

(63)

Minutes of the meeting of Voluntary Organisations working in various Relief Camps at Port Blair, held at 6.15 p.m. on 18th January, 2005 in the chamber of the Director of Social Welfare

List of the participants is enclosed as Annexure -I.

At the outset, Shri C. U. Kumar, Director of Social Welfare welcomed all the representatives of Voluntary Organisations present in the meeting and said that they have done a commendable job at this crucial time. He has stated that the meeting has been convened to know the views of the Voluntary Organisations in the continued running of the Relief Camps.

Most of the Voluntary Organisations expressed their inability to continue to run the Relief Camps on the reason that there is shortage of firewood and they are unable to procure more LPG cylinder and gas stove.

They have also stated that the inmates of the Relief Camps are not cooperating with them in cooking the food items.

The representatives of the Voluntary Organisations demanded that the number of Relief Camps should be reduced to 4 or 5 by merging the Camps which have less number of inmates.

The representative of Art of Living which is running the Kitchen in Relief Camp at Govt. Rabindra Bangla Vidyalaya, Port Blair, has demanded that some kind of wages should be paid to the people who have been engaged by it for cooking the food items. They also complained that inmates are not cooperating with them in preparing the food.

The representative of Vol. Organisation working in Relief Camp, Dignabad has informed that about 228 persons are staying (only night stay) in the Dignabad Relief Camp and further stated that provisions for them are being supplied by the Administration. The Director of Social Welfare informed that the Relief Camp at Dignabad will be merged with the Relief Camp at Nirankari Ashram.

Dr Madhu Krishna of Island Sangathan Manch stated that his organization in association with Disaster Coordination Committee, an organization from mainland, is running three Relief Camps - two government Camps and one community camp- at Govt. Sr. Secondary School, Bhathubasthi, Govt. Demonstration Multipurpose School (Primary) at Middle Point and Relief Camp at Basketball Ground near Boys' School Hostel respectively. He has stated that no ration article has so far been accepted for the above schools from the A & N Administration. At this point, Shri RK Majhi, Superintendent (JH), who is the Incharge of supply of ration articles to various Relief Camps, said that ration articles have been provided to GDMS (Pry) and Govt. SSS