

May 31, 1990

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Implementation of Peoples Works Programme (PWP) projects through Village Organizations (VOs).

As a sequel to the meeting at Islamabad, the Adviser to the Prime Minister in the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Affairs Mr. Qurban Ali came on an exploratory visit to Gilgit on 13.5.1990 and visited VOs along with SSK, HWK, Noor Mohammad (NM) and Assistant Director General, PWP, Ministry of LG&RD.

At Fikar in Nagar area, more than 200 villagers, members of the VO Fikar greeted the Adviser. In the welcome address, read by one Dr. Habibullah, demands were made for provision of electricity, upgrading of middle school to high school and of post office box to a sub-post office, repair of old pipe line for drinking water, upgrading of a dispensary to a 10-bed hospital, construction of Tishote-Fikar link road, construction of an irrigation channel and provision for education of girls.

The Manager of the VO Fikar Alhaj Ibadullah stated that the VO was formed in 1984 with 350 households and identified improvement and expansion of existing irrigation channel as its PPI. AKRSP gave Rs.100,000 as grant with which the work was completed. Prior to the completion of this work, each household had to contribute the completion of this work, each household had to contribute Rs.180 annual towards the maintenance of the channel. With the completion of the channel, the cost per household does not come to more than Rs. 30-40 per year. Thus each household has saved Rs.150 annually. The VO is well satisfied with what it has done but being a very large VO, it did not take advantage of other packages of AKRSP, hence to streamline the VO and make it more effective, the households have now decided to divide themselves in 3 VOs.

The Adviser in his speech, expressed great satisfaction with the way AKRSP has functioned in the Northern Areas over the last seven years. He stated that even when they were out of the government, they supported AKRSP and now when his party is in power, he would like to support the activities of AKRSP even more strongly. He said that sincerity of purpose of AKRSP is most impressive. He spoke about the PWP and the Minister's proposal to implement the programme through VOs and it was for this reason, he stated that he had come to Fikar to explore the possibilities of doing so. He stated that he would be willing to offer construction of a school building in Fikar village through VO under the PWP. The announcement was received with loud clapping.

On being asked by the Advise to explain the methodology of AKRSP applicable in case of PWP projects, SSK recounted the terms of partnership VOs accepted in case of AKRSP assisted project. The VO reacted to this explanation by stating that school building was not a priority for them, it was an irrigation channel which would bring nearly 4,000 kanals of new land under irrigation range and help every household. Hearing this, the Adviser agreed to change the priority from the school building to an irrigation channel. It was agreed that the local SOU would help in survey and preparation of the cost estimates of the channel in consultation with the VO representatives which would be submitted by ADG, PWP to the Adviser for approval and thereafter ADG PWP would adopt the terms of partnership of AKRSP for implementation of the channel and for supervision of the work, the SOU would help ADG PWP. The cheques would be paid directly by ADG or Adviser to the VO. AKRSP would be entitled to charge appropriate fees for the preparation of the cost estimates and supervision of its implementation, but no money would be channelled through AKRSP, nor would it be accountable for rendering any accounts.

The next visit was to village Minapin where again more than 250 villagers of VOs Minapin, Pissan and

Mianchar had assembled. Mr. Muzaffar Hussain, Manager of the Minapin VO recounted the activities of his VO including completion of the PPI and VO banking with Rs.381,000 being through current savings. The Manager also emphasized the need for collaboration between government and AK Network and welcomed the Adviser's initiative in undertaking PWP projects through VOs.

The Adviser in his speech explained the purpose of his visit and asked the VO their priority project for implementation under PWP. A discussion ensued between construction of a link road and a girls school and a consensus was finally reached on the construction of a girls school, provided the Adviser would undertake provision of teachers and maintenance of the building by the Education Department. The school will have to be built according to the type plan provided by the Education Department. The local SOU, on payment of fees, would prepare cost estimates and supervise the construction. The payment would be made directly by the ADG PWP to the VO on terms and conditions, similar to AKRSP, signed between the VO and ADG PWP.

At Nilt, which is a village comprising of 120 households, there are two VOs, Nilt Paen and Tong Dass, comprising 26 and 21 households respectively. About 45 villagers greeted the Adviser. Mr. Alam Sher, Manager of Nilt Paen VO explained the activities of the VO, comprising construction of irrigation channel at Rs.86,000, savings of Rs.80,555, land development of Rs.42,000 and initiation of women's programme.

The Adviser explained the concept of PWP and asked the VO to identify their priority project to be implemented under the PWP. There was considerable discussion and a consensus was that they have a priority project which is an irrigation channel but it is too difficult for them to implement and therefore, they requested the Adviser to ask government to do the job. As a second priority, they identified the construction of the existing girls school building which already has a total of over 200 students. Since all the households are not members of the 2 VOs, there was discussion as to who would take the responsibility for construction of the school. The two VOs offered to do the job on the request of the non-VO members, provided the cost estimates were fair. The arrangement agreed at Minapin for the construction of the girls school, was explained to the VO members. The Manager of the VO was very candid that if the Adviser desires quality work, he will have to ensure reasonable funds. The Adviser reiterated that the building be according to the Education Department type plan and of a quality acceptable to NA PWD taking over for its maintenance. The VO accepted the decision provided sufficient funds were made available and agreed to enter into an agreement with ADG PWP on similar conditions as AKRSP.