

Minutes of Review Meeting of the Progress in Permanent Shelter Construction

Date: 21st October 2005, Friday

Time: 5.15pm to 6:30pm

Venue: Mini Conference Hall, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

Chaired by: Mr. Ranvir Prasad, Additional Collector, Relief & Rehabilitation

Additional Collector started the meeting by asking the NGOs about land layout and design for Permanent shelter Construction:

- ♦ Most of the NGOs to whom land has been allocated are through with surveys and are in the process of preparing the layout.
- ♦ NGOs to which only partial land allotment is done are engaged in surveys with the help of local governing bodies. When complete allocation takes place, they will have to provide the final land layout.
- ♦ Further allocation will take place as soon as the disputes over acquisition are solved and registration is done. Approval for construction will be provided based on the accuracy of layout given. Therefore, Mr. Ranvir requested everyone to speed up with the work so that construction can start after doing the corrections, if any.

Despite continuous requests and instructions from the district administration, not much of development has occurred in the state of in-situ construction.

- ♦ The villages where registration process is over and in-situ construction is accepted, work should begin soon. Until new land is acquired and allotted, in-situ work can be carried out.
- ♦ Only in certain places, cluster-wise earth filling and leveling work has taken place. NGOs said that few panchayats are yet to agree upon in-situ construction and once it is through, work shall proceed.
- ♦ Few NGOs had to do corrections and resubmit the layout plan as it was overlapping with the public utility land in certain places. Re-approval has not been given because either the connecting roads to the new location have not been purchased or the village limits have been altered.

The Additional Collector also addressed the following major matters and discussed them in brief:

- ♦ It was observed that due to delay in plan approval and land allotment, few organisations were neglecting the need for arranging of construction materials. The AC pointed out that let us not make the same mistake and hence keep the materials ready so that construction can be started immediately after the land is allotted.
- ♦ Apart from this, he spoke about the process of reimbursement of the amount paid by the NGOs against central excise on purchase of construction materials. All the NGOs will have to maintain proper records of the relevant documents and tenders for availing the exemption.
- ♦ An appeal was made to NCRC to help monitor the intrusion of International NGOs and trespassers into temporary shelters and Permanent shelter sites. They shall be free to do surveys and studies but not bother the work under progress in the district. Restrictions wherever needed shall be implemented.
- ♦ Besides all this, the issue of GGF was once again raised. The construction work undertaken by them is not satisfactory and the materials used do not comply with the quality standards. The main concern was with the ratio of cement and sand adopted by GGF for their construction. It was notified that a need to leave the district may arise for them if no improvement was shown.
- ♦ Few NGOs raised the problem of absence of connecting road leading to difficulty in transporting construction materials to the new sites. The AC assured that an alternative will be arranged and new roads will be led at the earliest.
- ♦ AC stated that it was heartening to notice the way the NGOs are responding to the Electricity Board. Most of the NGOs have informed the TNEB about the number of connections needed along with required Kilo Volts (KV). Disconnection of electricity in the existing locations is going on and connection approval for the new sites is under process.
- ♦ It was suggested that NGOs shall hereafter give the requirement list to Special Deputy Collector (SDC) and approval will come within 3-4 days. They need not approach the TNEB directly as chances of approval delay due to the various processes are higher.

An approximate account of the number of houses that shall be completed by each of the NGO before the first anniversary of Tsunami was availed. The following is the statistics:

Name of the Organisation	Estimated Number of Houses (approx.)	Tentative Date of Completion
Hope (PBJOKB)	15 Nos.	End of November 2005
SEVAI	10 Nos. (Hooks Nagar)	December 10, 2005
PDA	50 Nos. (Kalar)	December 20, 2005
M.A. Math	340 Nos. (Samandampettai)	December 10, 2005
Tata Relief Committee	300 Nos. (Akkaraipettai)	December'2005
EFICOR	35 Nos.	December'2005
DPG	120 Nos. (Villundamavadi)	December'2005
CASA	50 Nos.	December'2005
SPEECH/RCPDS	50No.	December'2005

Before the meeting came to a closure, the AC reminded the NGOs the difficulties that they might have to face in construction work due to the heavy monsoons. Hence, NGOs have been requested to purchase the required quantity of construction materials, transport the same to the new sites and store safely. Chances of the temporary roads getting washed away in the rain are very high and access will be disconnected.