

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES IN TEZU, LOHIT DISTRICT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH (JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 03, 2017)

According to the directive of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, regarding implementation of the Flagship Programmes of the Government of India, I visited Tezu, Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh from January 29 to February 03, 2017. I was accompanied by respective officers of the different departments. My Liaison Officer was Shri. Damchin Norbo, Director, Disaster Management Department, Lohit district.

On January 31, 2017, the moment I landed at Tezu, I had a meeting with Shri. Danish Ashraf, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Lohit District and his team of officers. The list of officers who attended this meeting is at **Annexure 'A'**.

The officers presented their achievements in the various areas of the Flagship Programmes of the Government of India. A plan to visit these sites was chalked out from the afternoon itself.

I then proceeded to the **Primary Health Centre at Loilang village**. The Sub Medical Officer, Dr. Samle Manyu, along with his team, was in attendance. This PHC was started in 1979 on Government land and occupies about a hectare. Both the PHC and the residential areas are side by side.

The PHC itself is an Assam-type house with various facilities like wards for indoor patients, store for medicines, laboratory, vaccine-housing room and Nurses' room. However, as the distance from the village to Tezu Hospital is only 10 kms, the patients normally tend to go to Tezu hospital for serious cases.

This PHC caters to 8 (eight) villages from Lohitpur village to Mikailiang village. Along the way, there are 2 (two) more Sub-Centres which cater to the medical needs of the villagers. The population of these 8 (eight) villages would be around 4,411. PHC timings are 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs; thereafter, the second shift does duty from 1300 hrs to 1900 hrs. On Sundays, the PHC remains closed. The staff strength is as follows:

Sub Medical Officer	01
Pharmacist	01
Auxiliary Nursing Mid-Wife	03
Health Assistant	01
Lab Technician	01
Domiciliary Health Volunteer	01
Super Field Worker	01
Nursing Assistant	02
Female Attendant	04
Sanitary Assistant	01

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The SMO is not aware of the Sanctioned Strength of this PHC. Also, I was informed that overnight patients are few and far between and only delivery case patients are kept overnight. This is because of the nearness of Tezu Hospital.

The number of out-patients during 2016 was 2,870 while in 2015 it was 2,668. Also, during 2015-16, the number of deliveries was 13 while during the current year, till date, the number is 09.

From there we proceeded to the **Drinking Water Supply Scheme, Changliang village**, of the PHE. Shri. Togelum Chikro, Junior Engineer, PHE and Shri. Sapan Chakravarty, Work Inspector, PHE Changliang village, were in attendance. The intake point, Lohit Nullah River, is about 5 kms from the project site. Water is channelised through huge pipes, aerated and then purified. Thereafter, it is pumped down to Tezu town to 5 (five) different reservoirs. These reservoirs are in different localities and are sufficient for the drinking needs of the public.

Almost all residences and public utilities like hospitals and commercial establishments have been given water supply. However, there are no public taps for the benefit of the villagers. Also, no drinking water is available in the local bus stand, thereby forcing the passengers to buy bottled water. Perhaps, a few water taps may be thought of at such places.

We then proceed to see the Individual House-Hold Latrine (IHHL) project. Under this scheme, villagers are provided with Rs. 20,000/- only to make the place Open Defecation Free (ODF) under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). This has been completed in 3 (three) villages of Changliang Panchayat, viz., Lagow, Changliang and Parsuram Cement Plant.

Earlier, the amount was handed over to the villagers for implementation. However, there was no uniformity in the size of the latrines. As such, the PHE took over the project and is covering almost all the villages. During the financial year 2014-15, the amount sanctioned was Rs. 12,000/- but during 2016-17, the amount was increased to Rs. 20,000/-

The next day, on February 01, 2017, I visited **Auxiliary Line Corps (ALC) Aganwadi Centre**, along with Shri. Damchin Norbo, Director, Disaster Management Department, Lohit district. Smt. Sujan Kmirkro, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) was also present.

The AWC was established in 1994 in a barrack. About 10/11 years ago, it was shifted to its present location on Government land. It was recently repaired to serve as a model

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AWC to the district as all the others are in a dilapidated condition. It is an Assam-type building with bamboo walls and has a false ceiling of hessian cloth.

There is no electricity in this AWC so, no fans either. Tezu does get very, very hot during the summers. Also, there is no water connection here and no toilet facilities for the children. They have to use the open field for their calls of nature.

The AWC functions 6 days a week from 7 am to 11 noon with Sundays off. The AWC Worker is Smt. Deshi Maya Tamang while the AWC Helper is Smt. Rajkumari Tamang.

The size of the room is not very large at 12 feet by 12 feet. There is a small room adjacent to this room where materials are stored. The floor is covered by a thin carpet and looks tidy. The children sit on comfortable mats.

There is no kitchen here. The food is cooked in the residence of the AWC Helper and brought here for the consumption of the children. The Worker and the Helper mentioned that no funds are available for cooking the food or for replacement of the utensils. Earlier, about three years ago, an amount of Rs. 300/- was sanctioned twice a year for wood. The only items given here is 'kheer', rice, 'daal' and teaching aids.

Wall charts are available on the walls of the AWC as also the teaching aids. There is a functioning wall clock in one corner. However, there is no weighing scale and no Growth Register.

The breakup of the beneficiaries is as follows:

AGE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
6 mts-3 yrs	12	16	28
3-5 yrs	10	03	13
5-6 yrs	01	04	05
Adolescent Girls		37	37
Pregnant Women		03	03
Lactating Mothers		08	08

The Helper and the Worker complained that the Supplementary Nutrition Programme articles were not supplied regularly. Also, no money is provided for the fuel and for the carriage charges of the food items from the market to the AWC store room.

The staff here has received their honorarium. It is paid regularly. Both had received their meagre salary (Worker-Rs. 3,000/- pm; Helper-Rs. 1,500/- pm/-).

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Thereafter, we visited the **Tankhakso Chai Memorial Government Upper Primary School, Tezu**. Shri. S.K. Chowdhary, Headmaster and his staff were waiting. As the School was celebrating Saraswati Puja, a puja was being performed within the school campus itself. Most of the teachers and students were busy with the puja.

The school was established in the year 1997 and was upgraded to an Upper Primary level in 2005. The school is co-educational and the medium of instruction is English. It is a single-story RCC structure.

The staff consists of a Head Teacher and 16 other Assistant Teachers. A complete list is at **Annexure 'B'**.

The area of the school is sufficient and consists of a huge playground and an adequate number of classrooms. There are a total of 455 children in the 8 (eight) classes of the UP School. Of this, 87 students (Boys-45; Girls-42) belong to the Scheduled Castes Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. The list is as follows:

	BOYS	GIRLS	Total
Class I	14	14	28
Class II	17	13	30
Class-III	24	30	54
Class-IV	27	19	46
Class-V	22	32	54
Class-VI	29	38	67
Class-VII	44	40	84
Class VIII	43	49	92
Total	220	235	455

The School timings are 9:05 am to 1:45 pm. Only students belonging to the lower classes of I to V, are eligible for the Mid-Day Meal Programme. The enrolment figures are in **Annexure 'C'**.

There are separate toilet facilities for the girls and for the boys. Also, there is electricity and water here. Both bore well as well as a tube well exists here.

Students are provided with free textbooks, free school uniforms and also a midday meal. The last facility ensures the presence of the children as many parents find it difficult to make ends meet. I was informed that only Rs. 200/- is sanctioned per child for 1 set of

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uniform. This was not sufficient for the 'salwar kameez' uniform or the girl students. This grant is sanctioned twice a year.

The cooking area for the Mid-Day Meal programme was neat and clean. It adjoins the dining room but the students prefer to take their portion and eat out in their own classrooms. I talked with the 6 cooks/helpers who told me that they receive Rs. 1,000/- per month. The Central share is Rs. 900/- while the State share is Rs. 100/- During July and December when the school is closed, they do not receive any honorarium. Wood is used for cooking the MDM Programme.

The staff indicated that the school lacked a boundary wall. Also, the amount paid as honorarium to the cooks/helpers was a sore point. They indicated that the cooking area for the MDM was constructed in 2006-07 and was in urgent need of repairs.

The next stop for the day was the **MNREGA schemes** located in New Danglat Gram Panchayat area. We visited the enormous erosion caused by the River Sukhanala which flows from the hills of Lohitpur and joins the Lohit River downstream.

The River Sukhanala is in spate during the monsoon season of April to September. Already a lot of erosion has taken place along its banks but the most damaging is the one which may very soon gobble up an entire village (Mepo village) on one bank and cause irreparable damage to the Arunachal Trans-Highway (NH 52), on the other bank.

A 95-metres long stone barrage has been constructed under the MNREGA Scheme during 2014-15 and 2015-16 at a total cost of Rs. 17,45,920/- and Rs. 16,24,576/-, respectively. The number of mandays was 11,264 and 9,728, respectively. Owing to this timely intervention, the indigenous settlers of Mepo village may yet be saved.

From there, we proceed to see IAY houses constructed nearby. I was informed that according to local custom and culture, elders in the family are not allowed to be kept in old-age homes but are given due reverence, respect and love in their own homes. As such, the houses of the local people are quite large since the joint-family system is very much in vogue.

This joint-family system ensures that the original home get expanded over the years and the dimensions of the IAY houses, as decreed by the Government of India, are too small. This results in the original owner paying for the extra cost himself or herself. Also, no local of Arunachal Pradesh will construct a house at the ground level. Rather, all local houses are built keeping a clearing of almost 6 to 7 feet from the ground. This adds to the cost of the house.



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Besides this, a local house must have a bamboo false ceiling over the kitchen where meat is kept to be dried. This is a precaution in case of a bad harvest and also a means to prepare their local delicacies. Further, the floor of a local house is made of split bamboos as are the walls. These ensure flow of air during the hot summer months. Such deviations from the IAY guidelines results in additional money being spent on the house. **Annexure 'D'** contains the details of MNREGA schemes.

SUGGESTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Primary Health Centre at Loilang village needs proper water connection. The existing one runs from the main road through the paddy fields of a number of farmers. This results in pilferage and short-supply.
2. There is no Government sanction order regarding the Primary Health Centre at Loilang village. The Medical Officer should know the number of staff he is authorised for the efficient running of the PHC.
3. The staff of the Drinking Water Supply Scheme, Changliang village, were not aware of the ingredients of gypsum, salt and other material which are required for the proper filtration of the water. This needs rectification as impure water may be supplied to the residents of Tezu town. Also, the water is not tested after filtration at the plant premises. Rather, a sample is sent to Tezu. The existing testing facility at the plant premises may be augmented.
4. Public taps for the villagers located at convenient places and a few taps for the travelling public at the local bus stand are considered necessary. The public should not be forced to buy drinking water.
5. The dimensions of the latrine under the Individual House-Hold Latrine (IHHL) project may be increased as well as the fund outlay. Presently, the 4 feet by 4 feet structure barely allows a person to be comfortable, let alone take a bucket of water inside the structure. The smallness of the structure would be a great hazard to the old, the infirm and the differently-abled section of the society.
6. The Aganwadi centres in Tezu are almost all in a dilapidated condition. The current Deputy Commissioner, Lohit district, Shri. Danish Asraf, IAS, has made a valiant effort in converting the ALC AWC into a model AWC but more funds are required for the DC to continue his good work.
7. The ALC AWC needs few essential items. Mention may be made of a weighing scale, Growth Chart Registers for Boys and for Girls, Teaching Aids, proper toilets for the children and a regular supply of food items for the Special Nutrition

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Programme (SNP). Also, electricity supply and fans are considered necessary as also drinking water connection.

8. The Tankhakso Chai Memorial Government Upper Primary School, Tezu, requires repairs to its MDM cooking area and a boundary wall. Also, the honorarium paid to the Cook and the Helper, who cook the Mid-Day Meal in the schools, may be revised.
9. The dimensions of the IAY houses may be revised to cater to the joint-family system of the local population. Concomitantly, the allocation of funds per IAY house needs an upward revision.