

## **TOUR REPORT**

The state of Mizoram was visited by undersigned from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 as a member of multidisciplinary team to have a close look of the proposed “Comprehensive and integrated programme for inclusive development under the New Land Use Policy of Government of Mizoram”.

New Land Use policy was launched initially in 1985 by Government of Mizoram for weaning away farmers from Jhum cultivation. It intends to enhance productivity of land, provide land to deserving families and encourage scientific techniques in farming. NLUP is a multipurpose, multidisciplinary, socio-economic development programme and will act as a most comprehensive integrated transformation development model. It will include a permanent land allotment of all the cultivators, survey and preparation of record of right, preparation of new land use patterns for whole of Mizoram, where specific area will be earmarked for forest, cultivation, environment and other requirements. It intends to improve income for both urban and rural poor through sustainable farming, non-farming, micro- enterprises like livelihood activities for settled cultivation of agro-horticultural produces, plantation of various commercial crops for example, pineapple, passion fruit, various other fruits, rubber and activities like animal husbandary and will include promotion and modernization of small scale and cottage industries

### **Status of implementation of Flagship Programme**

Aibawk block in the District Aizawl and District Saiha was visited along with the team members to oversee the status of implementation of programmes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana and Indira Awas Yojana.

## Findings

### NREGA

- The average expenditure was approximately 67% of the available funds with the State. It was found that all the districts were having funds at their disposal except district Lunglei which has spent 97% of the available funds. The fund of Rs. 10,9400,000 has already been released for the Lunglei district from the Ministry of Rural Development.
- The flow of funds from district to block and in-turn to village council was not very systemic. It has led to non availability of funds with the blocks and village council while the districts had about 30% of the available funds with them except for Lunglei district.
- To meet the demand of employment by the registered households at village level, the district must ensure availability of funds with block and village council at a given point of time. During the discussion with Secretary (RD) it was pointed out and he assured that there would not be any parking of fund with the districts.
- The record keeping was not up to the desired level at village as well as block level. From scrutiny of few muster rolls, it appeared that muster rolls were not filled up as prescribed in NREGA guidelines. There appeared a gap of 15 days and more between the work done by NREGA workers and completion of muster roll. It may lead to manipulation of muster rolls.
- Most of the works undertaken belong to the category of rural connectivity. It accounts for almost 90% of the works undertaken under NREGA. The construction of all weather roads under NREGS show a wide variation in the estimates ranging approximately from 1,00,000 – 10,00,000. It indicates that there is no uniformity in estimation of cost for construction of roads under rural connectivity in Mizoram. The issue was brought to the notice of Secretary (RD)
- In Mizoram Jhum cultivation is practiced by majority of rural community. For Jhum cultivation, village council allocates an area of land. The land

under Jhum cultivation loses its productivity in 4-5 years and they shift to another land. The cycle continues. To be a beneficiary under Schedule-I (1)(iv), the ownership of land should lie with the individual household which is not the case in case of Mizoram thus limiting the utility of provision of Schedule-I (1) (iv). Thus, there is hardly any work undertaken in the category of permissible works under Schedule-I (1) (iv).

- Despite of amendment in Schedule-II seeking payment of wages through individual accounts of NREGA workers with Post Offices/Banks, the payment of wages through accounts amounts to only 31%. The reason contributed to it is limited outreach of Post Offices/Banks due to hilly terrain throughout the State. To ensure that wages are paid in time, State government is resorting to cash payment. Secretary (RD) , Mizoram was advise to explore possibility of technological innovations to reach out to NREGA workers for payment of wages in time.

#### PMGSY

- The progress of PMGSY in Mizoram requires gearing up, out of sanction of 34 works in 2005 only 15 road works have been completed. Again, out of 30 road works sanctioned in 2006 only one road has been completed.
- A road under PMGSY sanctioned in 2002 from Sateek to Phulpui measuring 5.65 KM was visited. The road was in good condition having a width of 5.20 meters and 11 number of culverts.

#### IAY

- The fund utilization under IAY is more than 90% and the physical achievements under IAY was found satisfactory. Houses of 2 IAY beneficiaries in Aibawk block was visited and it was found that they received the installments under IAY and complete amount was paid to them on time.

#### NEW LAND USE POLICY

During the visit in the field, it was found that NREGA workers as well as others were aware of New Land Use Policy and they are eagerly waiting for its commencement. The Policy is basically aimed as holistic development by Mizos practicing Jhum cultivation.