cleared by the Government of India and tenders floated and under evaluation.
2005-06	221.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	DPRs are under preparation and will be posed to the Government of India shortly.

Bharat Nirman:

Under Bharat Nirman targets, West Bengal is required to give connectivity to all habitations having population more than 1000 by 2009. Accordingly, the State is required to complete construction of 19481.72 Km. of roads to give connectivity to those eligible habitations. Till 31st October, 2005, the State been able to construct 2667 Kms of road to connect 2294 habitations and connectivity is required to be given to another 10257 habitations, besides, construction of 16814.32 Km. of roads. About 1300 Km. of roads are now in the various stages of execution, while the Department will issue work orders for the construction of another 1975 Km of roads very shortly. Besides, normal allocation under PMGSY for the year 2006 onwards, the State is expecting fund from ADB during next 4 years for construction of roads to give connectivity to unconnected habitations. The State is accordingly preparing outcome budgets as a mechanism to measure the development outcomes of this programme. This exercise is primarily aimed at converting financial outlays into measurable and monitorable outcomes. To achieve this, the State Government is in the process of augmenting the technical infrastructure of different districts so as to cope with the increased volume of work to achieve the Bharat Nirman target for giving connectivity to all habitations having population more than 1000 by 2009. However, target for Bharat Nirman may be difficult to achieve primarily due to lack of capacity of contractors as well as capacity of the implementing agencies, augmentation of which is being seriously attempted.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) The basic objective of the IAY is to provide houses to the homeless. There are large number of families at the bottom most of the poverty ladder who do not own any homestead land. Under the guidelines of IAY beneficiaries having homestead land only can be considered and no fund can be spent for acquiring house site. Therefore, a section of the poor who are homeless are getting excluded under the programme. The State requested that within a certain limit IAY beneficiaries should be allowed to procure a house site by suitably amending the guidelines.
- ii) Another problem faced by the State Government in IAY this year is that due to change of ratio of beneficiaries under homeless and poverty criteria from 50:50 to 75:25, the districts where the process of selection of beneficiaries for this year has already been started are stuck up with this problem. The Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development asked that such ratios should not be changed in the middle of the year.
- iii) The provision of credit is an area of concern under SGSY. The percentage of credit disbursed under SGSY in the State is lower than the credit target

set for the State. Per family investment is also less than the norm of Rs.25,000.

- iv) In view of the above, it needs to be emphasized that credit delivery under the programme needs to be strengthened.
- v) Further, special emphasis also needs to be laid on the skill development of the swarozgaris through well designed training courses – tailored to the activities selected and matching with the requirements of the groups.
- vi) Efforts also need to be made to design scientific training models for the groups, as well as, for the functionaries at the grass-root level with the help of institutions possessing expertise in this area, with the impact being closely monitored over a period of time.
- vii) Attention should be given to the technological and marketing needs of the swarozgaris. Adequate technical assistance would help add value to the local resources including processing of the locally available materials from natural and other resources for the local as well as non local markets.
- viii) In addition, steps may be taken so that effective market linkages are established with an emphasis on market research, up-gradation / diversification of projects, packaging, creation of marketing facilities, etc.
- ix) The SHGs formed under the SGSY can play a major role in convergence with various programmes of other departments targeting the rural poor. The percentage of women swarozgaris is, however, very encouraging.
- x) Under SGRY, the foodgrain lifting needs to be improved. Watersheds under the programme have not received importance. These needs to be given priority as they have the potential for providing sustainable incomes to the poor in the long run. The quality of assets created and their maintenance also needs to be focused upon.
- xi) The State Government has sent three proposals for building extension training centres to the MORD for which it requires approval of the concerned Ministry.
- xii) NFFWP should be extended to all the Districts of the State. At present the scheme runs only in 6 Districts.
- xiii) Under the Bharat Nirman Programme the State Government requested for provision of funds to strengthen the Block set-up.
- xiv) Funds should also be provided for maintenance of roads being constructed under Bharat Nirman Programme.

SPECIAL AREAS PROGRAMME

The agreed outlay for 2005-06 was Rs.260.67 crore while the half-yearly expenditure is Rs.87.95 crore which is 33.74% of the agreed outlay. The financial progress under this sector is higher by about 1.91% only when compared to the corresponding period of last year. Department-wise details are as under: -

a. Sundarbans:

The total outlay for the development of the Sundarbans during 2005-06 is Rs.42.00 crore including ACA of Rs.10.00 crore and the half-yearly expenditure up to 30.09.2005 was Rs.13.80 crore (32.86%). The balance allocation will be spent during the remaining months. Civil works, agriculture, social forestry and fishery are thrust areas while construction of roads and bridges, irrigation and drainage facilities and jetties has been taken up under RIDF. There are 19 Development Blocks in this area and 50% of the villages have been electrified. Taking cost factors into consideration, it was opined that electrification of the remaining villages should be done through non-conventional means. Some islands have been connected with the mainland and development has improved.

The Sunderbans Development Authority set up by the State Government of West Bengal mainly deals with the development / strengthening of necessary infrastructure facilities in the Sunderbans. Our visit to the Sunderbans reveals that people living in the Sunderbans are the poorest of the poor. The size of landholding is very small with only one crop, depending upon monsoon in the whole year. Most of the tribes of the Sunderbans are landless labourers and fishermen. It is strongly felt that the Sunderbans Development Authority should also deal with economic development activities so as to generate employment opportunities and enhance earnings of the tribes of Sunderbans. The Sunderbans Authority should also be equipped with technical experts and professionals to chalk out location specific development activities such as diversifications of agricultural crops, bee keeping and honey processing, aqua cultural - fish and shrimp farming, poultry, pig farming, etc.

b. BADP:

BADP is implemented in the international border districts with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. A total number of 68 Blocks in 9 Districts of the State are covered under the programme. During 2005-06, Rs.3.74 crore has so far been released against an allocation of Rs.39.56 crore. Although this is a 100% Centrally funded programme, the State has not been able to fully avail of the entire fund allocated during 2004-05 mainly due to non-submission of Utilisation Certificates for works

already completed. In anticipation of further releases from the Government of India, a number of schemes have already been formulated pertaining to construction/ repair/ renovation of roads and bridges, improvement of educational institutions, construction of relief centres, community halls, ICDS centres, police station buildings, drains, development of agricultural markets and improvement of health institutions.

c. Hill Affairs:

HADP is implemented mainly in the areas under the Darjeeling Gorkha Hills Council (DGHC). The total budgetary allocation to the Council during 2005-06 for executing schemes under various sectors has been fixed at Rs.28.44 crore including SCA of Rs.22.23 crore. The amount of fund released to the Council so far was Rs.7.58 crore while the reported expenditure was Rs.4.35 crore. The sectors on which special emphasis has been laid during the current Five Year Plan period are infrastructure sectors like communications, public health engineering, health, education and tourism. Under SSA different programmes have been taken up and a separate School Service Commission has been set up for the hill areas of Darjeeling District. Under health sector, apart from the construction of Health Centres, schemes for the setting up of infrastructure for AIDS, polio and blindness control and other national programmes have been taken up. DGHC will also implement programmes like Rashtriya Mahila Kosh Yojana for the upliftment of womenfolk in Darjeeling.

d. Uttarbanga Unnayan Parshad

This is an agency set up to tackle backwardness and for comprehensive/ integrated development of six north Bengal districts during 2005-06, out of the plan provision of Rs.22 crore including ACA of Rs.10 crore the expenditure during the first six months of 2005-06 was Rs.2.34 crore only. However, the State Government maintained that they would be able to spend the balance of amount during the second half of the year.

e. Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad

This is an agency set up with the objective of effecting integral development in the under developed red laterite zone in the western part of the state. 74 blocks in 5 districts of Purulia, Bankura, Paschim Mednipur, Birbhum and Burdwan which are inhabitant predominantly by scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been brought under the jurisdiction of the board. The focus is mainly on development of agriculture, rural infrastructure, drinking water, education and health & nutrition with a view to meeting critical gaps. There is an allocation of Rs.30.53 crore during 2005-06 for this board including ACA of Rs.10 crore and the expenditure upto the end of

September, 2005 was Rs.7.30 crore only. The balance will be spent during the second half of the year.

f. Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa (BEUP)

This is an MLA scheme which is part of the district plans. Each MLA is entitled to recommend schemes for creation of durable assets and provision of service support facilities within a total amount of Rs.25 lakhs per year.

g. Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY)

Eight districts have been covered under the scheme in West Bengal. These are Jalpaiguri, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, South 24 Parganas, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Bankura and Birbhum. The total amount released so far is Rs.90 crore out of which the total expenditure is Rs.66.03 crore and the expenditure during first six months of 2005-06 alone is Rs.33.85 crore.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) The importance of timely submission of utilization certificates for schemes implemented under HADP, BADP and other programmes was emphasized so that flow of fund is not hampered.
- ii) Information was requested on the source of own funds of DGHC which they are spending on developmental work.
- iii) Monitoring of programmes under HADP and BADP should be intensified to ensure that funds are fully and effectively utilized.
- iv) All Government buildings and tourist lodges in the Sunderbans should install eco-friendly solar panels for alternative source of energy.
- v) A report on physical outcomes of different sectoral programmes implemented in the Sunderbans area should be furnished to the Planning Commission.
- vi) Planning Commission was requested to release at the earliest the balance amount of Rs.30 crore under RSVY for which proposals had been submitted.
- vii) The State Government requested for inclusion of three more districts (Cooch Behar, Malda, and Murshidabad) under RSVY. Proposals had already been submitted to Planning Commission.

IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL

The main points discussed in the meeting and issues raised are as below:

- The financial performance for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 for the period from 1st April to 30th September in respect of both irrigation and flood control sectors are given below in the table below.

Rs. in

crore

S N	Sector	Approved Outlay 2004-05	Expendr. From 01.04.04 to 30.09.04	% of expenditure of the total outlay	Appr. Outlay 2005-06	Expendr. From 01.04.05 to 30.09.05	% of exp. Of the total outlay
1	Irrigation	89.45	26.01	29.08	106.57	42.13	39.53
2	Flood Control	79.55	23.46	29.51	134.43	37.01	27.53
	Total	169.00	49.47	29.27	241.00	79.14	32.84

The expenditure in first half of AP 2005-06 is only 32.84%. However the performance is better than last year which was only 29.27%.

- Ministry of Water Resources has provided Central Loan Assistance under AIBP to the following Projects up to 2004-05. The details are given below.

Sl. No.	Name of project	Plan of start	CLA released in the 9th Plan	(Rs. Crores)			(Th.- ha.)					
				CLA 2002- 03 (Ceiling was Rs.45 crore)	CLA 2003-04 (Ceiling was Rs. 40crore)	CLA 2004-05 (Ceiling was Rs. 40crore)	Ultimate Potential	Created before AIBP	Balance (8-9)	Created till 9th Plan	2002- 03	2003- 04
1	Teesta Barrage	Fifth	92.283	16.538	2.989	13.184	527.00	80.25	446.750	35.86	4.85	2.25
2	Kangsabati	2nd	26.71				401.66	319.6	82.060	17.8	0	
3	Mod. Of Bar. & Irr. System Of DVC	Sixth	1				8.000	0	8.000	4.896	0	
4	Tatko	Fifth	0.625	0.267			2.494	1.296	1.198	0.158	0.52	0.52
5	Patloi	Fifth	1.465			0.128	2.158	0	2.158	0	0.2	0.307
6	Hanumata	7th	1.3	0.09	0.155	0.149	2.735	1.512	1.223	0.226	0.575	0.422
7	Subarnakha Barr.	7th	2.05	11.238			114.198	0	114.198	0	0	0
	TOTAL		125.433	28.133	3.144	13.461			655.587	58.94	6.145	3.499

In Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme approved ceiling is Rs.40 crore for 2005-06 out of which Rs.12 crore is grant and Rs.28 crore is from market borrowing, but till date the release from Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India is nil. The Joint Secretary, I&W Deptt., informed that they have got some backlog for 2004-05 regarding Teesta Barrage Project and MOWR will release the first installment of 2005-06 only after getting the full utilization certificate of 2004-05. He also informed that they have submitted proposal for inclusion of some portion of Teesta Barrage in AIBP Fast Track. **The State Government also requested that Govt. of India must declare Teesta Barrage as a national project.**

Teesta Barrage Project: The overall plan to harness the water of river Teesta conceived in 1973 was to be developed in three phases. The latest estimated cost of this project is Rs. 2068 crore at 2002 price level. Expenditure incurred up-to March 2004 is about Rs. 954 crore. The Central Government has provided Special Central Assistance of Rs. 5 crore in 1983-84 and Advance Plan Assistance of Rs. 10 crore each in 1986-87 and 1987-88 for this project. The balance cost of this project at the beginning of 8th Plan was Rs. 323 crore. During 8th Plan Rs. 150 crore has also been given by Planning Commission as Additional Central Assistance to the Govt. of West Bengal to complete this project during 8th Plan; still the project could not be completed. Under AIBP funding Rs. 92.283 crore has already been released in 9th Plan for this project. In 2003-04 and 2004-05 the release was Rs.2.989 crore and Rs. 13.184 crore respectively. Out of ultimate potential of 527 th. ha. of Sub-stage I of Stage I, potential created up-to June 2004 is 123.21 th. ha. (23% of ultimate potential). Budget outlays for Teesta Project need to be increased by availing of additional AIBP so that progress on the project can be stepped up. Slices of the project can also be taken up under fast track in 2005-06. **State Government availed only Rs. 13.461 crore under AIBP in 2004-05, against ceiling of Rs. 40 crore.**

Till 31.03.05, the progress of Head works and canal system is as follow:

SI No	Project Components	Length (Km)	%Progress Achieved Upto 31.03.05		
			Barrages	Main Canal	Distribution System
01	Teesta Barrage, Mahananda Barrage & Dauk Barrage		100%		
02	Teesta-Mahananda Link Canal (TMLC)	25.75		100%	85%
	Mahananda Main Canal (MMC)	32.22		100%	62%
	Dauk Nagar Main Canal (DNMC)	80.20		85%	32%
	Teesta Jaldhaka Main Canal (TJMC)	30.312		82%	9%
	Nagar Tangon Main Canal (NTMC)	42.20		NIL	NIL

During the year 2005-06, creation of irrigation potential of 25,000 hectares has been programmed. Since the actual working period between 01.04.05 to 30.09.05 is very short due to a major part of it being in the monsoon period, appreciable progress could not be achieved. The progress of work will accelerate remarkably from November onwards and it is expected to reach the desired target.

In view of huge investment already made, the project was reviewed in totality so that due benefits may be accrued to the project commensurate with the amount spent so far. Accordingly, it was decided to take up those components of the project on priority basis, which were in the advanced stages of execution and result in maximum increase in the accrual of irrigation benefit in the command area. Stress was laid upon completion of the distribution network by execution of works in the distributaries, minors, sub-minors etc. with a view to increase the utilization of the irrigation potential already accrued. The target date of completion of different components of the project, which were in the advanced stages of execution, was realistically assessed and the State Government proposed to complete such components of the project on priority basis by December, 2008 under the revised guidelines of AIBP with Central Loan Assistance (CLA). A Memorandum of Understanding was executed between the Ministry of Water Resources, GOI and the State of West Bengal in November, 2004 for completion of such prioritized components of the project with an additional amount of Rs.330.00 crore. The total estimated cost of completion of such works was assessed to be Rs.1284.05 crore and with this expenditure, it would be possible to increase the irrigation potential from the level of 126.21 thousand hectares as on 31.03.2004 to 254.00 thousand hectares within December, 2008. Of late, the GOI agreed to include the project under Fast Track Programme of AIBP with a target date of completion of the prioritized components of the project by 31.03.2008. The proposal has already been submitted to the MOWR, GOI along with a Memorandum of Understanding duly signed by the Secretary, Irrigation & Waterways Department of West Bengal.

For Teesta Barrage Project, the proposal for release of fund for 2005-06 will be submitted in the next month along with utilization certificates of the preceding year, as promised by the Joint Secretary.

Subarnarekha Barrage Project: The Subarnarekha Barrage Project (SBP) project envisages utilization of the share of water resources available from the river Subarnarekha as per the Tripartite Agreement (TPA) with the Govt. of Bihar (presently Govt. of Jharkhand) and Orissa to irrigate an area of 99,248 hectares in Kharif and 30,766 hectares in Rabi in the districts of Paschim and Purba Medinipur of the State. Since inception of the project, a sum of about Rs.40 crore has been spent so far out of which a sum of Rs.7.40 crore has been paid to the Govt. of Jharkhand (erstwhile Bihar) towards apportioned cost of the Chandil Dam.

Infrastructural development and other initial works like catchment area treatment, land acquisition, micro survey work etc. has been taken up with the available fund. The present cost of the project has been assessed to be about Rs.1250.00 crore. The project was included under AIBP during 2001-02 but subsequently it has been withdrawn from the programme as reported by the State. With the ongoing works of Teesta Barrage Project, the State Govt. is finding it extremely difficult to fund the project, which requires substantial outlay. For execution of this project, some alternate sources of funding are required to be identified. During 2004-05 as well as in the first half of 2005-06, practically no work could be taken up owing to meager budgetary provision.

3. Regarding the medium projects, which are under AIBP, the Joint Secretary stated that utilization certificates and proposal for release of Rs.1 crore in 2005-06 has already been submitted to MOWR.
- 4 The State of West Bengal is the lowermost riparian State in the Ganga Basin and most of the rivers in the State originate from outside the state boundary and are of inter-state/international category. The State is quite often ravaged by destructive flood, even when there is no appreciable rainfall within the geographical limits of the State. Along with flood, various allied problems like bank erosion, drainage congestion, and cyclonic disaster accentuate the flood situation. The State with about 43% of its geographical area being flood prone happens to be one of the prime flood prone states in the country. Apart from the problems of flood, river erosion problem is causing much concern to the State. Unabated bank erosion on the left bank of river Ganga on the upstream of Farakka Barrage and in other places of Ganga-Padma and Bhagirathi-Hooghly rivers have assumed an alarming proportion threatening the very existence of several towns of the State. The problem of Ganga Padma erosion is being tackled through ongoing CSS schemes of Ministry of Water Resource. The following amounts have been released under the scheme:

Ninth Plan - Rs. 17.88 crore
AP 2002-03 – Rs. 5.60 crore
AP 2003-04 – Rs. 5.18 crore
AP 2004-05 – Rs.15.00 crore

Besides Planning Commission has also given ACA/SCA as under:

9th Plan – Rs. 30 crore
2003-04 - Rs. 20 crore
2004-05 - Rs. 22.1 crore

Finance Commission has also sanctioned the following amount:

10th Finance Commission Rs. 20.00 crore
 11th Finance Commission Rs. 36.13 crore
 12th Finance Commission Rs. 190.00 crore

The Joint Secretary also stated that flood control component for Farrakka Barrage should be taken into consideration with anti erosion work by MOWR.

5. Detailed project report for raising and strengthening embankments in Sundarbans is required to be prepared.

6. Operational Profit (+) / Loss (-) Of Irrigation Projects:

Year	Gross receipt	Working Expense	(Rs. in Crore)
			Net Profit (+) Loss (-)
1991-92	1.95	64.74	-62.79
1992-93	2.31	60.96	-58.65
1993-94	2.31	70.24	-67.93
1994-95	3.04	76.52	-73.48
1995-96	2.80	85.63	-82.83
1996-97	2.79	99.79	-96.97
1997-98	2.42	111.33	-108.91
1998-99	2.94	140.77	-137.83
1999-00	2.97	171.89	-168.92

Source – Pricing of Water in public system in India. Published by Central Water Commission in May, 2004.

The prevailing water rates for flow irrigation in few States as compared to West Bengal are as under:

State (Year)	(Rs./ha)		
	Rice	Wheat	Sugar Cane
West Bengal (1977)	37.05	49.40	370.66
Andhra Pradesh (1997)	247.00 - 494.00	247.00 - 494.00	247.00 - 494.00
Kerala (1974)	37.00 - 99.00	62.00	99.00
Karnataka (2000)	247.10	148.25	988.45
Tamil Nadu (2002)	175.00	50.00	49.42
Rajasthan (1999)	49.40 - 197.60	64.22 - 148.20	103.74 - 286.52
Maharashtra (2003)	180.00*	360.00*	4763.00*

(* increase in water rate 15% per annum)

Source – Pricing of Water in public system in India. Published by Central Water Commission in May, 2004.

Consequent upon manifold increase in the cost of operation and maintenance of minor irrigation installations, water rate for supply irrigation (Lift Irrigation) through all the minor irrigation installations run by the State Government for agricultural purpose has been enhanced from Rs.5.00 per acre-inch to Rs.17.00 per acre-inch with effect from 01.07.2003. The State's revenue was increased to Rs.16.28 crore from Rs.6.00 crore in previous year during 2003-04. During 2004-05 the revenue on this account has been intimated to be of Rs.18.23 crore.

7. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM): As per the information furnished by the State Govt., up-to the end of 2003-04 a total no. of 14043 of different type of minor irrigation installations excluding 7288 open dug wells have already been handed over to the beneficiaries through Panchayat for Operation & Maintenance.

8. For Water Investigation & Development Department (WIDD), out of Rs.56 crore outlay for 2005-06, expenditure is Rs.24 crore. Ultimate gross minor irrigation potential in the State of West Bengal has been assessed so far at 44.34 lakh hectares through surface water and ground water resources, out of which 31.34 lakh hectares are through ground water resources and 13.00 lakh hectares through surface water resources. Up-to the end of 2004-05, potential created under minor irrigation sector has been estimated to be 37.64 lakh ha. During 2005-06, a target for creation of additional irrigation potential of 75,000 ha has been taken in the State Minor Irrigation Sector.

9. It has been informed to the State Government that Planning Commission has already accorded in principle clearance to "Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation", which is a World Bank Project and has sent the same to MOWR.

10. Principal Secretary, WIDD informed that some schemes are pending due to non-release of fund from GOI.

11. Ground Water Legislation: "West Bengal Water Resource Conservation, Protection and Development (Management, Control and Regulation) Bill, 2000" has received the assent of the Hon'ble President of India. Some changes were proposed for incorporation in the Bill. Latest information regarding this Bill is not available in Planning Commission.

12. Over Exploitation & Arsenic Problem of Groundwater: As per the Central Ground Water Board statistics (2003), out of total 341 Blocks in 16 Districts in West Bengal, 61 Taluks/Blocks are in dark/critical zone. Arsenic contamination in ground water is one of the major problems of West Bengal. Here 79 blocks of 8 districts viz. Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Burdwan, Howra and Hoogly districts are arsenic affected. Shallow aquifers (within 100 mts.) of eastern side of Bhagirathi River are mainly affected by arsenic. More

contamination is in South 24 Parganas District. 12th Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 600 crore for Arsenic contamination problem. State Government has to gradually switch over to surface rural water supply schemes to tackle arsenic problem in ground water.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) State Government has to gradually switch over to surface rural water supply schemes to tackle arsenic problem in ground water.
- ii) The State Govt. was advised to avail of additional AIBP for completing three medium schemes viz. Tatko, Patloi and Hanumanta in 2005-06.
- iii) Budget outlays for Teesta Project need to be increased to avail additional AIBP so that progress on the project can be stepped up. Slices of the project can also be taken up under fast track in 2005-06. State Govt. availed only Rs. 13.461 crore under AIBP in 2004-05, against ceiling of Rs. 40 crore. In 2005-06 approved ceiling is Rs.40 crore, out of which Rs.12 crore is grant and Rs.28 crore is from market borrowing, but till date release from Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India is nil due to non-receipt of complete utilization certificate for 2004-05.
- iv) The State Government has requested that the Teesta Project should be declared a national project.
- v) Detailed project report for raising and strengthening embankments in Sundarbans is required to be prepared and submitted to Ministry of Water Resources/ CWC.
- vi) Under Farakka Project at present erosion part is looked after by the Government of India while the flood control part is looked after by the State. The State Government has requested that both erosion and flood control should be looked after by the Government of India.

ENERGY

The agreed outlay was Rs.2083.55 crore while the half-yearly expenditure was Rs. 661.73 crore. Thus 31.76% of the agreed outlay was spent during the first half of the year. Compared to the corresponding period last year, there is a 21% improvement in financial performance this year. SCP provision is Rs 142.50 lakh and TSP provision is nil. About 20% SC/ST population in the State have access to electricity. Out of all pump sets energized, the power consumption of only 10% is metered while 90% make lump sum payment only. A franchisee model of revenue collection was suggested. The Department informed that right now they have no problems. Last year WBSEB reportedly contributed about Rs.700.00 crore to the State exchequer and T&D losses in the State have come down to 25%. The Power scenario of West Bengal is furnished below:

1	Installed Capacity a) State Sector b) Central Allocation c) DVC d) Total	4660 MW 800 MW 312 MW 5772 MW
2	T&D Line	196012
3	Transformer Capacity	38408
4	Village Electrification	85.82%
5	Pumps Energized	1,14,894
6	Consumers	73,000,08

ONGOING PROJECTS

Commissioning Schedule	Capacity	
1	<i>Purulia Pumped Storage Project</i>	900 MW (4X225) March '07
2	<i>Sagardighi Thermal Project</i>	600 MW (2X300) April '07
3	<i>Bakreswar TPP (units 4&5)</i>	420 MW (2X210) June '07
4	<i>Durgapur Project Limited</i>	300 MW Jan '07
5	<i>Santaldihi TPS (unit 5)</i>	250 MW Jan '07

1) Generation

a) Purulia Pump Storage Project: -

During 2005-06, 28% of the total work of the project was targeted for completion. Up to September 2005, 11% has been achieved. Construction of 132 KV Sub-station at Baghmundi and extension works at Purulia 132 KV sub-station has been nearly completed. Erection/fabrication activities in respect of Hydro mechanical equipments, electro mechanical equipments, gas insulated sub-station and generation transformer are under progress.

b) Bakreshwar T.P.P. (Unit 4 & 5 – 210 MW x 2)

Boiler foundation of Unit No.4 completed. Foundation work of Power House and Chimney started. Civil work of track hopper and stacker of Coal Handling Plant has started. Works relating to design and engineering of Main Plant Package and Coal Handling Plant is in progress.

c) Sagardighi T.P.P. Stage-I (300 MW x 2)

Land acquisition for plan site is completed. Railway siding and other railway infrastructural works are in progress. Boiler column foundation of Unit No.1 is almost completed. Piling work of boiler column foundation of Unit No.2 has been completed. Manufacturing of boiler, turbine and generator in respect of both the units is in progress. Civil work in respect of Coal Handling Plants for both the units is progressing satisfactorily.

d) Santaldih T.P.P., Unit-5(1x250 MW)

Erection of Boiler and ESP has started in August, 2005 and September, 2005 respectively. Civil work in respect of Coal Handling Plant is in progress.

e) DPL - Unit No.7 (1x300MW)

Boiler erection work is in progress. Works in other fronts viz. manufacturing of turbine, generator, Coal Handling Plant etc. is also in progress.

2) Transmission and Distribution

a) WB Transmission Scheme (JBIC assisted)

The project is almost completed. With the completion of Arambag 400/220KV Sub-station in May, 2005 works relating to 31 sub-stations and 14 lines

stand completed. Only Micro wave Communication Package is in progress. Civil foundation works of all Micro wave towers completed. Out of total 10 no. of MW stations, interconnecting link for 3 stations has been established and erection of towers in 5 stations is completed.

b) Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Project (APDRP)

The project has been taken up in three phases. One third of the targeted works in different phases during 2005-06 has been completed by September, 2005. LOA for all nine packages for up gradation of distribution network (town area) of three circles viz-Howrah, Bidhannagar and South 24-Parganas has been issued. LOA for all six packages under Phase-II for Jalpaiguri circle except Jalpaiguri town has also been issued. IT projects under APDRP with project cost of Rs.27.58 crores have been approved by Ministry of Power, GOI in April, 2005.

c) RIDF: -

Up-gradation of distribution network in rural areas has been taken up under RIDF-VI, RIDF-VII, RIDF-VIII and RIDF-IX. 15% of targeted progress during the year has been achieved up-to September, 2005.

3) Rural Electrification:

Erection of poles and drawing of lines by CPSUs and WBSEB for electrification of remaining 5030 (1.4.2005) virgin mouzas in different districts is progressing well.

During first six months of 2005-06, WBREDC and WBSEB have electrified 155 virgin mouzas, intensified 1445 mouzas and energized 179 pump sets.

B) Non-conventional energy sources: -

During first six months of 2005-06, WBREDA has achieved the following items:

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------|
| i) | Installation of Biogas Plants | : | 3130 nos. |
| ii) | Installation of Solar Home lighting systems | : | 14000 nos. |
| iii) | Installation of Solar Street Light | : | 90 nos. |
| iv) | Installation of Woody Biomass Gasifier Power Plant at Herembogopalpur, Patharpratima, South 24 Parganas | : | 2x125kw |
| v) | Installation & distribution of Power from | | |

	SPV Power Plant at Rakhalpur, Patharpratima, South 24 Parganas	:	120kw
vi)	Private Sector Rice Husk based Power Generation	:	5.00mw

Important Issues and Recommendations:

- i) Although T&D losses are showing a declining trend, the level of AT&C losses are still high at 37%. These losses have to be significantly reduced within the shortest time possible.
- ii) It was observed that the access of households to electricity facility is still very low. The State Government should take necessary steps to improve the accessibility and affordability of the people to electricity facility.
- iii) Besides, the State should set a target of providing electricity facilities to both urban and rural households.
- iv) The State should make an effort to achieve 100% rural electrification by the end of the Tenth Plan period.
- v) The State was advised to further improve its revenue collection by going for 100% metering and adopting the franchisee model for billing and revenue collection.

INDUSTRY & MINERALS

This sector continue to receive due importance during 2005-06 also. The agreed outlay was Rs.173.46 crore while the half-yearly expenditure is Rs.47.16 crore which is 27.19% of the agreed outlay. Compared to the corresponding period of last year, there is a 10% improvement in financial performance.

1. Commerce & Industries:

Although the Department has improved its financial performance over the corresponding period last year, only 22.16% of approved outlay for the Department has been spent during the first half of 2005-06. Many cases were said to have been lying with the State's Finance Department. In pursuance of the State's Industrial Policy Resolution 1994, the Department has been making all-out efforts to achieve greater co-operation with the private sector for rapid industrial development, creation of more employment avenues, promotion of indigenous industries and so on. Equal emphasis is placed on both traditional and sunrise sectors because the objective is growth with equity and social justice. Already some infrastructures have come up in industrial parks under PPP mode. West Bengal is among the top five States in the country in respect of industrial investment.

2. Public Enterprises & Industrial Relations:

Integrated picture of loss-making PSUs in the State was requested.

3. Cottage & SSI:

This is one of the best performing Departments as far as financial progress of expenditure is concerned. The Department has been able to spend up to 86.54% of its approved outlay for 2005-06 and is craving for enhanced allocation. It was reported that there are 22 public enterprises under C&SSI Department of which one is already closed down and five are being closed down. Decision on the rest would be taken after the on-going DFID study on loss-making public enterprises. It was also reported that 38% of the three lakh registered SSI units in the State are sick and that there is no rehabilitation scheme for them. Availability of institutional credit for SSIs continues to be a problem. Industrial sickness in the SSI sector of the State is, therefore, an area of serious concern. Keeping in view the rising trend of joblessness

of even the educated youth, the SSI sector which is largely labour intensive needs greater attention of the State Government. Necessary technical, financial and marketing support should be provided for the sustainable growth of the sector.

Regarding the unorganized / informal sector in the State, greater emphasis should be given to skill development/ up-gradation, design development and quality improvement and financial support including technology up-gradation which are absolutely necessary for promoting marketability of their products and improving their competitive efficiency in the era of economic liberalization and globalization.

Our visit to Weavers Colony reveals that economic conditions of handloom weavers were very poor and an average income of a weaver is estimated at around Rs.3000/- per month. Many weavers are working in a dilapidated work-shed and housing. Lack of affordability due to poor earnings is a major constraint in the modernization of their work-shed and better shelter; besides, modern work-sheds built of GI-sheets badly affect the physical health, productivity and efficiency of the weavers. Therefore, the roofs made of GI Sheets should be restructured so that weavers may not face any health hazards.

It is felt that the areas which have larger population of handloom weavers, should be developed as Handloom Park with all modern facilities such as modern work sheds, housing facilities, community centre for Buyers-Sellers Meet, display of their products, training & quality control facilities, common effluent treatment plant, storage facilities, other essential amenities. It is suggested that a model of cost effective and eco-friendly work-shed using local materials should be developed. The State Government should assign a study of development of cost effective and eco-friendly work-shed for handloom weavers to a renowned technical/ research institute.

The cost of construction of work-shed as well as cost of housing has substantially gone up and hence the ceiling of subsidy and loan may also be enhanced accordingly.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) An integrated picture of loss-making State Public Enterprises should be made available soon after completion of a DFID project (an EAP) currently underway in the State to study and rehabilitate sick industrial units.
- ii) Infrastructure development in the handloom sector needs special attention.
- iii) The sericulture sector's competitive strength, vis-à-vis products from China, has to be strengthened so that the workers are not thrown out of

employment. Special emphasis should be given on workshop modernization, product diversification and design development. The State was also advised to avail of various schemes of Development Commissioner (Handloom) and Development Commissioner (Handicraft).

- iv) Institutional credit continues to be a problem for SSIs.
- v) The State should upgrade and modernize the various kinds of infrastructure to world class standards in order to strengthen its position vis-à-vis other States in attracting investment.
- vi) The private sector involvement in infrastructure development projects should be further encouraged.
- vii) Labour laws which impede industrial progress should be suitably amended.
- viii) The State should consider increasing the plan outlay for the SSI sector. The concerned department should submit necessary proposals.

TRANSPORT

The agreed outlay was Rs.523.34 crore while the half-yearly expenditure was Rs.135.90 crore. The percentage of expenditure over agreed outlay is 25.97 which is lower than the targeted 35% but compared to the corresponding period of last year, there has been an improvement by about 8.93%.

Details of Transport sector performance (financial):

Table-I

(Rs. lakh)

Sr. No.	Name of Sector	Annual Plan 2004-05		Annual Plan 2005-06	
		Approved Outlay (Revised)	Expdr.	Approved Outlay	Anticipated Expdr. up-to 30.9.05
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ports & Light Houses	---	---	---	
2.	Civil Aviation	0.50	0.05	50.00	
3.	Roads & Bridges	434.92	266.03	46722.80	
4.	Road Transport	49.46	129.25	5173.00	
5.	IWT	2.20	2.75	385.00	
6.	Other Transport Services (to be specified)	0.03	0.03	3.00	
	Total (Transport)	48711.00	39811.00	52333.80	13590.21 (25.97%)
	Total (State Outlay)	501962.00	469010.00	647600.00	216296.41 (33.40%)

Observations and Comments

- (i) As per the details furnished by the State Government in the meeting, in Transport sector, an anticipated expenditure of Rs. 135.90 crore up till September, 2005 has been incurred. It comes to about 26% of the approved outlay. It may be commented that – (a) it is too low. In order to achieve the physical targets, tempo of expenditure needs to be increased during the balance period of Tenth Plan. (b) Break-up of expenditure needs to be provided sub sector-wise. (c) Special attention needs to be paid for roads & bridges sector where the outlay is the highest.
- (ii) No details of physical targets / achievements have been provided. In a query from Director (Transport), Planning Commission the representative,

State PWD pointed out that they will achieve the targets. However, Director (Transport) further pointed out that in the absence of fixation of physical targets, it has no meaning to say that the targets will be achieved. A copy of the prescribed proforma was given in the meeting to furnish the details. Additional Chief Secretary (Development & Planning) instructed the representative, State PWD to furnish the details in the prescribed proforma without fail. The same are still awaited.

- (iii) The road condition in the State of West Bengal which is rather dismal is made still worse due to the backlog in maintenance of state roads for a long time. The State Government has taken up improvement of State Highways and Major District Roads as also arterial roads with financial assistance from HUDCO. The physical and financial achievements vis-à-vis targets laid down in terms of widening / strengthening of roads have not been given in the Annual Plan Document. The 12th Finance Commission has provided for Rs. 412.92 crore to the State of West Bengal for maintenance of roads and bridges spread over 2006-10 (i.e. Rs. 103.23 crore annually) so that the State gets a year for making necessary preparation to absorb these funds. This is in addition to the normal expenditure, if any, which the State of West Bengal would be incurring on maintenance of roads and bridges.

The Additional Chief Secretary (Development & Planning) assured to look into the matter on priority.

- (iv) Progress made under Central Road (CRF) also needs to be provided separately.
- (v) Progress of road projects for which ACA has been provided during 2005-06 may be provided.
- (vi) Progress of EAPs may be provided by the State Government, as so far no details have been furnished by them.

West Bengal State Road Transport Corporation

In order to reduce the losses, the State Government may be advised to formulate the policy, which should include short term, medium term and long term measures to improve the performance. The policy may include utilization of more machinery for profitability, introduction of VRS, introduction of private sector, route rationalization, better maintenance practices, etc. Depot-wise close monitoring of the performance should be done as suggested, not route-wise and bus-wise.

Civil Aviation

It was pointed out that against the Tenth Plan outlay of Rs. 3.84 crore, there was no expenditure during 2002-03. Rs. 0.09 crore could be spent during 2003-04 and during 2004-05 against the allocation of Rs. 0.50 crore, only Rs. 0.05 crore could be spent. It shows that the State Government was giving lowest priority to this sector. Hence, it was suggested that during the remaining period of Tenth Plan, adequate expenditure may be incurred for the development of civil aviation schemes in the State.

No details for Annual Plan 2005-06 have been provided. Hence, the State Government has been asked to furnish the details in due course.

Progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)

1. **PMGSY** – During 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 221 crore was allocated to West Bengal. Physical progress up-to 31st March, 2005 was as follows:

Category of habitations	1000+	500-999	250-499
Eligible unconnected habitations	11,941	11,668	1,679
Habitations covered up-to 2004-05	2,408	659	178
Balance habitations to be covered	9,533	11,009	1,501

It was pointed out that – (i) expenditure details may be provided, (ii) against the eligible unconnected habitations of 25,288, only 3245 habitations could be covered up-to 2004-05. The State still has a large number of unconnected habitations to the tune of 22,043, (iii) the State Government needs to speed up the connectivity programme and come up with phase-IV proposals based on the updated schedule of rates (SORs). Also phase-V which corresponds to 2005-06 is yet to be submitted by the State Government.

The Additional Chief Secretary (Development & Planning), Government of West Bengal assured that he will take up the matter with the Rural Development Department.

2. **Model Driving Training School** – In the State of West Bengal (Jessore, Kolkata), there is one training school. Up-to March, 2005, against the Central share of Rs. 3.28 crore, an amount of Rs. 2.75 crore was released to the State Government. The school is likely to be commissioned by March, 2006. Progress of work may be obtained from the State Government as the same was not provided in the review meeting.

3. Inland Water Transport – As per the details furnished by the representative (Transport Department), Government of West Bengal, under CSS, 53 numbers of gangway pontoon type floating jetties and 4 numbers of RCC slipway type jetties for LCT on National Waterway No.-1 at strategic locations between Triveni and Farakka on both banks of the river Bhagirathi (Hooghly) estimated to cost Rs. 21.62 crore have been approved by the Department of Shipping, Government of India. Against it, an amount of Rs. 4.52 crore was released in 2003-04 and Rs. 4.11 crore in 2004-05.

Up-to 31st October, 2005, an amount of Rs. 3.07 crore has been spent. In case of 14 schemes, physical progress is about 50%.

Important Issues:

- i) The State may prepare a master / long-term plan for the development of roads sector.
- ii) The rural road development programme is being undertaken by number of departments. Hence, there is a need to integrate this programme. Further the rural road development programme taken up under State Plan may be dovetailed into the PMGSY so that consolidated picture is available at one place.
- iii) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government for the development of road infrastructure, private sector participation needs to be encouraged. Details of progress made under private sector participation so far may be provided.
- iv) The State was requested to indicate its position vis-à-vis all-India average as far as road connectivity is concerned. An indication of the number of years the State would take to connect all villages was requested.
- v) Career planning for engineers and equal distribution of work among all Assistant Engineers were also suggested to the State Government to ensure faster progress of implementation of transport sector schemes.
- vi) The State Government was also advised to increase the absorptive capacity of Transport Department and Public Works Department.
- vii) For better reporting, each engineer should supply data of progress of road construction and repair, etc. for consolidation at the State level.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Out of the agreed outlay of Rs.17.95 crore, the half-yearly expenditure is Rs.1.92 crore only which is 10.67% of the agreed outlay. Compared to the corresponding period of last year when the progress of expenditure was exceptionally good, the performance during the first half of this year paled into insignificance. Concerned Departments have been advised to pull up their socks and quicken the pace of implementation of their various schemes so that the Plan allocation is fully utilized by the end of the year.

1. Science & Technology:

During the first half of the year, the Department continued to render useful services to a number of other State Government Departments especially in the interpretation of remote sensing data and preparation of GIS maps which are meant to help decision making process. It also funded seven R&D projects and sponsored 14 seminars, workshops etc. Two autonomous bodies namely the West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology and the Centre for Rural and Cryogenic Technologies were also supported by the Department.

2. Information Technology:

Out of the allocation of Rs.12.62 crore, the Department could spend only Rs.0.56 crore (4.5%) during the first six months but it is hopeful of being able to spend the balance amount during the remaining months of the financial year. A number of proposals are already pending with the Finance Department for release of fund and an action plan has been made to utilize the balance amount.

3. Environment Department:

Out of the total allocation of Rs.2.51 crore, the expenditure during the first six months was Rs.0.85 crore (33.86%). During this period the Department implemented drinking water and sanitation schemes in a number of schools, roof top water harvesting and lighting/ heating schemes through solar energy. It was suggested during the meeting that building rules of the government should be modified to facilitate both water harvesting and tapping of solar energy both for lighting and heating purposes. The Department was also requested to look into the problem of industrial effluents being emitted by the unorganized industrial sector.

GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES

The agreed outlay under General Economic Services is Rs.34.32 crore while the half-yearly expenditure is Rs.9.72 crore which is 28.33% of the agreed outlay.

1. Tourism:

Rs.6.91 crore has been allocated to Tourism Department during the current Annual Plan period and the expenditure during the first six months was Rs.1.13 crore (16.32%). Keeping in view the importance of the tourism sector in the State which has been attracting quite a large number of both domestic and foreign tourists, the Department should improve its performance in the remaining months of the year.

2. Food & Supplies:

The Plan allocation to this Department is just Rs.15 lakhs out of which Rs.2.60 lakhs only (17.33%) had been spent during the first half of 2005-06. The State Government has requested for strengthening of PDS and wanted the FCI to be more proactive so that the needs of the common people are adequately met.

3. Consumer Affairs:

An amount of Rs.5.31 crore was allocated to this Department during the current Annual Plan period and the expenditure during the first half of the year was Rs.0.86 crore (16.13%).

4. District Planning:

The outlay under District Planning for 2005-06 is Rs.15.16 crore out of which the expenditure during the first half of the year was Rs.6.47 crore. Funds for district planning are administered by the Development & Planning Department. The State Government was requested to increase the allocation for district planning and to come up with village level plans also so that balanced development of the whole State can ultimately be achieved.

SOCIAL SERVICES

The overall agreed outlay for Social Services was Rs.2243.52 crores while the half-yearly expenditure was Rs.731.05 crore or 32.58% of the agreed outlay.

Education:

The total approved outlay under Education during 2005-06 is Rs.632.94 crore out of which the half-yearly anticipated expenditure is Rs.197.59 crore (31.22%). **This is a 15% improvement over the figures for the corresponding period of the preceding year.** The State Government informed that only about 2% of the children are out of school at the lower primary level while at the upper primary level 7.25% of the children are estimated to be out of school. There are more than 500 madrassas in the State but their course structure is not in line with the formal schools. It is gratifying to note that in about 60% of these madrassas, there are more girls than boys. The gender disparity in the State as far as access to education is concerned is very minimal.

The overall literacy rate in West Bengal is 69.2 per cent, which is higher than all India average of 65.4 per cent. The drop out rate at classes I-X is on the high side i.e. 78.14 per cent. The State Government was advised to fix up targets in respect of following important parameters such as number of school buildings to be constructed/ rehabilitated, number of class rooms to be constructed, appointment of teachers, construction of boundary walls, sanitation and drinking water facilities in the school, training of the teachers and para-teachers, adult education, up-gradation of primary to upper primary and further to secondary and higher secondary levels.

It was suggested that poly-technical institutes in the State should be upgraded and diversified so as to generate more self-employment opportunities for jobless educated youth as well as to meet manpower needs of the industrial/ corporate sector. A study may be conducted to identify the courses, which are in great demand. It would be more appropriate if new Polytechnics are jointly set up and run by the Corporate Sector/ Industrial Organization and the State Government.

Higher Education

The State Government has been encouraging the introduction of various need-based and job-oriented courses in the emerging areas of Science and Technology. The momentous changes in the popular focus and preferences in terms of higher

education that have taken place need to be reflected in the planning of higher education. The State is giving special attention to the expansion of opportunities for professional education, IT and IT-enabled education, vocational subjects, engineering and management and also to newly introduced subjects like Material Science, Biotechnology, Bio-informatics, Molecular Biology, Genetic Engineering, Nanotechnology, Micro-biology etc. Priority is also given for spoken and written skill in English. Emphasis is being given on the development of research activities and other arenas of higher education to keep pace with the changes occurring in modern times.

The budget provision under Plan Scheme during 2005-06 (including TEQIP) is Rs.58,80,00,000/- (Rs.10,32,00,000/- + Rs.48,48,00,000/- TEQIP).

During the first 6 months of 2005-06 (i.e. upto September '05) Rs.33,71,50,000 has been spent. The State is taking steps to utilize the balance amount of budget provision during the remaining period of 2005-06. Special attention will also be given in the matter of utilizing the earmarked plan allocation under 'SCP' and 'TSP' schemes during 2005-06.

Special Component Plan (SCP) & Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)

Due emphasis is being given for development of college buildings, hostels etc. and also in extending facilities for higher education to the students belonging to SC/ST communities.

To achieve the budget provision of the specified ratio of 24% (under SCP scheme) and 6% (under TASP scheme) attempts have already been taken. Steps are also being taken to make the expenditure in this regard to the desired level.

Fund has been sanctioned for purchase of sports equipments, installation of deep tube-well in N L. Khan Women's College, Purba Medinipur during 2005-06.

Fund has also been sanctioned for construction of dining hall in Y.S. Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Purba Medinipur and for construction of Library building in Cooch-Bihar College.

Fund has been sanctioned for construction of building for ST students in Panchmura Mahavidyalaya, Bankura, Balurghat College and Saltora Netaji Centenary College, Bankura.

Externally Aided Project

Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP)

The Government of India in the Ministry of Human Resource Development has initiated a project titled 'The Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme' (TEQIP) under the World Bank assistance in the 10th Five Year Plan period. The Program aims to improve quality of technical education and enhance existing capacities of the institutions to become dynamic, demand driven, quality conscious and responsive to rapid economic and technological developments occurring at national and international levels.

The budget provision under 'TEQIP' scheme during the current financial year (2005-06) is Rs. 48.48 crores. Out of which expenditure incurred upto September, 2005 is Rs. 30,00,00,000/-.

Gender Component (Women Oriented Schemes): The ratio of successful male and female students at the Higher Secondary level at present is 60:40 and in College and University level the said ratio is more or less same. With a view to reducing this gender disparity, emphasis is given for construction of ladies hostel, expansion of women's college building. Educational facilities are extended in rural and remote areas to encourage the girl students of these areas to come under higher education.

District level Plan Funding

There is no scheme under District level so far as Higher Education Department is concerned. No fund is released through 'District Planning Committee' from the Higher Education Deptt. All the plan schemes are State-level schemes and the necessary fund is released through executive agencies like Universities, Colleges etc

Human Development Initiative:

Initiatives are being taken by Higher Education Department to establish colleges in the backward regions/areas. During this year (2005-06), steps have been taken for establishment of such colleges viz. i) Lalgola College, Murshidabad, ii) Baxirhat Mahavidyalaya, Coochbihar and iii) Patrasayar Mahavidyalaya, Bankura.

General Education

Universities

Out of fifteen State Aided Universities in West Bengal, ten Universities come under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Higher Education. The Department has recently set up two universities namely the Netaji Subhas Open University and the West Bengal University of Technology.

A Bengali on-line course has been introduced by the Netaji Subhas Open University.

In terms of output and impact, the Calcutta University is among the first ten Universities of the country in research on Science and Technology. The U.G.C. has awarded CAS/DSA/DRS/COSIST programmes to more than 15 departments of the University on the basis of research performance.

A total sum of Rs.35.30 lakh has so far been released for renovation and repair works in favour of Calcutta University, Jadavpur University, Kalyani University, Burdwan University, Rabindra Bharati University, Vidyasagar University, North Bengal University, Bengal Engineering & Science University, West Bengal University of Technology, Netaji Subhas Open University, W.B. State Council of Higher Education and Calcutta Government Engineering College (J.U.2nd Campus) during 2005-2006.

College Education

On going construction and renovation works in different Government and Non-Government Colleges have been continued during 2005-06 with financial assistance of Higher Education Deptt. A total amount of Rs.68,24,537/- (Rs.49,50,000/- for Govt. Colleges + Rs.18,74,537/- for Non-Govt. Colleges) has been released for different on going schemes. A total amount of Rs.34,50,000/- has been sanctioned for civil and electrical works for the purpose of face lifting works of Presidency College and Lady Brabourne College.

State Govt. has approved the establishment of 10 general degree colleges viz. Hingalganj Mahavidyalaya, North 24-Pgs., Santal Bidraha Sardha Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya, Paschim Midnapore, Pandaveswar College, Burdan, Lalgola College, Murshidabad, Sukumar Sengupta Mahavidyalaya, Paschim Midnapore, Dr. B.R.Amdebkar College, South 24-Parganas, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya, North 24-Pgs, Polba Mahavidyalaya, Hooghly, Baxirhat Mahavidyalaya, Coochbehar and Patrasayar Mahavidyalaya, Bankura.

A total amount of Rs.36,99,450/- has also been sanctioned for various electrical and civil works in respect of Jhargram Raj College, Presidency College, Darjeeling College, Hooghly Mohsin College, Haldia Govt. College, Bidhannagar Govt. College, Bethue College, Lady Brabourne College, Barasat Govt. College, Taki Govt. College etc.

Post Graduate courses in different subjects have been introduced in 27 General Degree Colleges.

At present, there are 476 colleges (443 Non-Govt. Colleges + 36 Govt. Colleges) in West Bengal out of which 360 are General Degree Colleges, 43

Education Colleges, 11 Law Colleges, 2 Art Colleges, 45 Engineering & Technological Colleges, 1 Home Science College, 2 Music Colleges, 3 Special Institutes and 9 Business Management/Business Administration Colleges (Master Degree).

Technical Education

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Jadavpur University has been selected as a Lead Institution under World Bank Assisted Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India. Under this Programme Rs.130.00 crore has been provided to the University of which Rs.55.00 crore are expected to be incurred during 2005-06.

Jadavpur University has taken up the project of extraction of Dye from Herbal sources.

The B.E.College (D.U) has been up-graded to Bengal Engineering and Science University

At present there are 52 engineering colleges in the State with an approved intake capacity of 14,569 students.

Technical Education and Training

Total plan allocation in respect of Technical Education and Training Department for the financial year 2005-2006 is **Rs. 9.63 Crore** out of which **Rs. 6.13 Crore** is earmarked for Polytechnic Education & **Rs. 3.50 Crore** is for Craftsman Training and Apprenticeship Training through Industrial Training Institutes.

Consequent upon setting up of West Bengal State Council of Vocational Education & Training which has been entrusted with the responsibility of conducting Vocational Education & Training at **X+2** level through its affiliated Institutions from the current academic session, current year's Plan Allocation in respect of this Department is required to be increased at least by an amount of **Rs.10.00 Crore**. Thus the revised estimate for the current financial year in respect of this Department is likely to be **Rs. 19.63 crore**.

Up-to September, 2005 a total sum of **Rs. 2.34 crore** has been spent for the Polytechnic Institutions out of the total provision of **Rs. 6.13 crore** and a sum of **Rs. 59.23 lakh** has been spent for the Industrial Training Institutes out of total provision of **Rs. 3.50 crore**.

It will be possible for this Department to utilize almost 75% of the current year's total plan allocation within December, 2005.

Physical achievements during the first half of the current financial year under State Plan Sector are as follows:-

- 12 Polytechnics Institutions have got plan assistance for repairing and renovation work and 10 Polytechnics have got such assistance for maintenance work amounting to **Rs. 61.48 lakh** and **Rs. 8.44 lakh** respectively;
- For construction of academic building of Falakata Polytechnic a sum of **Rs. 50.00 lakh** has been sanctioned with clearance of Finance Department and the G.O. has been issued in July, 2005. WBIIDC Ltd. has been entrusted with the responsibility of construction work and they are taking necessary action for starting the construction work;
- 6 Polytechnics have been provided with a sum of **Rs. 4.60 lakh** for development of their laboratories;
- Out of the current year's budget provision of **Rs. 80.00 lakh** a sum of **Rs. 15.20 lakh** has been sanctioned for conducting Short Term Vocational Training(STVT) programme at 10 STVT Centres and the balance amount is being released after examination of the proposals from different STVT Centres through the Directorate of Technical Education and Training;
- For extending Scope of Technical/Vocational Education & Training for Backward Classes part-time Diploma Programme has been started at Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar Polytechnic, Jhargram from August,2005 with financial assistance from the BCW Department, Government of West Bengal;
- For purchase of machineries and equipments of 4(four) Industrial Training Institutes including newly set up Barrakpore Industrial Training Institute a total sum of **Rs. 15.69 lakh** has been sanctioned;
- For repair of Hostel Building of Siliguri Industrial Training Institute a sum of **Rs.13.54 lakh** has been sanctioned;
- For construction of academic building of Toofangunj Industrial Training Institute a sum of **Rs. 20.00 lakh** has been sanctioned;

Necessary action is being taken for up-gradation of 3(three) Industrial Training Institutes into "**Centre of Excellence**" within 2005-2006 as per guideline of Government of India.

School Education

Effort has been taken to bring all the children of age group 5-14 years under the purview of the Elementary Education with the help of twin project, viz. District Primary Education Programme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. It has been provided in these programmes:

- i) To ensure to bring all the children in Elementary stage to school during the current financial year;
- ii) To bring all the children up-to 14 years of age by 2010;
- iii) To reduce the drop out to zero percent; and
- iv) To ensure quality of Education.

In spite of various endeavours to achieve these targets under the two programmes, the State could not achieve the ultimate goal within the given time frame for various reasons, such as growth of population, socio-economic conditions, and lack of awareness and motivation on the part of parents, etc. The Department is taking all-round endeavour for implementing its plan of action during this financial year.

STRATEGIES BEING FOLLOWED:

Primary

1. To bring all the schools, gram sansad and wards under the coverage of SSA.
2. To create certain resource institution and organization at different level from the State to the Gram Sansad.
3. To form VEC/WECs in all Gram sansad and municipal wards for strengthening the community and parents for quality education as well as overall enrolment and access.
4. To provide scope for Panchayat Raj Institution in planning and management Primary schools.
5. To fill-up vacancies of teachers and provide teachers in the post of additional post for ensuring 40: 1 Pupil-Teacher Ratio in all schools.
6. To pay attention to special group like SC/ST, linguistic minorities, educationally backward class and physically disabled.
7. To create an effective convergence between ICDS and primary education in case of automatic transition from pre-primary classes to Class I.

8. To take up new initiative in case of increasing enrolment and retention of girl children in the school.
9. Providing support to Sishu Shiksha Kendra from SSA and opening of similar short-time study centers for bridging the gap in access for primary children who cannot enroll themselves in school due to various reasons.
10. To develop a resource support mechanism by developing CLRC in the existing capacity of Sub-Inspector of Schools all over the State.
11. To provide training facilities to all the teachers.
12. To reduce gender and social disparity.
13. To recruit more Female teachers.
14. To implemented Integrated Learning Improvement Programme (ILIP).
15. To promote all the Circles to Circles Resource Centre (CLRC)
16. To provide Mid Day Meal to all student reading upto Class V.

Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education:

1. To extent the support of SSA up-to Class VIII in all High, Jr. High, Higher Secondary Schools.
2. To establish DIETs in all districts and make them functional from the next year so that the capacity building initiative can be streamlined properly.
3. To provide infrastructure as per requirement of the society.
4. To upgrade the Jr. High Schools to High or High School to H.S. Schools, High Madrasah to H.S. Madrasah for creating wide space for children in higher classes.
5. To train up the MC members and HMs for better management of schools.
6. To provide training to all the teachers in terms of subjects and educational techniques.
7. To extend Information Technology in education sector to modernize the whole system.
8. To utilize Open School System from class VI onward for the children who are deprived and out of schools due to various reasons.
9. To modernize the syllabus and curriculum of Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Section. An effective sequence of up gradation is to be maintained in the whole process.
10. Capacity building of educational manager of the district and sub-district level through different training programme by ATI.
11. Tree plantation and resource building programme for future goal of clean environment and prosperity for the school authority.
12. Text book bank for the poor children of the upper primary level.
13. Providing support to MSKs.
14. Introduction of Computer Education in all schools.
15. Introduction of Vocational Institutes in all 341 Blocks.

School Education in general: -

1. Pedagogical renewal and improvement in quality of education through teachers' capacity building and CLRC intervention and improvement of Class room transaction
2. Monitoring and Evaluation
3. Examination reforms
4. Introduction of Environmental Education
5. Introduction of Live Style Education
6. Renewal of Text Books.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) All untrained teachers should be trained after recruitment so as to ensure quality of education.
- ii) Through regular inspections and impact assessment, etc., teachers should be induced to make increased efforts in imparting quality education.
- iii) More Junior High Schools should be upgraded to High School level given the success achieved under SSA.
- iv) All DIETs should be made functional at the earliest for imparting teachers' training.
- v) Residential Schools like the Kasturba Gandhi Residential Schools should be constructed at the Block level for SC/ ST students.
- vi) Hostels should also be constructed in the 53 educationally backward blocks and they should be handed over to NGOs for running them with one time government assistance.
- vii) Regular flow of scholarships to SC/ST students should be ensured as a means to reduce their drop out rate.
- viii) The quality of classrooms should also be improved and boundary walls should be constructed.
- ix) A conscious effort should be made to upgrade all polytechnics and ITIs and the requirement for different skills should be ascertained through discussion with the private sector and institutions like FICCI, IIM, etc. so that joblessness of the trained youths is reduced.

Medical & Public Health:

Out of the agreed outlay of Rs.402.08 crore, the half-yearly expenditure is Rs.65.38 crore, i.e. about 16.26% of agreed outlay. The Department was requested to accelerate the progress of expenditure during the remaining months. During the first half of the year, 336 health melas were organized in the 6 more backward districts.

Water Supply & Sanitation:

The main points discussed in the meeting and issues raised are as below:

1. Outlay for 2005-06 is Rs.141.49 crore and expenditure up to Sept., 2005 is Rs.26.83 crore which is 18%. During the first six months of the previous year it was 28%. This is due to non-release of funds from Finance Deptt., Govt. of WB. Still they have achieved 14% physical progress. Work has been going on although expenditure has not been booked. There is no problem for the Department to fully utilize its entire allocation for 2005-06.
2. Target for 2005-06 had been revised from 5800 to 3669 (no. of habitation) as far as RGNDWM is concerned and achievement is 50% up to Sept.2005.
3. Arsenic affected villages are presently being supplied drinking water through piped water supply scheme. The target date for arsenic removal from all affected areas is 2008 at an estimated cost of Rs.1595.00 crore while the target date for quality coverage is 2012.

Housing:

During the current Annual Plan period, the allocation for housing was Rs.41.95 crore out of which Rs.17.95 crore (42.79%) was spent during the first six months. The State Government had no information on the housing shortages category-wise. It was, therefore, emphasized that State should also work out the estimates of the housing shortage category-wise like EWS, LIG, MIG and HIG and Real Estate and chalk out the Action Plan to overcome the housing problems of weaker sections of the society especially SC/ST and other economically weaker sections.

Urban Development:

The allocation for urban development during 2005-06 was Rs.573.72 crore out of which the expenditure during the first half of the year was Rs.157.48 crore (27.45%). Under SJSRY, 25000 loan cases are to be sponsored to the banks and this time the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) has assured that all cases will be sanctioned. As far as reforms at the levels of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are concerned, the State Government informed that (i) they have adopted modern accrual based double entry system of accounting; (ii) they are going for complete e-governance; (iii) they are reforming property tax – the bill is before the Assembly Select Committee. User charges are, however, levied at flat rate since metering for domestic users is not viable; (iv) Urban Land Ceiling Act is being changed and stamp

duties are being reduced. However, it is not yet contemplated to change the Rent Control Act; (v) Ward Committee Rules, fiscal plan of ULBs, etc. are publicly disclosed bi-annually; (vi) Committees have been set up to review municipal building rules; (vii) property title certificate are issued by the Land & Land Reforms Department; (viii) computerized process of registration of land and property has started.

Regarding action taken for implementation of NURM, the State government informed that the process has already started for both Kolkata Metropolitan Area and Asansol. Proposals worth Rs.828 crore have already been sent to the Government of India. The State Government also informed that their entitlement under URIF was Rs.18 crore but they have received only Rs.6 crore. The Union Finance Minister has reportedly said that a supplementary budget would be moved in order to enable release of the balance amount. The implementation of spill over schemes under VAMBAY, IDSMT etc. is going on and the construction of 2800 houses is currently in progress. The State Government wanted that the HUDCO Sanctioning Committee which has not met for a long time should be convened at regular intervals.

Backward Classes Department:

The social composition of the State is SC 23%, ST 5.5% and OBC 14% to 15%. A number of educational schemes, income generation schemes and infrastructure development schemes are in operation but all these need to be physically monitored to ensure that things are really happening on the ground. The State Government was reminded of a recent guideline issued by the Planning Commission on formulation and implementation of SCP and TSP in the light of which the draft Annual Plan 2006-07 has to be revised. On-going activities like construction of hostels for SC/ST boys and girls and provision of scholarship and book grants to them as incentive to continue pursuing their studies are reported to be progressing normally. The Department also runs polytechnics and vocational training centres for SC/ST students which offer self-employment oriented courses.

The concerned Deputy Adviser, Planning Commission wanted to know whether Post Matric Scholarships are being disbursed timely and regularly and, if not, the specific steps taken by the State Government to ensure that SC and ST students are getting their Post Matric Scholarships regularly and timely. State Government was requested to send the detailed note in regard to the steps taken up for ensuring timely disbursement of Scholarship to SC/ST students. There are 3 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) namely, Toto, Birhor and Lodha. State Government was requested to formulate comprehensive development programme and to utilize the benefits of Central Sector scheme of development of Primitive Tribal groups which has been identified as priority areas in the Tenth Plan. The utilization of the houses constructed for the PTGs in the state was discussed, it was reported that PTGs

were not staying in the houses allotted to them. In this context, activities undertaken under the Grant in Aid under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP) were discussed. State Government was requested to send a detailed note incorporating physical target and achievement and detailed activities undertaken under these funds. While discussing the Strategy of SCP and TSP, it was observed, over the year SCP and TSP has been found is not being implemented properly. Apart from the fact that sometimes SCP and TSP flow is notional, the programme is not specifically drawn up to cater to felt needs of the SC and ST peoples. It was therefore, suggested that SCP and TSP fund should not be diverted and make it non lapsable and non divertible. Over all formulation of Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes were raised, State Government has assured to ensure earmarking of funds in proportion to the size of the SC and ST population in the State. The functioning of SC and ST Finance Development Corporation were discussed, State Government was requested to monitor and evaluate the functioning of SC/ST Finance Development Corporation and bring suitable corrective measures in its implementation.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) Financial help should be given to promising SC/ST students for getting admission into public schools.
- ii) Financial support should be considered for SC/ST youths who are desirous of availing self financing courses in IIMs, etc. out of allocations under SCP/ TSP.
- iii) A survey should be conducted on alienation of tribal land and a report should be submitted to the Government.
- iv) Some provision should be made for maintenance of houses constructed by the primitive tribes.

Labour & Employment:

Issues on employment and skill development were discussed during the meeting. The deliberations on these issues are as follows:

The employment schemes in rural areas include scheme for self-employment, the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Secretary, (Panchayati Raj Department) stated that under this programme, a huge number of people are helped to become self-employed. This requires training for all these persons. This training and capacity building is a problem in the State at present, because there are not enough institutions in the State to impart such short-term training. When it was told

that I T I training facilities may be utilized by the State Government for training under SGSY, it was stated that such a step has already been tried but I T Is in the State are not in a position to undertake such training activities.

Replying to a query, the State Government representative stated that the employment generation schemes in the State are running well. West Bengal has most of the success stories in regard to Self Help Groups (SHGs). The State Government representative gave one report containing success stories of the SHGs under rural development schemes. It was also stated that in the current year 70000 beneficiaries obtained fund under SGSY. There are 35000 SHGs in the State and more than 12 lakh beneficiaries are women.

The Secretary (Cottage Industries) stated that there are 6 lakh weavers in the State in the handloom sector. There are 21 lakhs employment in the registered small-scale industries sector. In the unregistered sector, the number of employment is much more. There are 3-lakh employments in sericulture sector. There is an annual increase of employment of 8-10 thousand persons in the small-scale industries sector.

Vocational training was also discussed in the meeting. There are 43 Polytechnics, 29 I T Is and 20 I T Cs in the State of West Bengal. There are 8500 students in the polytechnics and 6250 students in the I T Is in West Bengal. There are 4 women I T Is in the State and 10% seats in every I T Is are reserved for women.

The State Council on Vocational Training (SCVT) has been set up in Kolkata in April 2005 by the State Government to give coaching and guidance on Vocational Training. The SCVT has started functioning.

It has been discussed that there are 14 private I T Cs in the State imparting vocational training. The trades for training must be chosen on the market needs. The I T Is should have management committee with local industrialists as Member of the Committee. This will facilitate absorption of trainees in the local industry. The State Government representative agreed to this.

Government of India is now implementing a scheme on Centres of Excellence (COE) among I T Is. 100 such centres would be taken up at present. Out of these 100 centres, West Bengal has 3 Centres of Excellence (I T Is) at present and they would take up 6 more in future. Institute Management Committees (IMCs) are already constituted in all the COEs. Syllabus has been set up and recruitment process etc. started. Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment has personally monitored the progress. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed between Government of India and the State Government for all 3 COEs. Various trade organizations like CII and FICCI are associated with these COEs and they would provide technical manpower and equipment for the Centres. However, the State

Government representative expressed that the interest shown by the organizations are not much. When requested, the State Government representative agreed to introduce medical transcription course in COEs.

It was also stated that the State Government would conduct a survey on placement of ITI passed-outs. A copy of this survey will be given to Planning Commission as soon as it is undertaken.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) A large number of the ITI-trained are jobless. Reasons have to be found out and remedial measures taken.
- ii) The perspective plan for job creation should be formulated.

Social Security and Social Welfare:

The agreed outlay was Rs.147.48 crore only while the expenditure during the first six months was Rs. 88.17 crore which is 59.79% of agreed outlay. Performance this year is better than last year.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) The quota of pension schemes under social welfare department has been decreased. It should in fact have been increased.
- ii) The rate of monthly pension also needs to be enhanced to a more decent amount.

Nutrition:

The agreed outlay was Rs.123.04 crore while the half-yearly expenditure is Rs.104.31 crore which is 84.78% of agreed outlay. The State has improved its financial performance in this area compared to the previous year.

The National Programme of nutritional support to Primary Education, popularly known as Mid-Day Meal scheme introduced in this state on 15th August, 1995 is now in operation all over the state. The main objective of this scheme is to give a boost to Universalization of Primary Education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously creating an impact on the nutrition of the students of Primary schools (Class 1 to Class V). Now cooked meal is being supplied to 68,999 primary schools covering 90,81,524 children. Moreover, the Mid-Day Meal programme has also been tied up with the assistance of SHGs. As a result, the level of drop-outs has been considerably brought down from about 2.80% of the Primary student population (as on April, 04) to 2.04% (as on October, 2005).

Appropriate actions are also taken for addressing the nutritional requirement under women and child development programme. The target during the 10th Plan period is reduction of IMR to 45 per thousand live births by 2007 and 28 by 2012. **The current IMR in the state is 46 per thousand (Rural 48, Urban 34).** Nutrition education is being emphasized to prevent under-nutrition, giving guidance in appropriate infant and early childhood feeding practices and promoting appropriate intra-family distribution based on requirements and dietary diversification to meet the sustained needs of the family. This is being done through Anganwadi workers of ICDS projects and Health workers engaged at village level. A Pilot Project (NPAG-Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls) to provide increased supplementary nutrition to adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating mothers who are under-nourished, was taken up in Jalpaiguri and Purulia districts. About 2.25 lacs of pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls are being provided with 6 Kgs of foodgrains per month under this programme. The number of sub-centres is being gradually increased to bring health services to the doorstep of the people. Institutional delivery is being encouraged and facilities for the same are being increased. However, from 2005-06, the pregnant women and lactating mothers have been excluded from the coverage of NPAG on the plea that they are covered under the ICDS programme. Immunization coverage is increasing gradually. Use of Iodized salt is increasing.

Important Issues/ Recommendations:

- i) Pregnant women and lactating mothers should not be excluded from the purview of NPAG since this provides supplementary nutrition to them.

GENERAL SERVICES

The agreed outlay for 2005-06 was Rs.147.41 crore while the half-yearly expenditure was Rs.39.66 crore, i.e. 26.90% of the agreed outlay.

Jails: The agreed outlay was Rs.4.44 crore while the half-yearly expenditure is Rs.2.09 crore which is 47.04% of agreed outlay. However, even this performance is about 2.5% less than the corresponding period last year. There may be no problem for the Department to fully utilize its allocation.

Public Works: Out of the approved outlay of Rs.124.74 crore during 2005-06, the expenditure during the first six months of the year was Rs.22.61 crore which is 18.12% of agreed outlay. The level of performance this year is less than that of the corresponding period last year. Increased efforts are required for fully utilizing the given allocation.

Personnel & AR Department: The Department was required to provide necessary information regarding the preparedness of the State to implement the Right to Information Act. It was informed in the meeting that draft rules have been framed but that these are now lying with the Law Department for vetting. The Commissioner is also yet to be appointed. However, the State Government has already appointed the State Public Information Officer. Various departments, too, are working in right earnest to select, appoint and notify the names of concerned Information officers of their departments. The departments have also been asked to prepare Manuals as required under Section 4(1) (b) of the Act.

(Chandra Pal)
Adviser (SP-East)
29th December, 2005.

WRAP-UP MINUTES

The session was jointly presided over by Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission and Shri Nirupam Sen Minister Incharge of Development & Planning, etc., Government of West Bengal. Shri P. Bhattacharya, Additional Chief Secretary briefed the two dignitaries on the review that had already taken place that day and the previous day. He also informed that there is 33.40% overall achievement during the first half of 2005-06 and that this is a 13% improvement over the performance during the corresponding period last year. Member (AH) was then requested to take over.

Member (AH) thanked Mr. Nirupam Sen for his kind presence and informed the meeting that he would be sending the review report to the Deputy Chairman and to the Chairman of the Planning Commission to seek their guidance also in grappling with certain issues emanating from the performance review. He wanted to concentrate mainly on two/three aspects. He said that the planning process is dependent on financial resources and hence wanted to know how the situation has evolved during the last six months (April to September 2005), especially how VAT has shaped up, what is the future of financial resources in the State and what are the steps taken for restructuring sources of revenue. Secondly he wanted to know what has happened in the social infrastructure front given the fact that the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government attaches great importance especially to health and education. Thirdly he reiterated the fact that physical infrastructure is very important for stimulating economic growth. He wanted that due emphasis should be given to the power, irrigation and transport sectors. He also wanted the State to articulate its needs which can be duly considered under the new initiative for urban development.

Finance:

Shri Samar Ghosh, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, explained about the financial position of the State and its deterioration after 1999-2000 which led to an adverse impact on planned expenditure also. Although financial restructuring including control of expenditure and additional resource mobilization was taken up, a lot of difficulty was experienced in squeezing non-plan expenditure. After the introduction of VAT this year, there is a growth in tax earning but the rate of growth has been less than under the sales tax regime due to reduction of tax rates on certain commodities like cement, etc. However, the Principal Secretary was optimistic that the State would be able to provide the quantum of resources for 2005-06. He, however,

pleaded for reduction of debt burden liability on account of Central loan out of small savings whose interest rate is higher than the market rate. He projected that fiscal deficit will be reduced to 3% by 2008-09. The Finance Secretary said that the State government has great expectations from the NDC Sub-Committee which has been set up to suggest debt relief on account of small savings loans. If sufficient relief is given, the State will be in a position to pass the Fiscal Responsibility Legislation.

Power:

Shri Sunil Mitra, Principal Secretary, Power Department informed that performance of the power sector in the State has tremendously improved during the past few years. Last year the West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB) contributed Rs.700 crore to the Government. He also informed that WBSEB, WBPDC & DPL are functioning without any subsidy from the State. The problem of power availability from the Central share was also sorted out and DVC is now giving 300 MWs of power to meet the peak deficit. The State is targeting for higher availability of power and the projects under implementation will augment capacity. During off peak period, there is surplus generation for which the State is getting revenue from trading. According to the existing demand projection, the State will be having surplus power at least for the coming few years. With the introduction of power sector reforms in the State, T&D losses have been showing declining trends while average revenue receipts have been increasing. However, AT&C losses are still high (37%) and the gap between average revenue and cost of supply is reported to be 16 paise per unit. The managerial aspects have also improved. The State is hopeful of achieving 100% rural electrification within March, 2007 and 100% household electrification within 2012.

Member (AH) appreciated the State's performance in the power sector but he felt that the projection of demand could be higher if account is taken of housing activities, etc. under NURM and the increased flow of investments into the State leading to a higher level of industrialization. Therefore, the availability of power which looks good now may have to be reassessed taking into account the likely growth in demand. Regarding the issues raised in the earlier review meeting, Member (AH) clarified that the expenditure limit of Rs.1 lakh per village is only for the intensification programme and does not cover the un-electrified villages for which no limit has been imposed. As far as the Darjeeling Area is concerned, he said that provisions are already there under RGGVY. As far as the phasing out of old generating units is concerned, he said that the replacement of old power generating plants had already been included in the Central Electricity Authority's modernization programme.

Panchayat & Rural Development:

The Secretary of the Department pleaded for amendment of the IAY guidelines so that the poor who are also landless could benefit from the scheme which now excludes them. However, the earlier amendment made during the middle of the year in which criteria for selection of beneficiaries had been changed should be revoked since there are people who already got the first installment but are no more entitled for the second installment according to the amended guidelines. The need for augmentation of training facilities was also emphasized and it was opined that the Ministry of Rural Development should make plan allocation for the Extension Training Centres. Member (AH) advised the State Government to give their suggestions to the Ministry keeping in view the situation prevailing in the State. The State Government also wants that some more items of work should be permitted under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme since no land is available for any kind of work after the monsoons. In the context of Bharat Nirman, the State also requested for review of the Block staffing pattern given the fact that the task is very huge and cannot be accomplished without a dedicated workforce.

Urban Development:

The Secretary, Municipal Affairs Department informed Member (AH) that under NURM, the development of Kolkata and Asansol is looked after by the Urban Development Department while the development of other towns is taken care of by the Municipal Affairs Department. While the Vision 2025 document for Kolkata is ready, the city development plan for Asansol is under finalization. Proposals worth Rs.828 crore for the development of KMDA area have already been sent to the Government of India for sanction under NURM and proposals worth Rs.148 crore for smaller towns have also been sent for sanction under IDSMT. In his response, Member (AH) said that this amount is still too small for Kolkata if the city is to regain its earlier period of glory. He suggested that the State should complete the remaining parts of urban sector reforms at the earliest so that the volume of fund flow to the State can increase more substantially.

Agriculture:

The Principal Secretary (Agriculture) informed Member (AH) that agriculture in the State has been diversified and that productivity has increased as a result of successful efforts in that direction. He said that groundnut and maize are especially growing well in the State and that the yield of hybrid rice (Boro) is more than 4000 Kg. / hectare. However, there is

some problem in North Bengal due to high acidity in the soil and the shorter duration of sunny days. The Department has been trying its best to provide all necessary inputs in time and seed farms have been revived for providing certified seeds to the farmers. The State has also started issuing soil health cards since last year but the number of soil testing laboratories is still inadequate. Mobile soil testing laboratories are also deployed and are being financed from macro-mode. But there is still a shortage of skilled manpower for carrying out this work. Block-wise maps showing micro-nutrients deficiency are also being made. Concluding his brief presentation on the state of agriculture in West Bengal, the Principal Secretary informed that the growth rate in agriculture during the last few years has been more than 5.4%.

Education:

The Principal Secretary, Education Department informed Member (AH) that there are more than 1.5 crore children up to high school level. The total number of schools is about 80,000 and the total number of teachers is about 4.5 lakh. Although the drop out rate has fallen from 20% to 18%, the biggest challenges before the Department are to further reduce the drop out rate and to improve the quality of education. The State is trying to achieve a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:40 and with this aim in view, Finance Department has agreed to create more posts of teachers. The Principal Secretary also informed that all junior high schools are being upgraded to high school and that by March, 2007 the State is hoping to achieve 100% gross enrolment ratio. The Department is presently conducting a survey on what keeps a child away from school. The findings of the survey will be referred to concerned Departments for remedial action. The other issues which have caught the attention of the Department at present are reform of the conduct of public examinations, improvement of curriculum, teachers' training and strengthening of the Directorates. The Member (AH) was also informed that targets of SSA would be achieved by March, 2007. While appreciating the efforts made by the Department, Member (AH) suggested that maximum emphasis on SSA is still required for achieving 100% coverage of the programme in the State. He also felt that improvement of physical infrastructure of schools should go side by side with improvement in the quality of education.

Health:

The Secretary (Health) informed Member (AH) that West Bengal's position in the country as far as health indicators are concerned is between third and fifth. The Department has been given funds for maintenance of assets created in previous years and it is also receiving funds from DFID

(UK) for improvement of the health infrastructure and delivery mechanism. The State has also prepared a 10-year Health Sector Strategy (2004-2013) for meeting the State's priorities and addressing the major shortcomings in both public and private health provision. Member (AH) requested the Department to also report on the physical outcomes so that the degree of success of the initiatives already taken can be assessed vis-à-vis the expenditure incurred.

In his concluding remarks, Member (AH) appreciated the performance of the State during the first half of the year and hoped that the State would be able to achieve the Plan targets set for the current Annual Plan. He also made a passing reference to the restriction in the flow of minerals from one State to another and said that the Planning Commission was in agreement with the Govt. of West Bengal's approach on the matter. He informed that a committee has been set up by the Prime Minister to deliberate on the issue and hoped that the outcome would benefit West Bengal. As far as restructuring of PSUs is concerned, he said that the framework adopted by the State for the revival of sick units is most appropriate and hoped that the progress achieved must have significantly reduced the drain on finances of the State. He suggested that the State should have a time frame for closing down unviable sick units.

Shri Nirupam Sen, Minister-in-Charge for Development & Planning summed up the discussion by saying that major issues have already been pointed out and he again emphasized the urgent need for debt restructuring which, if done in a positive manner, should be of great help to the State. On different development indicators, he said that West Bengal's position is above the all India average. He also said that the State has embarked upon its own form of reforms programme on the basis of years of experience and understanding of the special problems of the State. In the first instance, joint ventures are resorted to but if that fails, the Government finds it easier to convince the workers about the need for closure. As far as NURM is concerned, he felt that certain reforms should be made optional and that the Central Government should not take a rigid stand on those issues. Taking the example of Urban Land Ceiling Act, he said that the Act as such is defunct but before repealing it, the Government has to see that there is no concentration of land in a few hands and no forcible eviction of the urban poor. This is a major problem in the State but some new legislation is being formulated. The Minister reminded that this kind of problem is faced even in Mumbai and other places.

Regarding industrial investments, the Minister informed that the number of new units coming up in the State has been increasing and there is need to

expand, upgrade and modernize the various infrastructural facilities like growth centres, industrial parks and special economic zones. He said that the State has sought the participation of the private sector also in these efforts. Urban infrastructure is also being created under PPP mode. Appreciating the Planning Commission's stand on the iron ore issue, the Minister requested that permission should be given to the State Government to extract coal from those mines in the State where the Eastern Coalfields Ltd., is not interested to extract the same so that the iron and steel units requiring coal are not made to bring it from far away places in other parts of the country.

Shri Nirupam Sen also said that the State has made good progress in power sector reforms and it now concentrating on reforming the transport sector with a view to reducing expenditure and increasing revenues. While concluding his remarks, the Minister once again requested the Central Government to take a positive view of the debt problem of the State and he requested Finance Department of the State to ensure unimpeded flow of funds to the Departments during the remaining months of the year.

Responding to the Minister's remarks, Member (AH) said that the financial problems of the State are taken note of and that efforts are on to get the Teesta Barrage project declared as a national project despite resource constraints. He also said that a ring road around Kolkata could be considered by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under PPP mode. He also appreciated the need for modernization of Kolkata airport and said that West Bengal should benefit from the dedicated railway freight corridors being taken up in the western and eastern side of North India. As far as deepening of the Kolkata port is concerned, he said that funds had been allocated for feasibility study of a deep sea port.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the two dignitaries who jointly presided over the meeting.

Sd/-
(Chandra Pal)
Adviser (SP-East)

ATTENDANCE SHEET
(Planning Commission)

...

16th & 17th November 2005.

Sl. No.	Name of Officer	Designation
1.	Shri Chandra Pal	Adviser (SP-East)
2.	Shri W. Synrem	Director (SP-East/West Bengal)
3.	Shri Brij Bhushan	Adviser (Education)
4.	Smt. Padmaja Mehta	Director (LEM)
5.	Shri O.P. Shemar	Director (FR)
6.	Shri Sujan Singh	Director (Transport)
7.	Shri Rupinder Singh	Deputy Secretary (RD)
8.	Shri D. Banerjee	Deputy Adviser (Industry)
9.	Shri Kachhyap	Deputy Adviser (TD)
10.	Shri S. Haldar	Senior Research Officer (WR)

ATTENDANCE SHEET

16th & 17th November 2005.

Name of Department	Name	Designation
Agriculture	Sri S. Barma	Pr. Secretary
Agriculture Marketing	Sri A.R. Khan	Director
	Sri T. Biswas	Dy. Director
Animal Resource Dev.	Sri S.K. Das	Secretary
	Sri B.R. Gangopadhyay	Jt. Secretary
Cooperation	Sri N.G. Chakraborty	RCS, WB
Fisheries	Sri S. Chakraborty	Jt. Secretary
Forest	Sri K.C. Gayen	Addl. PCCF
	Sri P.D. Bandyopadhyay	Dy. Secretary
	Sri Debal Roy	CF, Project
	Sri A.V. Mishra	DFO, Planning
Food Processing Industries & Horticulture	Sri A. Bhattacharya	Spl. Secretary
	Dr. S.N. Sen	Director
	Sri A.K. Mitra	Project Director
	Dr. S. Sheeh	ADO(C), HQ
Panchyat & R.D.	Sri D. Ghosh	Joint Secretary
	Sri T.K. Majumdar	Addl. Secy., WBSRDA & EO Jt. Secy.
Land & Land Reforms	Sri S. Bhattacharya	Joint Secretary
Development & Planning	Dr. B.P. Syam Roy	Special Secretary
	Sri G. Ghosh	Dy. Secy.
Backward Classes Welfare	Smr. J. Dasgupta	Pr. Secretary
	Dr. S.K. Das	Dy. Secy.

Sundarban Affairs	Sri D.P. Jana	MS&PD, SDB, SAD
	Sri S.C. Acharya	T.O., SDB, SAD
Home	Sri B.K. Kundu	Spl. Secy.
Irrigation & Waterways	Sri Biswatosh Sarkar	Secretary
	Sri A.K. Ghosh Dastidar	Jt. Secy
	Sri D. Sengupta	Dy. Secy
Water Investigation & Dev	Sri K. John Koshy	Pr. Secretary
	Sri M.K. Das	Jt. Secy.
Power	Sri Sunil Mitra	Pr. Secretary
	Sri M.K. De	Chairman, SEB
	Sri K.N. Bhadury	Spl. Secy.
Public Works & Public Works (Roads)	Sri S.P. Roy	E-in-C & E.O.Secy.
	Sri P.K. Deb	Chief Engineer
	Sri D.K. Kumar	C.E. (Roads)
Finance	Sri K.K. Pal	Jt. Secy.
Commerce & Industries	Sri Dipak Chakraborti	Spl. Secy.
Cottage & S.S.I.	Smt. Mira Pande	Pr. Secretary
	Sri S. Chakraborty	Director, C&SSI,W.B.
	Sri R. Mutsiddi	Spl. Secy.
	Sri B.R. Chakraborty	Jt. Secy.
	Sri G.C. Basak	Jt. Director
	Sri D. Mukherjee	Director, Handloom
	Sri A.K. Bala	Director, Seciculture
Public Enterprise & Industrial Reconstruction	Sri S.M. Roy Choudhury	Spl. Secy.
School Education	Sri Debaditya Chakraborty	Pr. Secretary
	Sri S. Mahapatra	Jt. Secy.
Mass Education	Sri J. Sundara Sekhar	Secretary
	Sri J. Hembram	Jt. Secy.

Technical Education	Sri S.C. Tewari	Secretary
	Sri N. Basu	Dy. Secy.
Higher Education	Sri Sabyasachi Roy	Spl. Secy.
	Sri K.K. Bhowmik	Dy. Secy.
Science & Technology	Smt. Kalyani Sarkar	Spl. Sarkar
	Sri Sudip Ghosh	OSD
	Sri Soumitra P. Mitra	OSD & EODS
Health & F.W.	Sri P. C. Patra	Jt. Secy.
	Sri S. Suresh Kumar	Spl. Secy.
Public Health Engg. & Environment	Sri Asim Barman	Pr. Secretary
	Dr. S.K. Sarkar	MS, WBPCB
Women & CD and SW	Shri S.N. Haque	Secretary
	Sri P.K. Chanda	Jt. Secy.
Labour	Sri T.K. Bhattacharyya	Jt. Secy.
	Sri S.K. Bhattacharya	Director of Employment, WB
Urban Development	Smt. N. Chatterjee	Secretary
	Sri S.K. De	Jt. Secy.
	Sri B. Bhattacharya	Dy. Secy.
Food & Supplies	Sri T.K. Bose	Addl. Chief Secy.
Consumer Affairs	Sri N.R. Banerjee	Secretary
	Sri Panchu Gopal Das	Jt. Secy.
	Sri M.K. Bhattacharya	Jt. Secy.
	Sri P. Mukherjee	Director, CA&FBP
	Sri S. Mukhopadhyay	Dy. Secy.
Jails	Dr. P.K. Agarwal	Pr. Secretary
Municipal Affairs	Sri D. Som	Secretary
	Sri Rajiva Sinha	PD, KEIP
	Sri P.K. Sen	Jt. Secy.
	Sri Debasish Mitra	Jt. Secy.
	Sri Anup Kr. Matilal	Proj.Manager, CMU, KUSP

Hill Affairs	Sri Chitta Rn. Roy	Section Officer
	Sri D.K. Roy	I.A.O., DGHC
	Sri A.K. Basu	SE, PHE Cell, DGHC
	Sri S. Tshering	Chief Technical Adviser
Information Technology	Sri Utpal Mukherjee	Dy. Secy.
	Smt. Sarbari Chakraborty	Officer
Tourism	Sri M.K. Sengupta	Director & EO Spl.Secy.
Transport	Sri K.N. Behara	Spl. Secy.
	Sri M.L. Saha	Jt. Secy.
	Sri T.P. Majhi	Dy. Secy.
Finance	Sri K.K. Pal	Jt. Secy.
Panchayat & R.D.	Sri T.K. Majumdar	Addl.Secy., WBSRDA & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary.