

# **PROCEEDINGS**

**ALL INDIA CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF THE VOLUNTARY  
SECTOR IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

20<sup>th</sup> April 2002  
Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

**VOLUNTARY ACTION CELL  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission presenting a bouquet to the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee



Setting of the Inaugural Session

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# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALL INDIA CONFERENCE ON THE ROLE OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The All India Conference on the Role of the Voluntary Sector in National Development was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2002. Shri K. C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, gave the welcome address. Dr. Rajesh Tandon and Ms. Nafisa Barot spoke on behalf of the voluntary sector and Dr. D. N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission provided the vote of thanks in the inaugural session. Copies of the welcome address, inaugural speech and papers of the speakers from the voluntary sector are placed as Annexures I to IV respectively. Presentation by Dr. D. N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission, on the Theme Paper prepared for the Conference is at Annexure V. Written suggestions received from the participants during and after the Conference are summarized at Annexure VI. Presentation on recommendations of the Conference by Dr. D. N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission, are at Annexure VII. A number of Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, senior officials from the Central & State Governments and representatives from 150 VOs participated in the Conference. List of participants is enclosed at Annexure VIII. The main points / highlights of their addresses presented in the Inaugural session, views expressed in the Technical and Valedictory sessions are given in the following paragraphs.

## **2. INAUGURAL SESSION**

### **i. Highlights of the Deputy Chairman's Speech**

(Copy of the complete speech is attached as Annexure I)

- The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission began by pointing out that the tradition of voluntary action is deep-rooted in the country and has been a part of our national awakening and of our freedom struggle. He gave

examples of Swami Dayananda, Swami Vivekananda, Gandhiji and other great reformers who emphasized strong social and community action to remove social evils. He agreed that since independence, this tradition has flourished and there has been a growth of voluntary organizations. However, these efforts need to be strengthened and synergized.

- He stressed that the voluntary sector enjoys certain functional advantages, being community based, more accountable and capable of providing services at a lesser cost. More significantly, voluntary organizations have the flexibility to develop innovative projects based on local needs and resources in contrast to the standardization that normally characterizes governmental actions.
- He appreciated the efforts of Planning Commission to integrate the voluntary sector in the Steering Committee into the planning and development process by creating an enabling environment conducive to growth of social entrepreneurship. An important step to achieve this objective has been to declare the Planning Commission, in March 2000, as a nodal agency for the GO-VO interface in order to provide a focal point from which an integrated and holistic view on the Voluntary Sector could be taken.
- He admitted that the growth of the voluntary sector has been uneven in the country and consequently the flow of funds, both domestic & foreign, is somewhat skewed in favour of some States and some activities. He stressed that this needs to be corrected.
- He indicated towards the Approach Paper to the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan, which has laid down eleven monitorable targets. These could provide a focus for partnership between government, the voluntary sector, higher educational institutions and the private corporate sector.
- He urged to have a regular review of the contributions of the voluntary sector. For this all the State governments have been requested to include a separate chapter on the “Role of Voluntary Organizations” in their Annual Plans.



Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission delivering the Welcome Address



Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee delivering the Inaugural Address

- He requested the VOs to adopt appropriate standards of accountability & transparency to maintain their integrity. He requested the Government Departments also to be more transparent while dealing with Voluntary Sector. And finally he requested organizations like CAPART, NIPCCD, CSWB, etc. that are dealing with the Voluntary Sector, to bring about convergence and synergy in their efforts.

A Compendium of Partnerships Between Government and Voluntary Sector, compiled by Planning Commission providing details of schemes / activities of various departments was released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

**ii. Highlights of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's Speech**

(Copy of the complete speech is attached as Annexure II)

- The Prime Minister compared nation building to a chariot that is driven by five horses. These are: the Central Government, the State Governments, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the Private Sector and Voluntary Organizations and Community Based Organizations.
- He pointed out that enough attention was not paid to the voluntary sector in strategy for national development. After Independence, the tendency of over-dependence on the Government was allowed to grow which has resulted in many negative effects, the most visible being a stark gap between inputs and outputs – between what governments spend and what society gains.
- He also indicated towards the reason for this neglect / inadequate recognition to the voluntary sector. He admitted that a part of the reason lies in the political culture that was allowed to evolve after Independence, and especially in the past few decades. Political parties generally focused on *sangathan* (organization) and *sangharsh* (agitation), but did not pay enough attention to *samrachna* (constructive work).
- Democracy at the grassroots cannot be strengthened without a tradition of public service and a spirit of voluntarism. These promote a culture of



cooperation among the people and between the people and the government.

- He praised the work done by devoted activists in different areas of nation building (such as integrated rural development, watershed management and traditional rain harvesting, construction of community toilets, woman and child welfare in tribal and hilly areas, etc.). He acknowledged that their hard work goes relatively unsung and unhonoured and that these men and women are the real heroes of our national development. He appealed to the mass media to give greater publicity to these heroes and their work, so that they may inspire others, especially the younger generation, to participate in voluntary work.
- Greater involvement of voluntary organizations will help the government in providing more efficient delivery of services at substantially lower costs and create gainful employment.
- He appealed that this conference should become an occasion for an honest look at the many problems that beset the voluntary sector in India today, and simultaneously to curb unethical and corrupt practices within the voluntary sector.
- He was pleased to see that Planning Commission had already initiated an exercise to build up a database of voluntary organizations in collaboration with CAPART, CSWB and concerned Ministries.
- He also urged to strive to minimize the unevenness in the development of the voluntary sector in the country, so that the northern and eastern States may benefit from the experience in the southern and western States.
- He was also pleased to note that the Planning Commission has identified eleven monitorable activities in which the intervention of the voluntary sector will be encouraged in the Tenth Plan. He also urged the Planning Commission to evolve a policy to empower the voluntary organizations through a special support mechanism to play their due role in achieving this mission.

- He emphasized that the focus should be to create replicable models of NGO-led development and NGO-delivered services that do not depend on Governmental intervention for growth.

**iii. Highlights of the Address by Dr. Rajesh Tandon from the Voluntary Sector** (Copy of his paper is attached as Annexure III)

- Dr. Tandon began by drawing on the long and rich tradition of voluntary action in our country. He traced the roots of voluntary action to spirituality. All major religions of the world were born and nurtured on our soil, and they all have implored their believers to contribute to the well-being of other human beings.
- In the post-independent India, the government became the central player in promoting socio-economic development of our society. However, since early 1990s, it became an accepted national consensus that the State alone cannot deliver on all aspects of improvements in the lives of our people.
- He identified three most important contributions of VOs in national development, viz. innovation, empowerment and research & advocacy.
- Dr. Tandon lamented that voluntary sector has remained unattended to in India. While the relationship between the government and the private business has been significantly redefined and reworked over the last 10 years, the same has not happened with respect to the voluntary sector.

**iv. Highlights of the Address by Ms. Nafisa Barot from the Voluntary Sector** (Copy of her paper is attached as Annexure IV)

- Ms. Barot started by tracing the history of Utthan very briefly, which she put as a dream, vision and a commitment to initiating processes that could lead to a just society with gender equity, equal opportunities and a better quality of life for all.



Dr. Rajesh Tandon from Voluntary Sector delivering his Address



Smt. Nafisa Barot from Voluntary Sector delivering her Address

- She expressed her displeasure at the use of the term Non-Government Organization. She attached negative connotation to it, as it does not reflect the true nature of voluntarism.
- She emphasized the need to start where people are, i.e. from the bottom, and not to hand down solutions from the top, though it meant a paradigm shift – changing existing power relationships, influencing institutional reforms and sharing values of human rights, equity and justice.
- She stressed that only genuinely people-centered approaches to development can succeed on any appreciable and sustainable scale. The lesson learnt over last fifty years is that people, and particularly the most oppressed and marginalized, must own and manage programmes meant for their benefit. Women have, therefore, to play a key role in changing and altering existing power structures as equal partners and managers. Civil society provides a space for innovating such new approaches. Enlarging this space on behalf of the poor is a key responsibility for Government and civil society working together as equals.
- She further added that as equal partners, our role also includes that of being thoughtful and responsible critic. Therefore, there needs to be much more openness on all sides to absorb criticism. Debate and dialogue should not be viewed as anti-government or as anti-development but rather as the chemistry of respect and trust.

**v. Vote of Thanks by Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission**

Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister for sparing his valuable time to guide the Conference and assured him that the State and the Central Government, Voluntary Organizations and all those present will together act towards achieving national progress. He also thanked Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, the two invited Speakers from the voluntary sector, the Union Ministers, the Chief Ministers of the States, all State and Central Officials and representatives of voluntary organizations as well as media persons.

### **3. TECHNICAL SESSION**

#### **i. Presentation of Theme Paper by Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission**

Dr. D.N. Tewari made a power point presentation, highlighting the matters / issues in the Theme Paper prepared for the Conference, as detailed at Annexure V.

#### **ii. Highlights of the Address by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, MoS, Department of Women & Child Development**

Expressing thanks and gratitude to Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission for convening the Conference, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan informed from the House about the initiatives taken by her Ministry to promote voluntarism in the area of development of women and children. She stated that three consultations were held with the voluntary organization on regional basis at Indore, Guwahati and Lucknow to evolve a policy to attract the VOs to this sector. These consultations were highly successful and addressed by the Hon'ble Vice President of India at Indore and by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at Lucknow. She felt that all round progress of society is not possible without active GO-VO partnership. To achieve this objective, policy changes are needed in rules regarding granting aid system and evaluation of performance of the VOs. In areas of food and nutritional security, implementation of ICDS programme the NGOs had an important role in creating awareness and dissemination of information. This would also require growth of professionalism in the voluntary sector. She hoped that the Conference would lead to concrete suggestions towards development of an effective GO-VO partnership in all sectors of development.



Dr. D. N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission presenting the Theme Paper



Smt Sumitra Mahajan, MOS, D/o Women & Child Development delivering her Address



Shri O.P. Chautala, Chief Minister, Haryana participating in the Conference



Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment participating in the Conference

### iii. Responses from the Participants

- Shri O.P. Chautala, Chief Minister, Haryana, thanked Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for convening the Conference and stated that charity and *manav seva* i.e. service to mankind have always been a part of India's tradition and culture. Even today, about 20-25% of the Sikh community contributes at least 10% of their income to the cause of the community service. He regretted that on the other hand self-seeking VOs have come up with the sole objective of getting government funds and making profits and also referred to large-scale misuse of Plan funds under rural technology schemes in Haryana. He mentioned about the innovative programme of *Gram Vikas Samitis* launched by his government. These *samitis* comprising Village *Sarpanch*, *Panch*, representatives of women & minorities who would not like to be involved in electoral politics decide the development priorities and actions in the village. He clarified that these are voluntary bodies and not 'parallel' to *Panchayats* but strengthen the *Panchayats* by involving the committees at *Gram Sabha* level. Thanking the Deputy Chairman for sanctioning Rs 60 crore for the *Gram Vikas Samitis*, Shri Chautala suggested encouragement and support to this concept. He also viewed that plan assistance to States should be on performance basis as otherwise better performing States like Haryana will always stand to loose.
- Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, thanked Shri K. C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, and Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission, for convening this important conference and highlighted the imperative need to deal with the problems faced by all disadvantaged and deprived sections of the society particularly the SCs, who have been deprived of their social rights for centuries. The VOs working for upliftment of the deprived sections should try to bring about a change in the attitude of the whole society towards such groups. He informed that about two thousand VOs are currently



working with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and have been engaged in activities that are best done by VOs. Dr. Jatiya also emphasized that economic inequality is at the root of all forms of social injustice and therefore VOs must develop a viable mechanism to raise the economic conditions on the deprived people. He felt that formation of self-help groups could be one such method to help the deprived. He referred to the administrative constraints being faced by the VOs and suggested that a practicable time frame for dealing with applications for assistance from the VOs. He also mentioned about large and skilled manpower available in the country such as the retired persons who could be put to such social welfare activities. To achieve these objectives the VOs have to create necessary motivations in this regard.

- Shri Mohan Dharia, VANRAI, Pune, congratulated the Deputy Chairman for convening the All India Conference and the initiative taken to bring about a collaborative relationship between the government and the voluntary sector, which was conceived during his term as Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. He preferred the words voluntary sector or VO, and not NGO as the latter bears a negative connotation and suggested prioritization of activities of identification of VOs capable of taking up development actions while listing nine areas including watershed development, social and water conservation, agriculture and cattle wealth, sanitation and drinking water, promotion of Information Technology & Biotechnology. Shri Dharia narrated how VOs working in watershed and rural development in Maharashtra came together to constitute a Federation at the State and district level to ensure not only better functioning but also transparency and accountability as the VOs have entrusted the Federation with the right to examine / supervise their work and to deal with any complaint against them. Informing that the Government of Maharashtra had recognized the Federation, Shri Dharia recommended adoption of this activity based Federating mechanism in



Shri Mohan Dharis speaking in the Conference flanked by Shri Anna Hazare and Dr. N.G. Hegde



Shri S.C. Jamir, Chief Minister, Nagaland making his points in the Conference

other States right up to the Block level so that eventually a National Federation could emerge encompassing all major development activities of the voluntary sector. He felt that VOs could facilitate Gram Sabhas & Panchayats to create mutually supportive activities involving PRIs and the VOs. Shri Dharia also suggested opening of marketing centers as a means to revive the *swadeshi* spirit of supporting indigenous products and services.

- Shri S.C. Jamir, Chief Minister, Nagaland, referred to the shifting of the role of the voluntary sector from charity to empowerment, development and social change, and the prevalence of the community spirit in the Naga society. He suggested inclusion of Village Councils, the Village Development Boards and management committees which have been set up under a State law, comprising of members of Village Council for discharging development functions like running of schools, health care, water supply etc. in the definition of voluntary sector as these are really voluntary in character. He recommended simplification of rules for providing assistance to VOs and a decentralized system of funding with a closer interface between the Centre and the States as the present system of direct funding of VOs by the Central agencies encouraged growth of middlemen, corruption and much abuse and misuse of funds.
- Shri K. Sankaranarayan, Finance Minister, Kerala, referred to the commendable work being done by many VOs in Kerala among the *adivasis*, women and the unemployed, and also in health and drinking water sector. He stressed the need to establish accountability and proper audit of the work of the VOs.
- Shri N.N. Jha, Lt. Governor, Andamans & Nicobar Islands, mentioned the outstanding work being done by Rama Krishna Mission and Seva Niketan in the Islands and scope for expanding the work of VOs in the A&N Islands and the influence of indigenous, traditional culture and value

systems in shaping the voluntary sector. In view of the increasing role of PRIs, he felt that there is need to establish harmonious and well-coordinated relationship between the VOs and the PRIs. He requested the NGOs working in the field of environment to strike a balance between the environmental and developmental needs of the people. Responding to the suggestion to accept the acronym VO in place of NGO, Shri Jha reminded the Conference of the extensive international usage of the term NGO particularly in the UN system. The chairman assured that the proposed change be taken up in the ensuing Rio-plus-ten Conference to be held at Johannesburg.

- Shri Anna Hazare, Hind Swaraj Trust, Ahmednagar, suggested constitution of a committee of the Conference to examine and recommend measures for strengthening the voluntary sector. Real development of a society free from exploitation of all sorts is possible only after the people and the social activists, NGOs included, possess strength of character and capacity to bear humiliations and insults in pursuit of the good of the society and that such constructive work could be done by the VOs only.
- Shri D. D. Lapang, Dy. Chief Minister, Meghalaya, endorsing the views of Chief Minister, Nagaland about the role of traditional institutions and scope of voluntary action in Meghalaya, Shri Lapang suggested withdrawal of restrictions on foreign funding of social work, decentralization of financing of NGOs, careful selection to NGOs to weed out NGOs who merely act as pressure groups for wrongful intentions in order to launch a “developmental revolution”.
- Swami Gokulananda, Rama Krishna Mission, referred to the difficulty faced by the VOs arising from the amendments to section 10(23)(c) of the IT Act in the current years budget withdrawing the earlier provision which allowed charitable organizations to accumulate 25% of the revenue

income annually and the memorandum submitted to the Union Finance Minister in this regard. Swamiji also recommended release of a reasonable part of the allocated Grant as soon as the Budget is passed as a measure of streamlining the system of funding the work of the VOs.

- Shri R.C. Purbe, Minister, Bihar, pointed out the excellent work of Rama Krishna Mission, Sulabh International, ADITI in Bihar and the need for convergence of work of the VOs and the Government at Division, District and State levels. To establish *Gram Swaraj*, revival of Lokshakti is essential which could be achieved by the VOs. In the fields of upliftment of women, upgradation of rural products and education, the voluntary sector could play a significant role.

In addition to the points made by Shri Purbe, Minister from Bihar, written speech of Smt. Rabri Devi, Chief Minister, Bihar, was also circulated. In her written speech, Smt. Rabri Devi stated that the all round progress is possible only with fullest cooperation between the Government and people's organizations like the VOs and referred to the activities of VOs in Bihar in public health and sanitation, health education, literacy, rural development and social welfare. She felt that the Government should assist the VOs in times of natural calamities and seek their help in uplifting the orphans, widows and abandoned women subjected to exploitation and the physically challenged. She emphasized the need for training of functionaries for capacity building of the VOs, which is essential for their involvement in disability, rural technology, water conservation, natural resource management etc. Careful selection of VOs and elimination of self-serving VOs should be carried out as a matter of policy. As regards suggestion to promote a fast track system of supporting good VOs, she felt that such VOs should be selected at the state level by a suitable coordinating mechanism and any long term support to VOs should be provided with due care and caution as this might create some adverse

conditions usually found in Government Departments. She also pleaded for close VO–PRI cooperation.

- Shri C.P. Bhat, Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal, Chamoli, Uttaranchal, emphasized the role of VOs in providing and shaping an alternative path of development on the basis of 'felt needs' of the community and community participation in the form of *shramdan* which constituted the philosophy of his organization DGSM. A top-down approach cannot promote proper management of natural resources like forest as the lessons of people's participation in Chipko movement had demonstrated. Shri Bhat therefore recommended close coordination of GO-VO.
- Shri Pradip Yadav, Minister of Rural Development, Jharkhand, agreed with the main actions / thrust of the discussion on the participatory development and informed the House that the Government of Jharkhand had taken steps to make the VOs partners in development for implementing schemes for upliftment of SC / ST population and women. The State has also involved the VOs in management of primary health centres, family welfare and literacy programmes. He, however, was critical about some 'commercial NGOs' out to make money only in the name of people's programmes. Therefore, to establish credibility of the NGOs, their activities should be evaluated on regular basis and a report on utilization of funds obtained by the Central and State Governments.
- Ms. B. Valarmathi, Minister of Social Welfare, Tamil Nadu, emphasized creation of a shared vision of public-private and voluntary sector and informed that in Tamil Nadu, the voluntary sector has taken up activities in health & family welfare, literacy, land use, minor irrigation, sericulture and notably in human rights and child labour. The State has been actively promoting formation of women's SHGs, sanitation, and AIDS prevention, through the NGOs.

- Dr. N.G. Hegde, BAIF, Pune, suggested demonstration of replicable models developed by the VOs and the Government for reflecting not only the capacity of the VOs to mobilize the communities but also pool the technologies and resources of the government. He felt that the VOs could coordinate the work of different departments at grassroots level to facilitate optimization of socio-economic benefits.
- Dr. B. Burman, Health Minister, Assam, referred to the pivotal role of the VOs in Assam in welfare of women & children, national AIDS control scheme, drug-de-addiction, welfare of SC / ST people, rural development, particularly in formation of SHGs etc. and in this context the need for capacity building of the VOs in Assam to enable the State to reap the benefits of the policy to expand the role of VOs in national development. The State Government should be kept informed of the funding and activities of the NGOs, as a matter of practice.
- Smt. Mridula Sinha, Chairperson, Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), New Delhi, first narrated her experience of working with NGOs as Chairperson, CSWB in identifying good NGOs (as many NGOs were known to misuse funds) for ensuring full utilization of budget allocation. Agreeing with the view that voluntarism is the central core of social action in a democratic society, she felt that more than the organization, it is in the social commitment of the individual members to change the mindsets of the society that counts. She looked for urgent action to assess how the community or the target group benefited from NGO action and VO–GO relationship based on mutual respect and partnership at the district level. She also mentioned about the progress achieved by the CSWB in organizing exhibition of products of women and suggested a national effort in this direction.



Swami Gokulananda of Rama Krishna Mission presenting his views



Smt. B. Valarmathi, Minister from Tamil Nadu speaking in the Conference



- Shri Srinivas Reddy, Minister, Andhra Pradesh, informed the House about great progress achieved in Andhra Pradesh in forming 6,53,000 SHGs involving over a crore of people including 59 lakh women and extension of the SHG concept to forest management, water use and watershed development projects and youth groups with the active participation of the Voluntary Organizations. Shri Reddy made the following suggestions for consideration:
  - i. Clear-cut guidelines for working arrangements to involve voluntary organizations in self-employment and SHG to be issued by Planning Commission.
  - ii. Schemes implemented by NGOs utilizing foreign aid / grant schemes should be a part of District / State level action plan.
  - iii. Schemes implemented by NGOs should not be duplicating the schemes of the Government.
  - iv. Quarterly bulletin on the schemes implemented by NGOs should be published by CAPART.
  - v. Mother NGO concept may be adopted in all departments.
  - vi. NGOs should not take up contract works.
  - vii. New and smaller NGOs should be preferred for local level small projects.
  - viii. Projects awarded to NGOs should be uniformly distributed throughout the State.
  - ix. NGOs should be strictly apolitical.
  - x. Capacity building of small NGOs should be the responsibility of mother NGOs.
  - xi. Right to information and social audit is a must for NGO projects; and
  - xii. Monitoring and evaluation of NGO projects by PRIs, Government officials, other NGOs, People's Committees and academicians is desirable.

- Dr. K. Ganesan, VHERDS, Chennai, suggested a review of the decision to restrict financial support to the nodal agencies in the form of programme support and not institutional support. It would be unrealistic, he felt, as the nodal agencies have to provide a host of expert services such as training, creating motivation, appraised monitoring, in order to promote smaller VOs by giving proper orientation. Therefore, he recommended a scheme to sanction institutional support to the nodal agencies.
- Dr. S.K. Mishra, Health Minister, West Bengal, highlighted the need to develop GO–VO–PRI partnerships and referred to the practice set by the Rama Krishna Mission in implementation of a sanitation programme on zero subsidy basis in a district along with Zila Parishad which has achieved remarkable success. He felt that there should be a federating body of the VOs at the State & District level and proposed issuance of the broad policy guidelines based on the Theme Paper of the Conference.
- Shri Hembhai, Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Assam, suggested a special policy to strengthen the voluntary sector in the strife torn Assam & North East to promote harmony with development. He argued that in the wake of globalization the rural producers need protection of the State.
- Shri A. Krishnappa, Minister, Government of Karnataka, explained how NGOs have been involved in *Jal Nirmala*, a demand driven project for augmenting water supply, and *Jal Samvardhana*, an innovative project for desiltation of Tanks. Co-opting the VOs into the self-governing institutions instead of bypassing these bodies is in the interest of development, for which suitable mechanism at the *Gram Sabha* and *Panchayat* level is needed. He also proposed special incentives to VOs to take up population control schemes. Welcoming the idea, the Chairman requested Shri Krishnappa to send his suggestions to the National Commission on Population.

- Shri M. L. Diwan, Consortium for Himalayan Conservation, New Delhi, mentioned about the need for preparation of database of NGO work the district level, establishment of a training center for VOs at national level, population stabilization efforts by the NGOs and acceptance of the Bio-industrial Watershed Development approach to cover processing and marketing of farm produce in watershed.
- Fr. H. Mathew of Peermade Development Society, Kerala, emphasized the special strength of faith based organizations in reaching severely discriminated sections and remote places where there are no safeguards to health or life due to their ideals of self-sacrifice which enable them to attract external support, gain legitimacy in the eyes of the people and project a vision of development beyond material progress. The potential of faith based organization is awaiting fuller utilization.
- Shri R.K. Patnaik, Minister, Orissa, viewed lack of information about NGO work in the State and coordination of VOs & PRIs as a major problem. The State Government, therefore, has proposed a three-tier coordination mechanism at the State, District & Block level under chairmanship of the Minister Planning, Collector, BDO respectively with representatives of PRIs and VOs. He felt that the State Government has the right to know about the funding and functioning of VOs and informed that the Orissa Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution to this effect. While he recommended participation of VOs in development work in remote areas, among the primitive tribes and in health and sanitation, he regretted that some NGOs are instigating the tribals to oppose industrialization, which is anti-development. Further, social audit and accountability have to be institutionalized in the NGO sector along with the growth of professionalism.

- Ms. A.B. Wadia, FPAI, Mumbai, suggested a widespread ITC programme, integration of population stabilization schemes into development activities in health, mother & child care, and nutrition leaving the choice of family size to the couples. NGO work must be founded on the principles of democratic functioning, non-discriminatory secular approach and respect for equality and rule of law, sustainability and empowerment. The manifestations of empowerment call for a deeper study.
- Shri Haren Pandya, Minister, Gujarat, informed the House that the State has a Directorate of voluntary agencies and would recommend creation of consultative committees comprising of elected representatives for each Ministry in Delhi for GO-VO interface and a similar mechanism at the State level. He stressed the need for accountability and coordination of NGO activities with the State. He referred to the work of VOs in rehabilitation of 200 earthquake affected villages and reconstructing 1,000 schools in these areas and the tradition of outstanding work in watershed, drought proofing, SHGs in Gujarat by the VOs.
- Shri Tushar Kanjilal, Tagore Society for Rural Development, West Bengal, referred to his work in Sundarbans area and felt that like the freedom movement, there must be a movement for development of a holistic kind and not merely a programme based.
- Shri F. Ngajokta, Minister, Manipur, suggested amendments to the Societies Registration Act to provide for regular reporting by NGOs, creation of a separate Ministry for voluntary action and formulation of a national policy on voluntarism. He sought the intervention of the Planning Commission in getting proposals of VOs of Manipur cleared by the MHA.

- Dr. Mazhar Hussain, Confederation of Voluntary Agencies, Hyderabad, also endorsed the view favouring a national policy and brought to the notice of the House 'the divisive nature of some schemes like the SHG programme which does not allow formation of women's SHGs comprising Hindu and Muslim women in Andhra Pradesh. Rather, he felt the development process is to integrate by rejecting exclusivity. Dr. Hussain also spoke about the uneven growth of VOs urging a special policy to promote voluntarism in J&K, NER and remote areas, and about the need for constituting five to six Task Forces to deal with subjects taken up in the Conference.
- Shri Takam Sanjoy, Minister, Arunachal Pradesh, explained the District Planning process in Arunachal where VOs are represented in the District Planning Boards and the good work done by NGOs like R.K. Mission, Don Bosco Mission etc. He also demanded a higher Central allocation for Arunachal Pradesh.
- Shri Amod Kanth, PRAYAS, New Delhi, regretted that the Theme Paper did not refer to the issue of development of children; the budget allocation for children is meagre in relation to the requirement to deal with the problems massive malnutrition, poor education and health facilities faced by the children. To provide adequate focus on the children, he recommended special funding of projects for children and VOs capable of serving their cause. Pointing out the gross inadequacy of children's homes under the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act, 2000, he suggested urgent expansion with Government and VO efforts and adoption of Mother NGO model for the problems and development of children especially because children above 6 to 18 years of age are really ignored in the scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Unless the

Planning Commission steps in as a nodal agency for development of children, this unhappy situation would continue, and the needs and rights of the children declared at the UN Conference on Rights of Children, 1989 will not be addressed.

- Shri P.M. Tripathi, AVARD, New Delhi, stated that in view of the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment, the VOs should shift from the role of doers to the role of educators and facilitators as the PRIs should be the doers while the other roles of the voluntary sector like advocacy, watchdog etc. should continue. Since self-regulation is the best guarantee for its healthy growth, the government should adopt a policy of least interference in the interest of promotion of voluntary sector. He regretted that at the State level, there exists some hostility to the VOs and a desire to regulate the sector that is not correct. On the issue of corruption in the voluntary sector, Shri Tripathi felt that it resulted from wrong and corrupt funding. He also opined that much of the blacklisting of VOs had been done by the Central agencies arbitrarily.
- Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi, Sanskar Shiksha Samiti, New Delhi, traced the growth of VOs and the emerging partnership between the State Government and the VOs in 7-8 States and suggested that the Planning Commission should step in to develop such partnerships in other States. He suggested simplification of rules for funding and fixation of a time limit for taking decision on any project proposal from the VO, and introducing a rating system based on performance. He mentioned the significant achievements in population stabilization in areas where such projects were implemented through the voluntary sector. In rural areas success in this effort would depend or convergence of certain basic facilities like availability of contraceptives, vitamins and nutrition for the mothers and children and services of ANM and medical staff. He also suggested a special programme for intervention of about 100-150 prominent national

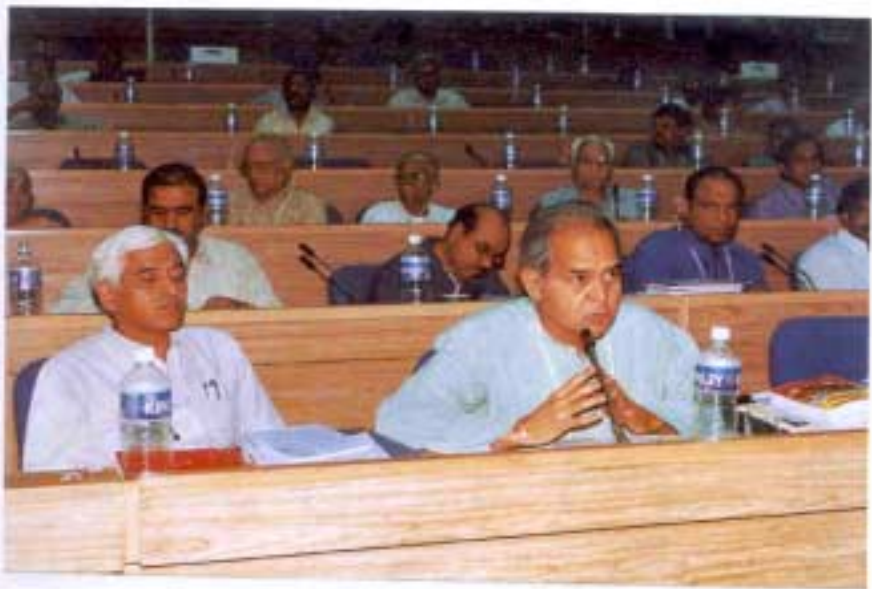
level VOs in demographically problematic States like UP, Bihar, MP where there is no strong network of VOs to achieve a break through in population stabilization as these States contain nearly 40% of the population of the country. It would be advisable to allow 2-4 districts to such an NGO so that these States are fully covered.

- Shri N. D. Tiwari, Chief Minister, Uttarakhand, had to leave the Conference for urgent work. However, his written speech was circulated. A gist of which is placed here. Shri Tiwari, in his written speech, first recalled the contribution of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to promote the cause of local self-government by the historic 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the Constitution and the tradition of voluntarism in Uttarakhand in protecting and conserving the forests through the Chipko movement by mobilizing the womenfolk. This has been carried further to promote SHGs in the State. Since the creation of Uttarakhand, as against only 115 SHGs at the time of creation of Uttarakhand, 8605 SHGs have been organized with the involvement of VOs. He informed the role of 'anchor' VOs in each district to promote SHGs and the State's objective of creating a federation of SHGs. To take up these multifarious activities, the VOs need training and professionalism, which should be taken up by organizations like CAPART. Finally, Shri Tiwari urged coordinated actions by the Government, PRIs and VOs for all round development.

Written suggestions received from the participants during and after the Conference are summarized at Annexure VI.



Ms. A. B. Wadia, FPAJ presenting her views



Shri Y. N. Chaturvedi, Sanskar Shiksha Samiti, presenting his views





Dr. D. N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission and Dr. C.P. Thakur, Union Health Minister at the Concluding Session



Shri S.S. Boparai, KC, Secretary, Planning Commission presenting the Vote of Thanks

#### **4. VALEDICTORY SESSION**

##### **i. Recommendations of the Conference by Dr. D. N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission**

Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member, Planning Commission made a power point presentation on the recommendations of the Conference which may kindly be seen at Annexure VII.

##### **ii. Highlights of the Address by Dr. C. P. Thakur, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare**

The concept of voluntarism is implicit in the Constitution and it is necessary to evolve a mechanism to broaden and deepen its presence in all parts of the country. Since Independence, various factors contributed to four-fold division of the country, namely, the developed, the developing, the undeveloped, and finally the disturbed. He felt that there is need for voluntary action in all these regions to bring about regional balance in development and to solve unique problems of all these regions. On the population front, states like Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have much to achieve and for these states a special programme for family welfare has been drawn up by the Government of India. Experience suggests that where the VOs are treated as partners, they succeed in delivering these services. A national strategy for social marketing and franchising is necessary to restructure the voluntary sector with due emphasis on transparency and accountability. He felt that weeding out the undesirable and ineffective VOs is as important as encouraging the good VOs. In health sector the role of the VOs is to create conditions conducive to fuller utilization of government funds, which is possible only through a proper GO-VO partnership. He felt that the suggestions emerging from this Conference would enable the government to strengthen the base of development of the country.

**iii. Vote of Thanks by Shri S.S. Boparai, KC, Secretary, Planning Commission**

Shri S.S. Boparai, KC, Secretary, Planning Commission expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for inaugurating the Conference. Shri Boparai informed that Hon'ble Prime Minister spent one hour with us and dealt with issues raised in his presence with great sympathy, statesmanship and aplomb. Shri Boparai said that we are also honoured to have the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission who spent almost the whole day with us and thanked him for guiding the proceedings of the Conference. Shri Boparai also thanked all the Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Minister from the States, participants from the Voluntary Sector who came from Leh to Lakshadweep and all the officials from the Central & State Governments. He expressed his thanks to the DG, CAPART, and his predecessor for their participation, active association and for their support. He also thanked the officials from the Planning Commission who worked hard to make this Conference a success.

**WELCOME SPEECH BY  
SHRI K.C. PANT, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMISSION**

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, distinguished guests from the voluntary sector, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me begin by thanking the Prime Minister for the inspiration he has provided to organize this national level conference of the voluntary sector. The Prime Minister, while inaugurating the state level conference of Voluntary Organizations at Lucknow on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2001 organised by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, MOS for HRD, had made an announcement that an All India Conference would be convened in Delhi. Expression of such interest by the Prime Minister is a measure of his recognition of the role of the voluntary sector in nation building.

I am also thankful to the Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, distinguished guests from the voluntary sector and from the multilateral & bilateral organizations, who have joined us today. I welcome you all to this one day All India Conference on the Role of the Voluntary Sector in National Development.

The tradition of voluntary action in the country has been a part of our national awakening and of our freedom struggle. Great social and religious reformers like Swami Dayananda & Swami Vivekananda emphasized strong social and community action to remove social evils and to promote education, health care, scientific thinking and traditional values. Gandhi Ji established institutions like Adim Jati Sevak Sangh and Harijan Sewak Sangh to serve the downtrodden. He believed in the necessity for empowerment of the poor & the weakest.

Since independence, this tradition has flourished and there has been a growth of voluntary organizations dedicated to various facets of our social and economic existence, such as adult literacy, health, preservation of the environment and raising the productivity and income of the rural and urban poor. These efforts need to be strengthened and synergised.

With increasing popular demand for better quality & delivery of public services, governments everywhere are responding by taking steps to involve the civil society. They recognise that the voluntary sector enjoys certain functional advantages, being community based, more accountable and capable of providing services at a lesser cost. More significantly, voluntary organisations have the flexibility to develop innovative projects based on local needs and resources in contrast to the standardization that normally characterises governmental actions. That is why I feel that there is space for voluntary action even where local self-governing institutions like PRI's are strong as the VOs could work for making the system more participative, transparent and accountable by creating awareness among the people about their rights, their duties and about

shortcomings in development. Their roles are, and should be, mutually supportive and symbiotic.

Public cooperation and public opinion have been recognized as the principal force and sanction behind development planning. The steering committee appointed by the Planning Commission made a useful suggestion to integrate the voluntary sector into the planning and development process by creating an enabling environment conducive to growth of social entrepreneurship and the release of energies of dedicated and idealistic persons willing to serve the country. An important step to achieve this objective has been to declare the Planning Commission, in March 2000, as a nodal agency for the GO-VO interface in order to provide a focal point from which an integrated and holistic view on the Voluntary Sector could be taken. The first task taken up by the Planning Commission, as the nodal agency, is to build a comprehensive database on VOs/ NGOs.

The database is being updated on a regular basis. It shows the source of funding and the project activities taken up by the VOs. The sector has demonstrated capacity in a wide range of areas, such as drought proofing, conservation of natural resources like soil and water through watershed development, ecological and food security in backward areas, population stabilization, health, literacy and educational programmes.

However, the growth of the voluntary sector has been uneven in the country and consequently the flow of funds, both domestic & foreign, is somewhat skewed in favour of some States and some activities. This needs to be corrected. For example, VOs do not have adequate presence and capacity in areas/ districts where population stabilization efforts call for urgent action by the voluntary sector.

I would suggest that donor agencies, including the Government, take corrective measures for proper growth of the voluntary sector regions and functions where it is most needed.

The Approach Paper to the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan has laid down eleven monitorable targets. These could provide a focus for partnership between government, the voluntary sector, higher educational institutions and the private corporate sector. Such a partnership would call for increasing professionalism within the voluntary sector. I am sure that these possibilities will be discussed in the conference leading to concrete proposals.

We already have an 'Action Plan to bring about a Collaborative Relationship between Voluntary Organizations and Government', which emerged in 1994. As a follow-up of the recommendations of this Action Plan, we have Joint Machinery on GOs-VOs collaboration, under me having members from both the Government and the voluntary sector. During the last meeting of the Joint Machinery, it has been decided to expand the membership of the Joint Machinery to make it more representative and broad based.

To have a regular review of the contributions of the voluntary sector, all the State governments have been requested to include a separate chapter on the "Role of Voluntary Organizations" in their Annual Plans. Based on the information received from States and Central Ministries/ Departments, we hope to keep abreast of the overall performance of the voluntary sector.

I would like to make three requests:

- (i) To VOs: to adopt appropriate standards of accountability & transparency to maintain their image and integrity.
- (ii) To Government Departments: to be more transparent while dealing with Voluntary Sector.
- (iii) To organizations like CAPART, NIPCCD, CSWB, etc. dealing with the Voluntary Sector: to bring about convergence and synergy in their efforts.

Today, after the inaugural session, we would be having two presentations to stimulate discussion. A copy each of the Theme Paper for this Conference and the Report of the Steering Committee on Voluntary Sector for the Tenth Plan have been circulated to all participants. A compendium on government - voluntary sector partnership will shortly be released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

I am confident that the recommendations of this All India Conference on the Role of the Voluntary Sector, would lead to greater involvement of the voluntary sector *inter alia*, in mobilizing and effecting the participation of the people in the implementation of various development schemes meant for their welfare.

With these words, I welcome you all to this conference.

Thank you.

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER  
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE**

It gives me great pleasure to address this All India Conference on the Role of the Voluntary sector in National Development. I compliment the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, for convening the conference at this opportune moment, when we have just launched the Tenth Five Year Plan. I extend my warm welcome to the distinguished representatives of the voluntary sector who have come in such large number.

I also compliment my colleague, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, Minister of State for Women and Child Development. She took the commendable initiative of organizing as many as four regional conferences of voluntary organizations, last year and early this year. I attended one of them in Lucknow in October and was happy to interact with a large number of representatives of the voluntary sector from North India.

Last fortnight, I inaugurated a National Conference of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Today, I am here to inaugurate a National Conference of Voluntary Organizations. Is there a link between the two? Yes, most certainly there is.

I would like to liken nation-building to a chariot that is driven by five horses. These are: the Central Government; the State governments; Panchayati Raj Institutions; the private sector; and, last but not the least, voluntary organizations and community-based groups. The chariot will run fast and in the right direction only when all the five horses run in tandem.

Unfortunately, we have to admit that we have not paid enough attention to the voluntary sector in our strategy for national development. After Independence, we allowed the tendency of over-dependence on the Government to grow. For this, both the Government and the people have to share the blame, although I have no hesitation in saying that the responsibility of the Government is greater.

On the one hand, our people were given to believe that Government is the answer to all their needs and problems. On the other hand, those in the Government failed to recognize the need as well as the usefulness of people's own organizations for better implementation of policies and programmes. They ignored the truth that the spirit of voluntarism and social service runs very deep in Indian society and, if properly harnessed, could be a tremendous force for social transformation.

This over-dependence on the Government has resulted in many negative effects. The most visible negative effect is the stark gap between inputs and outputs – between what governments spend and what society actually gains. For example, successive governments at the Centre and in the States have spent considerable sums on rural development, on drinking water, on afforestation, on road construction, etc. If all this

money had been well spent, our villages would have presented a much healthier look than they do today.

I am not suggesting that the funding on all these programmes is either fully adequate or that it has all gone waste. No, undoubtedly, we need to spend much more on all areas of social-sector development. It is also true that we have many achievements to our credit.

All that I wish to underscore today is that our country would have progressed faster and achieved more balanced development if we had enabled both the Panchayat sector and the voluntary sector to play their due role in national development.

Friends, it is not enough to admit that we have so far neglected – or, at any rate, not given adequate recognition to – the voluntary sector. We also have to honestly ask ourselves why we neglected it? When I ask myself this question, I have to confess that at least a part of the reason lies in the political culture that we allowed to evolve after Independence, and especially in the past few decades.

Political parties generally tend to focus on *sangathan* (organization) and *sangharsh* (agitation), but did not pay enough attention to *samrachna* (constructive work). We forgot one of the main teachings of Mahatma Gandhi – that constructive work is the cornerstone of nation building. If he attached so much importance to constructive work during the struggle for Swaraj – and all of us know how much time he spent treating leprosy patients and keeping his ashram clean, teaching children under *Nayi Talim*, and creating mass awareness against untouchability – then it stands to reason that we ought to have attached far greater importance to it after Swaraj.

It is not my intention to single out any political party for abandoning constructing social work. Rather, it is the collective failure of our entire political establishment. Learning from the experience of the past five decades, all those in the political sphere should realize that democracy at the grassroots cannot be strengthened without a tradition of public service and a spirit of voluntarism. These promote a culture of cooperation among the people and between the people and the government. They help in strengthening institutions and as the mid-term review of the Ninth Plan, has rightly pointed out, “development is an outcome of efficient institutions rather than the other way around”. When such cooperation becomes a part of people’s ethos, and when institutions become stronger, they remain unaffected by the comings and goings of governments.

It is, indeed, a tribute to the vigor of the voluntary sector that it has survived and thrived in spite of inadequate governmental encouragement and political support. Whenever I go around the country, I am impressed by the devoted social work do many voluntary organizations. Mostly, they are unknown, except in their own little circles. Their leading activists are relatively unsung and unhonored. They are active in a thousand different areas of nation building – such as integrated rural development, watershed



management and traditional rain harvesting, construction of community toilets, woman and child welfare in tribal and hilly areas, etc.

All these men and women, belonging to well known and lesser-known voluntary organizations, are the real heroes of our national development. Here, I appeal to the mass media to give greater publicity to these heroes and their work, so that they may inspire others, especially the younger generation, to participate in voluntary work. India needs more and more such positive celebrities, men and women who exude idealism, selfless service and a spirit of sacrifice. A nation attains greatness only when these qualities permeate the entire society – not only the voluntary sector but also the various formal sectors.

I hope that your conference will come up with useful recommendations on improving the interface between government departments and voluntary organizations for the delivery of our programmes in areas as diverse as primary education and primary healthcare; technology transfer and tribal welfare; care for the aged and the disabled to care of our monuments; conservation of our natural resources and delivery of financial services to the poor through self-help groups.

No doubt greater involvement of voluntary organizations will help the government in providing more efficient delivery of services at substantially lower costs. At the same time, it brings yet another major benefit to the country as a whole. Here, I am referring to the potential of the voluntary sector to create gainful employment. I do not know whether there is any information with the Planning Commission on the number of persons employed in the voluntary sector across the country. It is a difficult task because the data is hard to come by. But all of us can well imagine that organizations in the voluntary sector have different categories of people – volunteers, paid volunteers who get a nominal honorarium, and regular employees. Among these regular employees are people with diverse professional skills. Often, these organizations themselves import new professional skills through regular training programmes. Hence, the greater the growth of the voluntary sector, the larger is the number of people it will employ. It is encouraging to note that for many young professionals today, the preferred career choice is with the voluntary sector.

Friends, your conference should also be an occasion for an honest look at the many problems that beset the voluntary sector in India today. Unfortunately, there is a tendency among some organizations to come into existence solely to get government grants. They exist only on paper or, at best, do some superficial work to satisfy minimum requirements. At worst, they even engage in corrupt and unethical practices, often with the connivance of the administrative machinery. Therefore, how to institutionalize corruption-free funding is a major challenge before the government as well as the voluntary sector.

A related challenge is the need to alter the relationship of *daata* (benefactor) and *yaachak* (suppliant) between the government and voluntary organizations. The right

relationship is that of partnership, in which the government acts as a facilitator and NGOs deliver on what they promise.

There is also the malaise amongst some organizations to be excessively dependent on foreign aid. This can be somewhat offset if our business houses start contributing more to the voluntary sector than they do now.

Some voluntary organizations also tend to be individual-centric with little internal democracy and sometimes transparency. Such organizations find it difficult to outlast their founder. There is also a need for greater cooperation among NGOs themselves. Together, they can achieve much more than if they choose to operate in their own small autonomous areas.

I am glad to see that Planning Commission has already initiated an exercise to build up a database of voluntary organizations in collaboration with CAPART, CSWB and concerned Ministries. The prominent voluntary organizations present in this conference may suggest means for creating NGO networks on special activities. I urge all of you to strive to minimize the unevenness in the development of the voluntary sector in the country, so that the northern and eastern States may benefit from the experience in the southern and western States.

I am pleased to know that the Planning Commission has identified eleven monitorable activities in which the intervention of the voluntary sector will be encouraged in the Tenth Plan. These include all our social sector priorities such as reduction of poverty, maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, gender gaps in literacy, provision of gainful employment, etc. Achieving these targets should be our collective mission. I urge the Planning Commission to evolve a policy to empower the voluntary organizations through a special support mechanism to play their due role in achieving this mission. If necessary, we should create a structural and legal framework to enable accredited NGOs to play a more effective role in implementing and monitoring government's programmes. Our focus should be to create replicable models of NGO-led development and NGO-delivered services that do not depend on Governmental intervention for growth. In doing this, we should actively involve the State Governments and learn from the success stories in each State.

With these words, I inaugurate your conference and wish it all success.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY  
DR. RAJESH TANDON FROM VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

Respected Prime Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman – Planning Commission and other senior political leaders, government officials, members of the international community and colleagues from the voluntary sector,

I am indeed privileged to be able to stand here this morning to share my experiences and views on this important subject of voluntary sector and national development in our country.

Voluntary action has a long and rich tradition in our country. It entails individual and collective initiatives for common public good. In our land, the roots of voluntary action have been primarily spiritual. All major religions of the world were born and nurtured on our soil, and they all have implored their believers to contribute to the well-being of other human beings. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Christianity and Islam and their various sects have all been an important source of spiritual inspiration for voluntary action in our country.

The social reform movement of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries was characterised by missionary zeal to address significant social problems facing society at that time: superstitions, ignorance, poor status of women, etc.

During the freedom movement, largely inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, voluntary action became constructive work in the communities where problems of untouchability, illiteracy and economic livelihood were addressed.

In the post-independent India, the Indian nation-state was created and our constitution was adopted. The government became the central player in promoting socio-economic development of our society. Over the first four decades of our independence, the State became the sole player, as it elbowed out other actors in society. However, in the last decade, particularly since early 1990s, it became an accepted national consensus that the State alone cannot deliver on all aspects of improvements in the lives of our people. In his address to the Convention of Voluntary Sector from Uttar Pradesh held on October 22, 2001 in Lucknow, the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself acknowledged that there are significant limits to what the Government can do on its own.

It is this recognition that led to economic liberalization based on the understanding that the free market economy can be the best engine for economic development. The role of the government will then be of policy formulation and regulation in this regard.

However, the third leg of this trinity that has been called the 'civil society' in the international discourse on development, has remained unattended to in our Indian context. While the relationship between the government and the private business has

been significantly redefined and reworked over the last 10 years, the same has not happened with respect to the voluntary sector, the 'people's sector' or 'civil society'.

I hope today's important deliberations will ensure that concrete actions follow from the Government in this area under the strong leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

## **CONTEMPORARY SCENARIO**

Most of the above historical trends continue to be present in the diverse and vast mosaic of voluntary sector in the country today. It is difficult to capture this diversity in a few words.

### **Scale**

In the absence of any centralised data bank or nationally coordinated system of information on voluntary sector today, it is impossible to provide accurate and precise estimates of the scale and size of the voluntary sector. However, there are an estimated two million voluntary organisations registered under the Society and Trust Acts in the country. This, of course, includes a wide diversity of local youth clubs, Mahila Mandals, private schools, hospitals and, in recent years, even some government organisations (like CAPART itself). How many of these are still alive and functional is hard to estimate. From the list of organisations provided by Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), KVIC, CAPART and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, it appears that they have been funding an estimated 10,000 different voluntary organisations in the country. Through a recent government survey (*Economic Census, 1994*), it is estimated that a full 60% of these organisations are concentrated in four states of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Estimating scale of resources being used by the voluntary sector is even more difficult. Nearly 18000 organisations are registered under FCRA and have received nearly Rs.4000 crores in the year 1999-2000 (*source: Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India*). This, of course, includes a large number of religious institutions (Hindu, Christian, Muslim et al.) as well as formal schools/colleges and hospitals. Likewise, estimate of total government funding to the voluntary sector is hard to compile. Different Ministries and Departments of the national and state governments have made a vast number of schemes (*Report of the Steering Committee on Voluntary Sector for the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan prepared by The Planning Commission, Government of India in January, 2002*). I would hazard a guess that nearly the same amount as the foreign contribution comes from government departments and agencies (including large development projects funded by bilateral and multilateral agencies) – Rs.4000 crores annually. In addition, India has had a long tradition of volunteering and giving. Contributions from ordinary people and community continue to be received by the voluntary sector. Recent surveys (Non-Profit Sector Survey by PRIA, 2001-2002) on giving and philanthropy suggest that an equal amount (equal to the sum total of government and foreign contribution) is being mobilised from local contributions. Thus, the total annual outlay of this vast and diverse voluntary sector in India could add up to Rs.16,000 crores per year.

However, there is a very important caveat to keep in mind. This annual outlay may include religious organisations, formal educational institutions, research and training centres, hospitals and healthcare institutions as well as Indian counterparts of international non-government organisations (like Action Aid, Maharishi Ved Trust, Foster Parents, Plan International, etc.) Therefore, it is important to separate that part of the voluntary sector, which we understand as voluntary organisations involved in the task of national development directly. These intermediary voluntary organisations involved in different aspects of socio-economic development programmes constitute a very small, though important, sub-set of the above vast universe. The website of the Planning Commission lists 13,000 such voluntary organisations out of which 1500 have been validated by Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) – India, recently. Hazarding a rough estimate, I would guess that nearly 30,000 intermediary voluntary organisations of the kind that interest us today are active in the country these days. A vast majority of these are small – nearly 80% have one or two full-time staff and annual budgets of less than Rs.5.00 lakhs. The total annual receipts of such organisations would be about Rs.3,000 crores.

### **Roles and Contributions**

Perhaps more than the scale and size of the intermediary voluntary organisations involved in the socio-economic development in the country is the issue of the kinds of contributions to national development that they have been making over these decades. I think three most important contributions of voluntary organisations involved in national development need to be highlighted:

#### **1. Innovations**

Voluntary organisations have been experimenting with new ways of promoting more sustainable, people-centred development. Through flexible and risk-taking experimentation, they have been able to develop methods, models and equipments that have been widely adopted by the state and national governments as well as internationally. Many national development programmes of Government of India, based on such innovations promoted by voluntary organisations, include hand-pump for drinking water, literacy, primary healthcare, biogas, community-forestry, and in recent years, self-help groups. This is only an illustrative list.

In making these contributions, voluntary organisations require flexible resources and a process-oriented approach which is not weighed-down by bureaucratic rules and procedures. Scaling-up such innovations by voluntary organisations also requires an understanding of the “software” nature of this work, without insisting on short-term target-orientation.

#### **2. Empowerment**

Another most important contribution that intermediary voluntary organisations in India have been promoting is the empowerment of the socio-economically marginalized and exploited sections of our society. Through awareness-raising, conscientisation, and organisation building, voluntary organisations are able to promote social mobilization. Voluntary organisations have empowered women, dalits, tribals, slum-dwellers, rural

poor and many others to understand their rights and obligations. Most significant contributions of empowerment can be seen on such issues as minimum wages, bonded labour, child labour, access to government schemes, land patta, ration cards, housing rights, access to customary rights on forest and water by tribals, etc. It is now widely acknowledged that social mobilisation and empowerment are essential ingredients for ensuring just and equitable development in society.

However, it is important to recognize that such efforts of empowerment by voluntary organisations create conflicts and tensions. In a hierarchical and patriarchal society, any attempt on empowerment of women, dalits, tribals etc. is likely to challenge the vested interest of the local elites, many of whom receive patronage and protection from the government machinery and officials. Thus, such voluntary organisations tend to be made out as “noisemakers” or nuisance-creators. The government needs to find peaceful ways of dealing with such conflicts as they arise inevitably in any process of social transformation.

### **3. Research and Advocacy**

On a number of issues of concern to human welfare, many intermediary voluntary organizations in India have undertaken significant public education and policy advocacy through their sustained research. This has brought many issues on the agenda of public discourse and national policy in India. For example, the issues of women, tribals and dalits have become part of national policy largely due to the sustained research and advocacy by voluntary organisations. Likewise, issues of environment, education, human rights (including right to information) have gained visibility and policy response largely due to the work of voluntary organisations. In recent years, such issues as female infanticide and, strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions have also been promoted through sustained research and advocacy by voluntary organisations.

However, it is important to recognise that many a times research by voluntary organisations brings out major gaps in the policy and implementation of government programmes. Their advocacy may promote perspectives and policies not necessarily favoured by the mainstream government thinking. What is important here is listening to, and acceptance of, different voices from the voluntary organisations and a willingness to share new knowledge generated by them.

Viewed in this sense, it is important to acknowledge that intermediary voluntary organisations contribute immensely to the promotion of a just, equitable and sustainable human development in our country.

These three contributions of innovation, empowerment and advocacy are the ‘unique selling point’ (USP) and comparative advantage of the voluntary organisations. If we acknowledge this comparative advantage, then it is not difficult to recognize that voluntary organisations can play significant and complimentary roles to that of the government in the task of national development. However, the relationship between voluntary organisations and the government must be so nurtured that it does not undermine these three USPs of voluntary organisations. If voluntary organisations

become an extension of the government department, if they are unable to identify, document and give visibility to new emerging issues in society, and if they are not able to mobilise human creativity to evolve solutions to the pressing and difficult problems of development of our times, then they will add no value to this enormous task of national development.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

What then are the implications of the above? These implications are relevant both to the government and the voluntary organisations. In some of these areas, government has a major responsibility; and in some others the voluntary organisations:

### **1. Enabling Environment**

The policy and legislative environment at the national and provincial level needs to be overhauled significantly in order to promote the above mentioned contributions of voluntary organisations. The Task Force set up by the Planning Commission in November, 2000 has produced an excellent report which highlights precise legislative and policy changes that need to be made.

These are essentially in three areas. First area is related to legal identity. While the original Society Registration Act of 1860 and Indian Trust Act of 1882 provide a very flexible framework for registration, many state governments have created their own laws, significantly curtailing “freedom of association” as enshrined in our constitution. The classic case is from Uttar Pradesh where a voluntary organisation has to renew its registration every five years.

The difficult part here is to establish a unique and separate identity for intermediary voluntary organisations involved in socio-economic development in the country. In the absence of such a distinctive separate legal identity, the Finance Ministry continues to “lump” all types of organisations merely on the basis of their ‘original registration’ as a Society or a Trust. Thus, Income Tax Department makes no distinction between Apollo Hospital and a small health education programme of a voluntary organisation in rural Ghazipur; just as it makes no distinction between Doon School and a non-formal education programme among tribals in southern Rajasthan.

It is this ambiguity which has resulted in undermining the capacity of voluntary organisations, particularly in relation to their ability to mobilise resources for self-reliance. The recent Budget speech of the Hon’ble Finance Minister goes to the extent of removing the basic provisions related to the possibility of accumulating income over a long period of time (*Sections 11-13 of Income Tax Act, 1961*). The deliberations in the Shome Committee on this issue focus on “charitable organisations” which lumps all types together. If such proposed policies of Finance Ministry are not revised immediately and replaced with more coherent supportive policies, I am afraid that intermediary voluntary organisations will be driven to total dependence on government or foreign funds.

The second area of great concern identified in the report of the Planning Commission Task Force has to do with the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976. On the one hand, liberalization of FERA is seen as promotion of freedom for private business. On the other hand, continuation and further tightening of FCRA seems to be the preferred order of the day by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It has been repeatedly pointed out in the Reports of the Committees set up by the Ministry itself as well as in the recent Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister himself that voluntary organisations are not receiving foreign funds as gifts which they can use, abuse or misuse in any way they like. All these funds come through clearly designed development projects specifically earmarked for that project, the results of which are periodically documented and evaluated. The problem is that the entire Rs.4000 odd crores received under FCRA during 1999-2000 is not the amount that goes to voluntary organisations. In the absence of a separate identity, intermediary voluntary organisations are lumped together with colleges, universities, research institutions, hospitals and religious institutions of all faith. These irritants undermine the potential of voluntary organisations, on the one hand, and increasingly "seduce" them into corruption, on the other.

The third aspect of enabling environment is the need for protection from harassment of activists of voluntary organisations. While conflict in social transformation is inevitable, it is expected that government law-and-order machinery in the country, specially police and district administration would protect voluntary activists from harassment and intimidation unleashed by those whose vested interests are challenged by the work of such organisations. Instead, the tendency of government to label such voluntary activists as "naxalites", "anti-nationals" or "provocateurs" is unbecoming of a democratic government in a society which has a long tradition of voluntary action.

## **2. Partnership In Development**

The second broad implication of the above is to identify and agree on areas which could entail joint action by voluntary organisations and the government. In light of the pressing problems facing our society, I may suggest that issues of poverty, education and population could be such key areas. However, joint action does not imply government formulating programmes on its own and asking voluntary organisations to implement the same. Joint action will mean taking advantage of the wealth of experience and knowledge of voluntary organisations in framing policies and programmes as well and involving them in monitoring and evaluation.

Another aspect of such partnership is to agree on areas of independent action. In all the aspects of socio-economic development, government and voluntary organisations do not have to work together all the time. There are things that voluntary organisations must do on their own (including monitoring of government policies and programmes). There are many things that the government must do on its own. However, mutual respect for areas of independent action between government and voluntary organisations will go a long way in building such partnership.



In the end, I hope that this important National Conference today will yield the possibility of concrete follow up action on a few areas which can help improve further the depth and scale of contributions of voluntary organisations in national development. This is particularly timely as ordinary people are becoming increasingly alienated and frustrated. I do hope that today's deliberations will not meet the same fate as the last meeting of the voluntary organisations with the then Prime Minister in March, 1994. This can only happen, if the Government under your leadership, Hon'ble Prime Minister, and the voluntary organisations commit themselves to advance on these issues together.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY  
MS. NAFISA BAROT FROM VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Hon. Minister, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Deputy Chairman, Shri K.C. Pant, Member, Planning Commission, Shri Tewari, Shri Rajeshbhai Tandon, Shri Boparai, all political leaders, dignitaries, Murrabbies and friends from national - international communities of the voluntary sector.

I would like to thank Planning Commission for this opportunity which I have accepted with some difficulty. With so many dreams shattered in my beloved Gujarat, I was not sure if I could put together the pieces and be able to make a practical contribution to this Conference. However, hope is all we have, and in that spirit I will share what I have learnt about voluntary effort in the development process.

Twenty-two years back, out from college some of us went to one of the most resource poor areas of Gujarat, called Bhal. There we worked to realize a dream not just a project. Ours was a vision and a commitment to initiating processes that could lead to a just society with gender equity, equal opportunities and a better quality of life for all. We founded an organization called Utthan – meaning `rising`. Many others must have also lived with similar dreams.

Inspired by the late Prof. Ravi Mathai's experiment in Jawaja on self-reliance through self-education, we worked to build local leadership through a process of partnerships. Such partnerships meant that we had first to understand the issues of women, of poor people, of different communities and castes from their eyes and their minds. We learnt the scale and the diversity of survival issues under conditions of such enormous deprivation. Water scarcity, ill health, lack of opportunity, discrimination and oppression, corruption; in the face of all these and much more; the challenge was to develop workable and sustainable solutions. We learnt the need to start where people are from the bottom and not to hand down solutions from the top. Obviously this meant a paradigm shift – changing existing power relationships, influencing institutional reforms and sharing values of human rights, equity and justice.

Utthan's role in this partnership was to help bringing people and partners together, from both within and outside the community and to build their capacities, for self-reliance, self-confidence, joint action and good governance.

A key question which we have asked ourselves all those 22 years is: Who are `we` vis-à-vis Government? Then and now Government exists as the largest development agency. We are often wrongly perceived as `extension wing of Government or as an implementing agency for achieving the targets set by others, or as contractors, or merely as non-Government'. The term Non-Government Organization is a negative one, and does not reflect the true nature of volunteerism. Civil society has a positive role in processes of genuine empowerment and change. Our volunteerism, commitment and

professional resource must influence the larger society of which we are a part. Our challenge is to demonstrate development as sustainable processes of empowerment and not merely physical targets. Prof. Ravi Mathai described this as the ability of the disadvantaged to take decisions, and to realize their decisions through capacities they did not have yesterday.

The major learning over the last fifty years is that only genuinely people-centered approaches can succeed on any appreciable and sustainable scale. This is the lesson that is coming through from experience in every sector of development in our own country and across the globe. The lesson is that people, and particularly the most oppressed and marginalized, must own and manage programmes meant for their benefit. Women have, therefore, to play a key role in changing and altering existing power structures as equal partners and managers. Civil society provides a space for innovating such new approaches. Enlarging this space on behalf of the poor is a key responsibility for Government and civil society working together as equals.

As equal partners, our role also includes that of being thoughtful and responsible critic. This role is inescapable if existing power structures are to yield to more equitable alternatives. Therefore, there needs to be much more openness on all sides to absorb criticism. Debate and dialogue should not be viewed as anti-Government' or as 'anti-development' but rather as the chemistry of respect and trust. One needs to, therefore, revisit the prevailing perception of volunteerism, civil society and governance. We in civil society have equally to accept responsibility for accountability, transparency and the highest standards of service.

Now, let me illustrate what all I have said in terms of organizing the oppressed and process of empowerment (a film shot with 6 slides on the water issue and solution). These are the most marginalized and oppressed communities when they are organized and empowered – the solution is different. Violent struggle to a peaceful solution.

Like many other organizations, Utthan's efforts have grown from one area and its issues to many more through help initially supporting movements for empowerment. Thousands of rain water harvesting structures are testimony to local leaderships and a large membership of men and women. Self-reliant village institutions including panchayats now plan, implement and access financial resources. Advocacy and networking has given us linkages local, national and international level....I could go on.

Yet, Honourable Prime Minister, to me all this is yesterday.

Witnessing what has just happened in Gujarat, I am at a loss about the future. The Mahatma's vision that was our inspiration is challenged. Today, forces are working to defeat the understanding of development and empowerment we have carried through all these years. Our rights as Indians to life, dignity and joint action is threatened as are those who work for harmony and peace. What then is the way we must play our role tomorrow?

I know the community wants to move ahead. In which direction can they go? Like them, I too am at a crossroad and I do not have answer. What all I have is hope.

Thank you.

**Presentation of Theme Paper by  
Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member Planning Commission**

[Click here to view the presentation file](#)

# **The Role of the Voluntary Sector in National Development**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2002**



**Planning Commission  
New Delhi**

## **Voluntary Sector - An Overview**

- India's rich tradition of voluntary action emphasized charity and sharing of wealth and concern for the poor.
- The Societies Registration Act 1860 and other legislations put in place a legal & institutional framework for promoting voluntarism.
- This led to activities towards promotion of scientific temper & growth of educational institutions, hospitals etc.

2

## Voluntary Sector - An Overview

- During the freedom struggle, voluntarism received an impetus from the work of religious and social reformers and national leaders, notably Swami Dayananda, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi.
- Indian industrialists such as Tatas, Birlas, Bajajs, etc. also promoted voluntarism.
- Post independence period saw further growth of voluntarism in many areas of development.
- Voluntarism is the core of social action in a democratic society.

3

## Partnership in Sinheswari Nagar - Gujarat



4

## **Voluntary Sector - An Overview**

- Uneven regional distribution of VOs and varying capacities in project formulation and implementation.
- Considering the magnitude of India's social, environmental and economic problems and the role the voluntary sector can play, we still have far to go.
- Therefore the need for policy and institutional support of the Government.
- Precise number of VOs not known – mostly in urban and semi-urban areas.

5

## **Developing Micro-credit through Self Help Groups**



6



## **To develop partnership between Government & the Voluntary Sector, it is necessary**

- To build the capacity of the voluntary sector;
- To streamline & simplify procedures & guidelines; and
- To synergise their activities with PRIs

7

## **Capacity Building**

- Capacity building has to be a holistic process taking care of all concerns of NGOs.
- Need to develop professionalism & core competencies in critical areas, e.g. Soil and water conservation, drought proofing, population stabilisation, disaster management, development and dissemination of rural technology, conservation of environment education and health etc.

8

## **Community Contributing Labour in U.P.**



9

## **Capacity Building**

- Training in project formulation, implementation, report writing, financial management, networking etc.
- Growth of leadership in the voluntary sector requires expanding the network of Nodal/Mother NGOs, Field level NGOs, Self Help Groups etc.

10

## **Community Mapping Exercise in U.P.**



11

## **Issues for discussion :**

- **Ways and means to attract/promote VOs/NGOs in backward areas.**
- **Mechanism for interaction between NGOs and Government at the state level.**
- **Prioritisation of programmes where involvement of NGOs is required.**
- **Expanding and deepening of IEC advocacy roles and participatory rural appraisal.**

12

## **Treatments in Watershed – Gabion (Dongaon Watershed, Dist. Nanded, Maharashtra)**



13

### **Issues for discussion :**

- Need to identify capacity building organisations both in the voluntary sector and the government (such as NIPCCD, IIPA, NIHFW, NIRD).
- Networking of training organisations by an appropriate government agency.

14

## **Streamlining and Simplifying Procedures and Guidelines for Involvement of VOs :**

- The aim being to have schemes that are:
  - ❖ flexible, need-based, demand-driven and location-specific,
  - ❖ encourage innovations,
  - ❖ with budgetary/task norms serving only as guidelines instead of relatively rigid "fixed items/rates"

15

## **Streamlining and Simplifying Procedures and Guidelines for Involvement of VOs :**

- Committee-based approval mechanisms possibly with representation of National NGOs.
- A system of monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of appraisal, sanction and financing to ensure sustainability.
- Role of "Mother" or "Nodal" Agencies for
  - Providing co-ordination, technical and managerial support services to VOs/NGOs.
  - Appraisal, monitoring evaluation and expert services to Government.

16

## **Streamlining and Simplifying Procedures and Guidelines for Involvement of VOs :**

- Established VOs/NGOs, to be treated on fast track or on green channel basis.
- Number of projects awarded to each VO/NGO should depend on its capacity.
- Information about various schemes for VOs should be widely disseminated.

17

## **Streamlining and Simplifying Procedures and Guidelines for Involvement of VOs :**

- Long-term support to established VOs/NGOs as *programme support* rather than institutional support.
- A percentage of scheme/programme funds may be earmarked for monitoring so as to provide a feed back into individual projects, schemes, programmes and plans.

18

## Joint Survey of Watershed Area in Karnataka



19

## Synergising Efforts of NGOs, CBOs and PRIs

- In strengthening PRIs complimentarity of contributions by different stakeholders should be strategised.
  - ✓ The CBOs and SHGs can undertake bottom-up mobilisation to ensure people's participation in governance.
  - ✓ Voluntary organisations can help Gram Panchayats in building their capacities and can also facilitate micro-planning processes.

20

**Thank you**



**SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM PARTICIPANTS DURING & AFTER THE  
CONFERENCE**

Written suggestions were received during and after the Conference from the following delegates.

1. Shri P. M. Jose, Catholic Relief Services, New Delhi.
2. Dr. B. K. Datta, Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology, Nimpith Sri Ramkrishna Ashram, 24 Paraganas.
3. Dr. Appa Rao, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.
4. Shri Prafulla Mishra, OXFAM, Bhubaneshwar.
5. Shri C. Balakrishnan, Jt. Secretary, MHRD.
6. Ms. Rajwant Sandhu, Jt. Secretary, MoSJE.
7. Shri Anil K. Singh, VANI, New Delhi.
8. Prof. Inderjit Dey, SRI, Ranchi.
9. Shri P. Lakshapatti, Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA), Bangalore.
10. Ms. Jeroo Billimoria, Childline, Mumbai.
11. Shri Satish Girija, NBJK, Hazaribagh.
12. Shri Bhartendu Prakash, Vigyan Shiksha Kendra, Banda.
13. Shri Rajesh Verma, Patna Educational Development Trust, Patna.
14. Shri Rakesh Mittal, Association for Voluntary Agencies for Planning & Development, Indore.
15. Shri Gangadhar Pradhan, Janamangal Mahila Samiti, Puri.
16. Dr. P.K. Ray, Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, Agartala.

17. Shri N. Vasudevan, Harijan Sevak Sangh, New Delhi.
18. Shri N. Sharma, Zila Saksharta Samiti, Durg, Chhattisgarh.
19. Shri D. Raghunandan, Centre for Technology & Development, New Delhi.
20. Shri Y. Surchandra Singh, All Manipur NGOs Forum, Imphal.
21. Dr. Vimla Nadkarni, FPAI, Mumbai.
22. Shri Darshan Shankar, FRLHT, Bangalore.
23. Shri Sachin Sachdeva, ARAVALI, Jaipur.
24. Shri K. Shivkumar, V.K. Foundation Gandhigram.
25. Shri P.D. Rai, Ecotourism & Conservation Society of Sikkim, Gangtok.
26. Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Economic Adviser to CM of Sikkim Gangtok.
27. Mrs Sharda Pradhan, ASHI, Gangtok.
28. Ms. Sri Vidhya Rajagopalan WWF (India), Chennai.
29. Shri Suresh Ambedkar, Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi.
30. Shri P.S. Barde, Centre for Tribal & Rural Development, Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
31. Shri Prabhat Falibus, CASA, Delhi.
32. Dr. Dinesh Joshi, Himalayan Study Circle, Pithoragarh.
33. Ms. Shashi Tyagi, Jodhpur.

A summarized version of their recommendations is placed below:

- Government should take a lead to set up representative forums and mechanisms at the State, District and Block levels for Government and voluntary organizations to meet and to have dialogue for collaborating in planning programs so that there is more synergy rather than competition.

- It is felt that the global scenario is changing very fast and to catch up, we should give emphasis on skill, on research and on adaptation technologies.
- Food & nutritional security as well as conservation of biodiversity require participation of voluntary sector.
- Ability of VOs to develop successful models would depend on their capacity in respective fields.
- A comprehensive legal & institutional framework for GO-VO partnership is needed.
- It was clarified, in response to a comment that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has no volunteer contribution, that role of Community through village Education Committees, Community ownership and contribution are central to the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- A comprehensive Central law is needed to provide right support to the functioning of VOs, including scrapping of FCRA & governing foreign contribution under FEMA.
- To strengthen voluntary sector, a lead VO for each district is needed to promote & support smaller VOs. At the state level, a broad-based society with majority participation of VOs & PRIs is required to promote voluntarism.
- CAPART needs to be freed from Government interference and politicization of composition of its decision-making authorities, by induction of VOs of standing.
- Planning Commission needs to ensure greater inter-ministerial co-ordination and convergence of schemes for VOs.

- Serving Government officers either should not head or be Governing Body Members of NGOs or, if they are, the concerned NGO should not be entitled to Government funds. The above should also apply to serving Ministers and those holding equivalent political appointments.
- Authorize opening of VA cell in all Ministries, support self-employment & infrastructure development schemes and opening of State Resource Centre of CAPART.
- More orientation to State Government authorities for working with VOs will be necessary.
- Since project support does not provide funds for capacity building, there is need for separate financial support for capacity building of VOs.
- Zonal Committees of experts are needed for promotion of Voluntary Sector taking into account the regional problem issues.
- Prioritization of areas for partnership between Government & VOs and area specific projects has been stressed.
- Need for a separate Department / Ministry for Voluntary Sector at Central level.
- In the border areas, VOs have a special role in developing the remote areas and creating awareness amongst people of their roles in promoting security. Therefore, separate allocation for VOs of border areas, particularly in North-Eastern Region areas is required.
- To sensitize the government officials responsible for supporting voluntary sector, there is need for deputation of VO representatives to Government departments as well as Government officials to VOs under short-term assignments.

- Interactive Regional Conferences of this nature should be organized in future more frequently.
- Pleaded for an objective and transparent system of GO-VO partnership, beyond personal connections.
- A self-regulatory mechanism within the voluntary sector is required.
- “We Can Do” attitude as an expression of voluntarism is necessary in the North-Eastern Region to do away with the present dependency syndrome.
- An Action Plan for the informal sector is necessary to institutionalize the role of the voluntary sector.
- A Standing Committee of experts be set up by Planning Commission to carry out a quarterly review of the progress & problems of voluntary sector.
- An expanded programme of institutional training of personnel of VOs and creation of a monitoring cell at Planning Commission with involvement of voluntary sector, are essential for improving the role of VOs.
- Planning Commission to initiate a research project to document best practices of VOs in different sectors.
- Institution building support is essential for capacity building of voluntary sector.
- Need for a National Policy to promote voluntary action.

Annexure VII

**Presentation of Recommendations of the Conference by  
Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member Planning Commission**

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# **The Role of the Voluntary Sector in National Development**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2002**

## **Recommendations of the Conference**



**Planning Commission  
New Delhi**

### **Recommendations of the Conference**

- Voluntarism is the basis of social action in a democracy.
- Despite varied levels of performance and spread, VOs have potential in many areas. Therefore the State should promote and strengthen voluntary action in all its forms.
- Marked absence of VOs is noticed in many underdeveloped areas, where socio-economic and environmental development and population stabilisation are urgently required.

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

- Special efforts are required to remove regional imbalances in voluntary action.
- Growth of leadership in the voluntary sector by expanding the network of Mother VOs, Field VOs, SHGs, Users groups & Women's groups needs to be encouraged. Mother NGOs to help growth of capacities of smaller VOs.
- Participatory rural appraisal is integral to functioning of VOs. The VOs should take up IEC activities on a wider scale to ensure people's participation in development and governance.

3

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

- Participation of VOs in sustainable rural development and acting as partners in nation building endeavours is critical.
- To achieve the objectives of expanding and deepening the activities of voluntary sector mobilisation of resource of a high order is warranted through the government system, private sector (corporate sector, industrial houses, charitable trust set by the NRIs, individual donors and companies) and global funding organisations.

4



## **Recommendations of the Conference**

- VOs need to develop professionalism and core competencies in critical areas so as to emerge as effective Agents of knowledge based change in bringing about sustainable socio-economic development.
- VOs to be trained by S&T institutions and National level training institutes such as NIPCCD, IIPA, NIHFW, IAMR, etc.

5

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

- Training in PRA Technique project formulation, implementation, report writing, financial and administrative management, networking, social audit, monitoring and evaluation and communication skills are major areas where capacity building is required in the voluntary sector.

6

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

### **Enabling Environment**

- An enabling environment needs to be created to facilitate :
  - i. Quick redressal of VOs grievances through joint collaborative machinery at State level with Planning Department as the nodal department.
  - ii. Income Tax authorities to take time bound decisions on applications from VOs for Income tax exemption.
  - iii. To extend term programme and project support.

7

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

### **Enabling Environment**

- iv. Long term support to established VOs in the form of programme support rather than institutional support.
- v. Transparency in funding policy procedures, system of monitoring and evaluation of projects.
- vi. VOs to adopt appropriate standards of accountability and transparency.
- vii. A percentage of project funds to be earmarked for monitoring and evaluation to obtain regular feedback.

8

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

### **Simplification of Procedures/Guidelines**

- Adoption of a simplified application form as appended in the Compendium.
- Information about various schemes for VOs should be easily and freely accessible.
- Acknowledgement of proposals received from VOs and disposal of the same within 90 days.
- A decentralised system of sanctioning proposals to be adopted.

9

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

### **Simplification of Procedures/Guidelines**

- Mother NGO model of DFW is considered ideal and recommended for adoption by other Ministries/Departments and funding agencies. However, caution be taken to safeguard interest of smaller VOs.
- VOs to be given flexibility of working and not subjected to interference from State and district committees.
- Monitoring and evaluation should be a part of the funding process.
- VOs to be partners in development – not contractors or only beneficiaries.

10

## **Recommendations of the Conference**

### **Simplification of Procedures/Guidelines**

- As a matter of policy, Government is to support growth of sector specific networks based on prioritisation of activities. Lead/Mother VOs should apply directly. Copies of sanctions are to be sent to the state and district authorities for preparation of a database.
- Established VOs to be treated on fast track basis for clearance of the project.
- Special assessment and speedy clearances for disaster and emergency relief activities.

11

**Thank you**

Annexure -VIII

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**A. From the Voluntary Sector**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Organization</b>	<b>Name of Participant</b>
1	Account Aid 55-B, Pocket - C, Sidhartha Extension, New Delhi - 110 014	Shri Sanjay Agarwal
2	Action Aid Chhattisgarh Regional Office, HIG-28/1, Shankar Nagar, Raipur-492 001 Chhattisgarh	Shri Biraj Patnaik
3	Adarsh Seva Samiti Anandpur Sahib, Ropar, Punjab	Smt. Veena Joshi
4	ADITI 2/30, SBI Colony 2, Bailey Road, Patna 800 014 Bihar	Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh
5	Aragamee Kashipur, Koraput District - 765 015, Orissa	Shri Achyut Das
6	AIAMED C-8/8113, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110 070	Shri V. Satyamurti
7	All India Samaj Kalyan Samiti, Ladwa, Kurukshetra, Haryana	Shri Gurnam Singh
8	Antyodaya Chetana Mandal N-3/1, IRC Village, Bhubaneswar - 751 015 Orissa	Shri Aditya Patnaik
9	Association for Promoting Social Action 34 Annasandra Palya, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560 017 Karnataka	Shri P. Lakshapathi
10	Association of Voluntary Social Agencies & Workers of India 45-EA, Maya Enclave, New Delhi- 110 064	Shri G.R. Madan
11	Association for Rural Advancement through Voluntary Action and Local Involvement (ARAVALI), Patel Bhawan, HCM-RIPA, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur - 302 017 Rajasthan	Shri Sachin Sachdeva
12	Association of Voluntary Agencies for Planning & Development	Shri Rakesh Mittal

	A-13, MIG Colony Indore - 452 008 Madhya Pradesh	
13	Association for Social Health in India, 1st Floor, Sikkim Sahitya Parishad Bhavan, Development Area, Gangtok East Distt. Sikkim	Ms. Sharada Pradhan
14	AVARD 5 (FF) Institutional Area, Deen Dayal Upadhya Marg, New Delhi - 110 002	Shri Pyare Mohan Tripathi
15	BAIF Development Research Foundation, Dr. Manibai Desai Nagar, Warje, Pune - 411 052, Maharashtra	Dr. N.G. Hegde
16	BASIX, 501, Nirmal Towers, Dwarakapuri Colony Punjagutta, Hyderabad - 500082, Andhra Pradesh	Shri Vijay Mahajan
17	Bengal Rural Welfare Services, 279, Main Road (Garia) Kolkata West Bengal	Dr. Santanu Bhattacharjee
18	Bethany Society Arai Mile, New Tura, W. Garo Hills-794 101 Meghalaya	Shri Carmo Noronha
19	Bharat Sevashram Sangh, Vill. & PO: Barajuri, Via-Ghatshila, Distt. East Singhbhum - 832 303, Jharkhand	Swami Shivarupananda
20	Bharatiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh, Thakkar Bapa Samarak Sadan, Link Road, New Delhi – 110 055	Sh. Banwari Lal Gaur
21	Bhoruka Charitable Trust 1, Prabhu Dayal Marg, Near Sanganer Airport, Jaipur - 302 011, Rajasthan	Shri Amitava Banerjee
22	Business & Community Foundation 1, Jai Singh Road, Bharat Yuvak Bhavan, II Floor, New Delhi - 110 001	Dr. Vikas Goswami
23	Catholic Relief Services (CRS) 5, Community Cemntre, Zamrudpur, Kailash Colony Extn. New Delhi - 110 048	Shri Jose Pulickal Mathai
24	Centre for Bharatiya Marketing Development Samrat, Krishna Chandra Marg, Bandra Reclamation, Bandra (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra	Shri Anil Gachke
25	Centre for Rural Development & Technology	Dr. Rajendra Prasad

	IIT, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110 049	
26	Centre for Social Development, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi - 110 003	Dr. Mahanider Kaur Jabbi
27	Centre for Social Work and Research, H.G. Basak Road, Melarmath, Agartala - West, Tripura	Shri Diganta Basu
28	Centre for Tribal & Rural Development Type-IV-25, Behind Power House, Zanda Chowk, Silvassa-396 230 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Shri P.S. Barde
29	Centre for Youth & Social Development E/1, Institutional Area, Bhubaneshwar - 751 013 Orissa	Shri Jagdananda
30	Centre of Science for Villages Magan Sangrahalaya, Kumarappa Road, Distt. Wardha, Maharashtra	Dr. Vibha Gupta
31	Center for Technology & Development (CTD) D-158, Lower Ground Floor, Saket, New Delhi - 110 017	Dr. D. Raghunandan
32	Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) - India 25, Navjeevan Vihar, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110 017	Shri Mathew Cherian
33	CHARKHA D-1947, Palam Vihar, Dist. Gurgaon - 122 017, Haryana	Shri Shankar Ghose
34	CHETNA, Lilavatiben Lalbhai's Bunglow, Civil Camp Road, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad - 380 004, Gurarat	Ms. Indu Capoor
35	Child Line India Foundation 2nd Floor, Municipal School, Nana Chowk, Mumbai - 400 007, Maharashtra	Ms. Jeroo Billimoria
36	Children in Need Institute (CINI) Post Box NO. 16742, Kolkata - 700 027 West Bengal	Shri Abinash Gine
37	CHINTAN (Environment R&A Group) 238, Sidharth Enclave New Delhi	Ms. Bharti Chaturvedi
38	Church's Auxiliary for Social Action Rachna Building, 2, Rajendra Place, Pusa Road, New Delhi - 110 008	Shri Prabhat Failbus

39	Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) 20-4-10, Near New Bus Stand, Charminar, Hyderabad-500 002 Andhra Pradesh	Dr. Mazhar Hussain  Ms. Noor Jahan
40	Consortium for Himalayan Conservation N-44, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110 017	Dr. M.L. Dewan
41	Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal Gopeshwar, Chamoli Uttaranchal	Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt
42	Dastkar 45-B, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi - 110 049	Ms. Laila Tyabji
43	Deccan Development Society A-6, Meera Apartments, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad - 500 029, Andhra Pradesh	Shri K.V. Krishnamachari
44	Department for International Development (DFID) British High Commission B-28, Tara Crescent, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 016	Dr. Dennis Pain
45	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Research Institute Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh	Shri Nanaji Deshmukh  Shri Bharat Pathak
46	Development Alternatives B-32, Tara Crescent, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 016	Dr. Ashok Khosla
47	Development Networking Services 60, Munirka Enclave, New Delhi - 110 067	Shri Vijay K. Sardana
48	Development Support Centre 2, Prakruti Apartments, Opp. Red Rose Restaurant, H.L. Commerce College Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009, Gujarat	Shri Anil C. Shah
49	Dhan Foundation 18, Pilliyar Koil Street, S.S.Colony, Madurai - 625 010, Tamil Nadu	Shri M.P. Vasimalai
50	Dharamitra Bank of India Colony, Nalwadi, Wardha - 442 001, Maharashtra	Shri Pramod Khadse
51	Ecotourism and Conservation Society of Sikkim (ECOSS) Zero Point,	Shri P.D. Rai



	Gangtok - 737 101, Sikkim	
52	EKLAVYA E-1/208, Arera Colony, Bhopal - 462 016, Madhya Pradesh	Dr. Vinod Raina
53	Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) Bajaj Bhawan, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021 Maharashtra	Ms. Avabai B. Wadia, Ms. Vimla Nadkarni
54	The Ford Foundation 55 Lodhi Estate New Delhi- 110 003	Smt. Sushma Raman
55	Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT) 50, M.S.H. Layout, Ananda Nagar, Bangalore - 560 024, Karnataka	Shri Darshan Shanker
56	Gandhigram Instt. of Rural Health & Family Welfare Trust P. O. Ambathurai R. S., Dindigul, Anna District, Tamil Nadu - 624 302	Dr. (Mrs.). Vijaya Srinivasan
57	Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti 458, M.M. Colony, Street No. 3, Pal Road, Jodhpur - 342 008, Rajasthan	Ms. Shashi Tyagi
58	Gramya Vikas Trust, Oppt. S.T. Stand, Dwarka - 361 335, Gujarat	Prof. D.S. Kher
59	Green Circle C/o Chumbi Residency, Tibet Road, Gangtok, Sikkim	Shri Guru T. Ladakhi
60	Group of Adult Education Apt. No.1513-B, Beverley Part-II DLF Phase –II, Gurgaon Mehrauli Gurgaon-112 002, Haryana	Prof. Shanta Krishnan
61	Harijan Sevak Sangh Kingway Camp, Delhi-110 009	N. Vasudevan
62	Hind Swaraj Trust Ralegaon Sidhi, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	Shri Anna Hazare
63	Haryana Nav Yuvak Kala Sangam 48, Sector-1, Rohtak - 124 001, Haryana	Dr. Jasphool Singh
64	Himalaya Study Circle Himalaya Bhawan, GIC Road, Pithoragarh, Uttanchal	Dr. Dinesh Joshi
65	Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO)	Dr. Anil P. Joshi

	Vill.- Chisadpadi, PO- Mehuwala, Via -Majra, Distt. Dehradun, Uttaranchal	
66	Independent Consultant with various VOs, C-490, Yojana Vihar, Delhi - 110 092	Dr. K.G. Krishnamurthy
67	Indian Institute of Health Management Research 1, Prabhu Dayal Marg, Sanganer Airport, Jaipur – 302011, Rajasthan	Dr. Ashok Agarwal
68	Indo-German Social Service society (IGSSS) 28, Lodi Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 003	Shri Rajesh Upadhyay
69	Institute for Studies and Transformation 1-Raj-Laxmi Bhavan, Near New Gayatri Temple, Paradise Park, Juna Wadaj, Ahmedabad - 380 013, Gujarat	Shri Jagdish Nazareth
70	Integrated Rural Technology Centre Mundur, Palakkad - 678 592, Kerala	Dr. K. Unnikrishnan
71	Jan Mangal Mahila Samiti AT/PO : Dimirisena, Distt. Puri - 725 013, Orissa	Shri Gangadhar Pradhan
72	J&K Paryavaran (Environment) Sanstha Paryavaran Kendra, Gada Dhar Mandir, Mubarak Mandi, Jammu 180 001, Jammu & Kashmir	Maj. Gen. G.S. Jamwal (Retd)
73	J&K Yateem Trust Barbar Shah Road, Srinagar Jammu & Kashmir-190001	Shri A. R. Hanjura
74	Jan Seva Samiti Plot no. 40-42, Madhav Market Colony, Lanka, Varanasi - 221 005, Uttar Pradesh	Dr. K.P. Pathak
75	Ladakh Ecological Development Group LEH - 194 101, (Ladakh), Jammu & Kashmir	Shri Sonam Dawa
76	Lok Shiksha Parishad Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, P.O. Distt. 24 Parganas, West Bengal - 534 508	Shri Ranjit Mukherji
77	Maliku Development Society (MDS) Minicoy - 687 559, Lakshadweep	Dr. K.K. Dom Thakru
78	Manav Samaj Utthan Sansthan No.8 (Old No. 7/1), Kingstone Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore-560 025, Karnataka	Shri J. Shanmuganath

79	MSS Research Foundation 3rd Cross Street, Taramani Institutional Area, Chennai - 600 113, Tamil Nadu	Dr. S. Appa Rao
80	M.V. Foundation 201, Narayan Apartments, Marredpally (West), Secunderbad-500 026 Andhra Pradesh	Shri R. Venka Reddy
81	MYRADA 2, Service Road, Domlur Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka	Shri Aloysius Prakash Fernandez
82	N.M. Sadguru Water & Development Foundation, Village Chosala, Post Box 71, Dahod - 389 151, Gujarat	Shri Kanhaiya Choudhary
83	National Foundation for India (NFI) India Habitat Centre, Zone - IV-A, Upper Ground Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003	Shri Ajay S. Mehta
84	Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra , P.O. Box 37, Villaage Amrit Nagar, Korra, Hazaribagh - 825 301, Jharkhand	Shri Satish Girija
85	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Shiksha Samiti, 482/4, Raja Park, Adarsh Nagar, Jaipur – 302 335, Rajasthan	Shri Netra Pal Sharma
86	New Public School Samiti, 504/21-D, Tagore Marg, Krishna Bhawan, Dali Ganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Shri Shashi Mauli Pandey
87	Oju Welfare Association, Naharlagun, Papaumpare - 791 112, Arunachal Pradesh	Smt. Binny Yanga
88	Orissa Rural & Urban Producers Association, 280, Bhomikhal, Bhubaneshwar - 751 010, Orissa	Prof. S.P. Das
89	OUTREACH - Volunteers for Rural Development 109, Coles Road, Fraser Town, Bangalore - 580 005, Karnataka	Shri Jitendra Kumar Arora
90	OXFAM, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	Shri Prafulla Kumar Mishra
91	PRAYAS Tughlakabad Institutional Area New Delhi -110062	Shri Amod Kanth
92	Patna Education Devlopment Trust, Nai Vailli Road, Purvi Kanal Rukanpura, P.O.B.V. College, Patna - 800 014, Bihar	Shri Rajesh Verma

93	Peermade Development Society, Peermade - 685 531 (Post Box -II), Distt. Idukki, Kerala	Fr. Hubby Mathew
94	Plan India Internatiional India Country Office, C-6/6, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi - 110 062	Mr. John M. Chaloner
95	PRIA, 42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 062	i) Dr. Rajesh Tandon ii) Shri Satinder Sahni iii) Shri Manoj Rai
96	Ramakrishan Mission, PO Belur Math, Distt. Howrah, West Bengal - 711 202	Swami Gokulananda
97	Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, PO Cherra Bazar, Cherrapunji, East Khasi Hills Dist. - 793 111, Meghalaya	Swami Nityamuktananda
98	Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, 7, Riverside Road, Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas - 743 101, West Bengal	Swami Girijananda
99	Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, 17, Chanchal Smruti GB Ambekar Marg, Opp. Shriram Ind. Estate, Wadala, Mumbai-400031, Maharashtra	Shri Sanjay Deshmukh
100	Rashtriya Seva Samiti, No.9, Old Huzur Office Buildings, Tirupati, Distt. Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh	Shri G. Muniratnam
101	Ruchi, Shalana, Rajgarh, District - Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh	Shri Dharamvir Singh
102	Rural Communes, At Narangi Village, Post Donwat, Off Khapoli-Pen Road, Khalapur Taluka, Raigad - 410 203, Maharashtra	Shri Muneer Alavi
103	Rural Service Agency, Palace Compound (West), Imphal - 795 001, Manipur	Shri Y. Surchandra Singh
104	Sadhan, B-4/3133, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi -110070	Shri Mathew Titus
105	Safai Vidhyalya, Gandhi Ashram Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Shri Ishwarbhai Patel
106	Samaj Pragti Sahyog, Bloc - Bagli, Dewas,	Dr. Mihir Shah

	Madhya Pradesh	
107	Samarthan, E-7/81, Bank Colony, Arera Colony, Bhopal - 462 016, Madhya Pradesh	Dr. Yogesh Kumar
108	Sampradan - Indian Centre for Philanthropy, Sector - C, Pocket 8/8704, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110 070	Ms. Pushpa Sundar
109	SAMYAK, 110, A/2, Krishna Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029	Shri Rahul Dev
110	Sanskar Shiksha Samiti Vasant Kunj, New Delhi	Shri Y. N. Chaturvedi
111	Sarathi, Taluk - Santhranpur, Via- Lunawada, Distt. Panchmahal, Godhra (WEST), Gujarat	Shri Giriraj Singh
112	Saathi Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Kumharpara, Kondagaon, Distt. Bastar - 494 226, Chhattisgarh	Shri Bupesh Tiwari
113	SEARCH, 219/26, 6th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560 011, Karnataka	Fr. Stephen
114	Seva Mandir Post - Fatehpura, Udaipur, Rajasthan	Ms. Neelima Khetan
115	Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Shantivan, Bashistha, P.O. Beltala, Guwahati - 781 029, Assam	Shri Hembhai
116	Society for A&N Ecology (SANE), Middle Point, Port Blair - 744 101, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Samir Acharya
117	Society for Rural Industrialization, Rupcon Division, Bariatu, Distt. Ranchi, Bihar	Prof. Indrajit Dey
118	Society for Service to Voluntary Agency (SOSVA), Room No.5,6 & 7, 1st Floor, Bhimabai Rane Mun. School, R.R. Roy Marg, Opp. Central Plaza Cinema, Grigraum, Mumbai, Maharashtra	Shri Vardachari Srinivasan
119	SPIC MACAY, B-7 Housing Society, NDSE-I, New Delhi-110 049	Smt. Neerja Sarin
120	Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust, Coimbatore-641 043	Dr. K. Kulandaivel

	Tamil Nadu	
121	S.M. Sahgal Foundation 289, Sector-17-A, Gurgaon-122 001, Haryana	Shri Arvind Kumar Behl
122	SPARC, P.O. Box –9389, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai – 400026, Maharashtra	Shri Sundar Burra
123	Sri Ramkrishna Ashram (Vivekananda Institute of Bio-Technology), P.O. Nimpith Ashram, 24 - Parganas, West Bengal	Dr. B.K. Dutta
124	Sulabh International Institute of Rural Development Research, Sulabh Bhavan, Sulabh Gram, RZ-83, Mahavir Enclave, Palam Dabri Marg, New Delhi-110 045	Smt. Abha Bahadur
125	Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Kenchanahalli, Shantinagar PO, H.D. Kote Taluk, Mysore Distt. 571 116, Karnataka	Dr.R. Balasubramaniam
126	Tagore Society for Rural Development, 14,Khudi Ram Bose Road, West Bengal	Shri Tushar Kanjilal
127	Tamulpur Anchalik Gramdan Sangh, P.O. Kumarikata, Distt. Nalbari - 781 360, Assam	Shri R.N. Upadhyay
128	Tarun – Sanskar 1784, Ranjhi, Jabalpur - 482 005, Madhya Pradesh	Dr. V.P. Chaturvedi
129	Tripura Adibasi Mahila Samiti, 9/4, Salkama, Krishna Nagar Road, Distt. Agartala, Tripura (WEST)	Ms. Latika Debbarma Ms. Rita Roy
130	UPVAN (Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra), Sahbhagi Road (Near Police Fire Station), Sitapur Road, Lucknow - 227 208, Uttar Pradesh	Shri Ashok Bhai
131	Utthan - Centre for Sustainable Development & Poverty Alleviation, 18-A, Auckland Road, Allahabad - 211001, Uttar Pradesh	Dr. Kaushal Kumar
132	UTTHAN-Development Action Planning Team,36, Chitrakut Twins, Nehru Park, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad Gujarat	Ms. Nafisa Barot
133	Uttarakhand Seva Nidhi Paryavaran Shiksha Sansthan, Jakhendevi, Mall Road, Almora-263601,	Shri Lalit Pande

	Uttaranchal	
134	V. K. Foundation, Gandhigram - 624 302, Tamil Nadu	Shri K. Shiva Kumar
135	VANARAI, 2064, Vijayanagar Colony, Pune - 411 030, Maharashtra	Shri Mohan Dharia
136	Vanvasi Seva Kendra, Adhaura, Distt. Kaimur (Bhabhua), Bihar	Shri Sada Nand Rai
137	Vasavya Mahila Mandali, 62-2-22 Patamata Lanka, Vijayawada - 520 014 Andhra Pradesh	Smt. Chennupati Vidya
138	Vidharb Maharogi Sewa Samiti, AT/PO Tapovan, District Amravati - 444 602, Maharashtra	Shri Sadanand Januji Koche
139	Vigyan Sikshan Kendra, Civil Lines, Banda - 210 001, Uttar Pradesh	Shri Bharatendu Prakash
140	Vikas Bharti, Bishnupur, Ranchi, Jharkhand	Shri Ashok Bhagat
141	Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Circular Road, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110 021	Shri Suresh Ambekar
142	Vivekananda Institute of Medical Science, 99, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata – 700 026, West Bengal	Swami Sarvalokananda
143	Vivekananda Girijana Kalyan Kendra, PHI Building Annexe II Floor, Seshadri Road Near KR Circle Bangalore-560 001, Karnataka	Dr. H. Sudarshan
144	Vivekananda Kendra, Vivekanandapuram, Distt. Kanyakumari - 629 702, Tamil Nadu	Shri G. Vasudeo
145	Voluntary Action Network of India (VANI), 457, III Floor, Chirag Delhi New Delhi	Shri Anil K. Singh
146	Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, Shibnagar College Road, Agartala College, Distt. Agartala - 799 004, Tripura	Dr. Dilip Kumar Ray
147	The Voluntary Health, Education and Rural Development Society, 41 (Old No. 19), Circular Road, United India Colony, Kodambakkam Chennai-600 024, Tamil Nadu	Dr. K. Ganesan
148	Village Reconstruction Organization (VRO), Pedakakani –522509 Guntur Hyderabad,	Prof M.A. Windey

	Andhra Pradesh	
149	Working Women's Forum (India), 55 Bhimasena Garden Road, Mylapore, Chennai-600 004, Tamil Nadu	Ms. Sri Vidhya Rajagopalan
150	Youth For Action, 1-8-702/26/1, Behind Shankarmath, Padma Colony, Hyderabad - 500 044, Andhra Pradesh	Shri E. Venkat Ramnaya
151	Zila Saksharta Samiti, Saksharta Bhavan, Durg-491 001, Chhattisgarh	Shri D.N. Sharma

**B. Participants from the State Governments / UT Administrations**

Sl. No.	Name of the State and Participants
<b>ANDHRA PRADESH</b>	
1	Shri A.C. Pushpa Raj Minister of Social Welfare
2	Shri P. Srinivasa Reddy, Minister for Panchayat Rai & Rural Development
3	Shri S. Ray, Spl. Chief Secretary Panchayat Raj & Rural Development
4	Shri Jannath Hussain, Pr. Secretary Social Welfare
5	Dr. C.S. Rama Lakshmi, Commissioner, Women Empowerment
<b>ARUNACHAL PRADESH</b>	
6	Shri Takam Sanjoy Minister, IPR & LM
7	Shri T. Bagara Resident Commissioner
<b>ASSAM</b>	
8	Dr. Bhumidhar Burman, Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Panchayat & Rural Development
9	Shri Alok Perti, Pr. Secretary, Health
10	Shri J.S.L. Vasava, Commissioner & Secretary, WPT & BC Deptt.
11	Shri Harish Sonowal, Commissioner & Secretary, Social Welfare
<b>BIHAR</b>	
12	Shri Ram Chandra Purbe, Minister of Education



13	Shri D.P. Maheswari, Dev. Commissioner
<b>DELHI</b>	
14	Shri M. S. Saathi Finance Minister
15	Shri M.K. Mishra, Secretary (Social Welfare)
<b>GOA</b>	
16	Shri Ashok Kumar, Resident Commissioner
17	Shri A.K. Bhatnagar, Additional Resident Commissioner
<b>GUJARAT</b>	
18	Shri Haren Pandya, Minister of State for Revenue
19	Shri C.K. Koshy, Pr. Secretary, Gujarat
<b>HARYANA</b>	
20	Shri Om Prakash Chautala, Chief Minister
21	Shri B.D. Dhalia, Financial Commissioner & Secretary, Development of Panchayat,
<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b>	
22	Shri Harsh Gupta, Chief Secretary
23	Shri S.K. Sood, FC-cum-Secy (Planning & Finance)
24	Shri S.K. Dash, FC-cum-Secy (RD)
<b>JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR</b>	
25	Shri Khurshid A. Ganai, Resident Commissioner
<b>JHARKHAND</b>	
26	Shri Pradeep Yadav, Minister of Rural Development
27	Shri G. Krishnan, Development Commissioner
28	Shri A.N. Prasad, Addl. Resident Commissioner
<b>KARNATAKA</b>	
29	Shri A. Krishnappa Minister, Animal Husbandry
<b>KERALA</b>	
30	Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, Minister for Finance
31	Smt. Sudha Pillai, Pr. Secretary to Finance

32	Shri S.M. Vijayanand, Secretary, Planning & Economic Affairs Deptt.
<b>MANIPUR</b>	
33	Shri Francis Ngajokta Minister (Independent Charge) of Elections & GAD
34	Shri D. S. Poonia Pr. Secy to CM
35	Shri P. Sharat Chandra Resident Commissioner
<b>MEGHALAYA</b>	
36	Shri D. D. Lapang, Dy. Chief Minister
37	Shri P. J. Bazeley, Pr. Secretary (Planning)
38	Shri. A. K. Srivastava, Resident Commissioner
39	Shri A. K. Bhalla, Commissioner & Secretary (Planning)
<b>MIZORAM</b>	
40	Shri K. Lal Nghinglova, Resident Commissioner
41	Shri Ziley Singh, Adviser (Planning )
<b>ORISSA</b>	
42	Shri Ramakrishna Patnaik Minister of Finance
43	Shri Srinibas Rath Development Commissioner
<b>PONDICHERY</b>	
44	Shri. T.T. Joseph, Chief Secretary
45	Shri R.J. Jaiprakash, Secretary (Welfare)
46	Shri D.Balakrishnan, Director (Social Welfare)
<b>PUNJAB</b>	
47	Shri Lal Singh Finance Minister
48	Shri H. I. S. Grewal Spl. Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Dept. of Planning
<b>RAJASTHAN</b>	
49	Shri C.P. Joshi, Minister Panchayati Raj & Education
50	Shri A.Mukhopadhaya, Secretary (Planning)
51	Shri O.P. Behari, Addl. Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner
52	Shri Vimal Sharma, Assistant Resident Commissioner

<b>SIKKIM</b>	
53	Shri G.K. Subba, Pr. Secy-Cum-Dev. Commissioner, Planning & Development Department
54	Prof. Mahendra P. Lama, Economic Adviser to CM
55	Shri P.D. Rai, Chairman SIDICO/SABCCO
<b>TAMIL NADU</b>	
56	Smt. B. Valarmathi, Minister for Social Welfare
57	Smt. C.K. Gariyali, Secretary Social Welfare & NMP Deptt.
<b>UTTARANCHAL</b>	
58	Shri N.D. Tiwari Chief Minister
59	Sh. Surendra Singh Negi Minister of Rural Development
60	Sh. Amrendra Sinha Secretary (Planning)
61	Shri Sanjeev Chopra Secretary (RD & Hor)
62	Smt. P. Jyoti Rao Chief Investment Commissioner & Resident Commissioner
63	Dr. Smt. Rekha Pai, Officer on Special Duty, Office of the Resident Commissioner
<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b>	
64	Shri D.S. Mishra, Secretary (Medical Health)
65	Ms Johra Chatterjee, Secretary (Women Welfare)
66	Smt. Smita Kandpal, Adviser to Governor
67	Shri Majeed Ali, Secretary (Social Welfare)
68	Shri Satish Kumar, Secretary (Planning)
<b>WEST BENGAL</b>	
69	Dr. S. K. Mishra Minister-in-Charge, Health
<b>CHANDIGARH</b>	
70	Shri G.K. Marwah, Secretary Labour Chandigarh Administration
<b>LAKSHADWEEP</b>	
71	Shri K.S. Mehra, Administrator of Lakshadweep,

**C. From the Central Ministries / Departments**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name of the Department and Participants</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE &amp; COOPERATION</b>	
1	Dr. V.V. Sadamate, Addl. Commissioner (Extension)
2	Shri M.M. Joshi, Addl. Commissioner (RFS)
<b>DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH &amp; EDUCATION</b>	
3	Dr. P.Das, DDG (Extn.), ICAR
<b>DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING &amp; STATISTICS (ANIMAL WELFARE)</b>	
4	Smt. Veena Upadhyay, Jt. Secretary
<b>DEPARTMENT OF BIO-TECHNOLOGY</b>	
5	Dr. V.P. Gupta, Adviser
<b>DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE</b>	
6	Shri N. Gopaldaswamy, Secretary
7	Shri Vivek Rae, Jt. Secretary
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION</b>	
8	Shri S.K. Tripathi, Secretary
9	Shri Jagan Mathew, Jt. Secretary (Adult Education)
10	Shri C. Balakrishnan, Jt. Secretary (Planning)
<b>DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION</b>	
11	Prof. Ashoka Chandra, Spl. Secretary
<b>MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST</b>	
12	Mr. R. Chandramohan, Joint Secretary
13	Mr. Arvind Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Forests
<b>DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE</b>	
14	Dr. C.P. Thakur, Minister, Health & Family Welfare
15	Smt. Meenakshi Dutta Ghosh, Jt. Secretary
16	Ms. Shubhra Singh, Director (NGO Section)
<b>DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH</b>	
17	Dr.(Mrs.) Saroj Dhingra, Consultant (IEC), T.B. Division

<b>MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS</b>	
18	Shri Dev Swarup, Addl. Secretary (BM)
19	Shri Pravin Srivastava, Jt. Secretary (F)
<b>DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE &amp; HOMOEPATHY</b>	
21	Ms. Malti Sinha, Secretary
22	Shri Lakshmishwar Prasad, Jt. Secretary
23	Shri Raghbir Singh Rawat, CEO (M.P. Board)
<b>MINISTRY OF LABOUR</b>	
24	Shri Sharad Yadav, Minister, Labour
25	Shri Vinod Vaish, Secretary
26	Shri K. Chandramouli, Jt. Secretary
<b>MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY</b>	
27	Shri A.K. Mangotra, Jt. Secretary
<b>PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE</b>	
28	Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Addl. Secretary
29	Shri Anup Wadhawan, Director
<b>MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE &amp; EMPOWERMENT</b>	
30	Smt. Swapna Ray, Jt. Secy & Nodal Officer
31	Smt. Rajwant Sandhu, Jt. Secretary
32	Shri K. P. Balaguru, Addl PS MoSJE
33	Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya Minister, Social Justice & Empowerment
<b>DEPARTMENT OF SPACE</b>	
34	Shri K. S. Krishnan OSD
<b>DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES</b>	
35	Shri Shankar Aggarwal, Jt. Secretary
<b>MINISTRY OF TEXTILES</b>	
36	Smt. Tinoo Joshi, Dev. Comm. (Handicrafts)
37	Shri K. Rajendran Nair, Secretary & Development Comm. (Handlooms)
38	Shri Susheel Kumar, Addl. Development Commissioner

<b>MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS</b>	
39	Dr. R. M. Dubey, Director (NGO Section)
<b>DEPARTMENT OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	
40	Shri P.K. Pradhan, Jt. Secretary (UD)
41	Shri Suresh Chandra Sharma, Dy. Secretary
<b>DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT</b>	
42	Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan, Minister, State, Women & Child Development
43	Dr. R.V.V. Ayyar, Secretary
44	Shri P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti, Jt. Secretary (WD)
45	Shri S.P. Malik General Manager, Rashtriya Mahila Kosh
46	Shri Sunil Tated OSD
47	Shri A. K. Bhalla PS
<b>MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS &amp; SPORTS</b>	
48	Shri R. K. Mishra Joint Secretary
<b>CENTRAL SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD (CSWB)</b>	
49	Smt. Mridula Sinha, Chairperson 12, Tara Crescent Road, Institutional Area, New Delhi -110016
<b>NATIONAL INSTT.OF PUBLIC COOPERATION &amp; CHILD DEV. (NIPCCD)</b>	
50	Shri S.K. Muttoo Director, NIPCCD 5 Siri Institutional Area Hauz Khas, New Delhi -110016
51	Dr. A.K. Gopal, Addl. Director
52	Dr. Adarsh Sharma, Addl. Director
<b>RESEARCH &amp; INFORMATION SYSTEM (RIS)</b>	
53	Dr. Sachin Chaturvedi, Research Associate, RIS for the Non-Aligned & Other Developing Countries, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi -110003
<b>CAPART</b>	
54	Shri J.S. Gill, Director General
55	Shri S. Bagchee, Dy. Director General
56	Shri A.K. Angurana Dy. Director General
57	Shri K.V. Rao, Dy. Director
58	Shri Ranjeet Singh

	Chief Accounts Officer
59	Shri Jaswant, Junior Accounts Officer
60	Shri N.K. Gupta, Senior Accountant

#### D. From Planning Commission

Sl. No	Name of Participants
1.	Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hon'ble Prime Minister / Chairman, Planning Commission
2.	Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman
3.	Dr. D.N. Tewari, Member
4.	Dr. K. Venkatasubramanian, Member
5.	Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Member
6.	Shri S.S. Boparai, KC Secretary
7.	Shri P.K. Mohanty, Pr. Adviser
8.	Smt. Krishna Singh, Member Secretary, National Commission on Population
9.	Smt. Krishna Bhatnagar, Pr. Adviser
10.	Dr. Ahmed Masood, Adviser
11.	Smt. Rohini Nayyar, Adviser
12.	Dr. Prema Ramachandran, Adviser
13.	Smt. Firoza Mehrotra, Adviser
14.	Shri S.P. Sethi, Adviser
15.	Shri PSS Thomas, Adviser
16.	Dr.(Smt.) T.K. Sarojini, Adviser
17.	Dr. Ved Prakash, Adviser
18.	Shri S.S. Batra, Adviser
19.	Shri P.M. Rangasami, Adviser

20.	Shri Rajiv Jain, OSD to Dy. Chairman
21.	Shri Atul Chaturvedi, PS to Dy. Chairman
22.	Dr. S. C. Lahiry, Joint Adviser (CI)
23.	Shri Mahesh Chander, Joint Adviser (Irrigation)
24.	Shri S. K. Mahajan, Joint Adviser (PAMD)
25.	Shri L. P. Sonkar, Joint Adviser (Power)
26.	Shri P. K. Biswas, Joint Adviser (SR)
27.	Shri E. Rajagopalacharyulu, Joint Adviser (IIP)
28.	Shri S.G. Raoot, Joint Adviser (V&SI)
29.	Dr. H. Ramachandran, Dir (IAMR)
30.	Shri T.R. Meena, Dy. Secretary, Planning Commission
31.	Smt. Padmaja Mehta, Director
32.	Shri D. S. Miyan, Director
33.	Shri J.K. Chahal, Director
34.	Shri Harish Chandra, Director
35.	Shri Mohan Singh, Director
36.	Dr. Shefali Dash, Sr. Tech. Dir (NIC)
37.	Shri Albel Kachhap, Deputy Adviser (Education)
38.	Shri R.K. Gupta, Dy. Adviser (Plan Coordination)
39.	Smt. Indu Patnaik, Dy. Adviser (Multi-Level Planning)
40.	Dr. Lalit Kumar, Dy. Adviser (VAC & IDA)
41.	Shri B. Purushothaman, Deputy Adviser (Textiles)
42.	Dr. S. M. Sirajuddin, Dy. Adviser (PEO)
43.	Shri R. N. Sarangi, Dy. Adviser (PC)
44.	Brig. J. L. Koul, Honorary Consultant (VAC)



45.	Ms. Rumman Hameed Consultant (VAC)
46.	Shri A.K.Chanana, Addl. PS to Dy. Chairman
47.	Shri Vikram Kumar, Asstt. PS to Dy. Chairman
48.	Shri Roshan Lal Sahu, Research Officer (VAC & IDA)
49.	Mrs. Mini Malik, Scientist D NIC
50.	Shri Vinay Sankar, Sr. Consultant (PC)
51.	Shri Rangan Dutta, Ex-D.G. CAPART, Special Invitee