

June 5, 1986

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Visit of the Deputy Chairman/Secretary-General, Planning Commission/Planning Division Mr. V.A. Jaffrey to AKRSP.

Engagements:

Mr. V.A. Jaffrey viewed the video "Valleys in Transition", heard SSK's presentation and held discussion with the MG at AKRSP offices. He also visited VOs Hanuchal and Shahtote and discussed their progress with the VO members.

Observations and reactions:

Mr. Jaffrey was greatly struck by the unit cost of land development projects and considered the package as highly attractive for IDA funding, which according to him was as good as grant. He expressed willingness to take up the matter with the World Bank as part of a regional development project for the area, once the unit costs are worked out more thoroughly and the cost benefit projections made.

Mr. Jaffrey expressed an interest in the forthcoming mid-term evaluation of AKRSP by the Operations Evaluation Department and did not consider association of a Planning Division nominee necessary for purposes of lending authenticity and wightage to the evaluation. He considered OED's association good enough for government purposes.

Mr. Jaffrey was unhappy at the way his proposal for utilization of funds at the micro level by AKRSP type VOs has been "Hijacked" and the funds placed at the disposal of the whims of individual MNAs, leaving it absolutely to chance and adhocism.

Mr. Jaffrey considered AKRSP's most positive feature, its ability to reach the grassroots, which is so glaringly absent in most government development programmes for the rural areas.

"Management and Organization" of human and capital resources is key to the development of rural areas, which according to Mr. Jaffrey, has been so clearly brought out by AKRSP.

Mr. Jaffrey equated AKRSP's village dialogues to the revenue settlement dialogues resorted to by the early British administrators. It was as true then as it is now that it is only in the presence of all the villagers, be its allotment, transfer or mutation of records of rights to land or formulation of a development programme, that could be factually, m equitably and productively done.

Mr. Jaffrey perceived some difficulties in replicating AKRSP strategy in the Provinces of Punjab and Sind owing to asked land holdings and presence of powerful vested interests, but considered it well suited for the Provinces of Baluchistan and NWFP.

On a direct request by SSK if the Deputy Chairman would help AKRSP raise Rs. 40 crores for the next five years work in the Northern Areas and the district of Chitral, Mr. Jaffrey considered the amount very reasonable in view of the cost effectiveness and high payoff of the AKRSP package.

On way to Baltistan, Mr. Jaffrey observed if he was to suggest to divert to AKRSP Rs. 110 million allocated for Satpara Dam, projected to irrigated 10,000 acres, would AKRSP be able to bring more than twice that area of land under irrigation range. SSK responded with a vehement affirmative to this suggestion.

