

Second Conference of District Collectors

Proceedings

6-7 September 2013

Vigyan Bhawan Annexe

New Delhi

Second Conference of District Collectors

6-7 September, 2013

The Second Conference of District Collectors was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Dr.Kavuru Sambasiva Rao on 6th September, 2013.

2. The Secretary, Department of (AR&PG and Pensions), Shri Sanjay Kothari welcomed the participants. In his welcome address, he stated that the Office of the District Collector is one of the most powerful institutions in the world and urged the Collectors to highlight their experience particularly in respect of implementing the Central Sector Schemes.

3. In his inaugural address Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Kavuru Sambasiva Rao stated that the District Collectors are agents of development as well as social change. He emphasised on ethics and skill development and innovation towards convergence of schemes.

4. Hon'ble MoS (PMO & PP) in his address highlighted the importance of field work and leadership. He also highlighted the importance of redressing the grievances of people in a time bound manner. Technological advances are only a supplement to what the District Collector has to achieve through monitoring of the process of implementation of programmes at ground level. He stressed that the District Collectors should be innovative in simplifying the procedures. He assured that the Government of India would protect the honest officers to avoid their victimisation.

5. Vote of thanks on the occasion of the inaugural session was proposed by the Additional Secretary (AR&PG), Shri Arun Jha.

6. The inaugural session was followed by three technical sessions on Rural Development, Education and Urban Development, where District Collectors made presentations on various initiatives taken in their districts. The sessions were attended by Secretary, Planning Commission; Secretary, Rural Development; Secretary, Urban Development; Additional Secretary, Ministry of HRD; and Senior

Officers of other concerned departments. Presentations were followed by discussions/interactions. A gist of the presentations and the interactions follows.

Technical Session –I

Rural Development

7. Rural Development Experiences in Koraput District, Orissa – Shri Sachin R. Jadhav, District Magistrate and Collector, Koraput

- i. There is need to design schemes to be livelihood oriented, not just infrastructure development or service delivery related.
- ii. There has been very little expenditure in respect of untied funds where actually there is lot of scope for innovation.
- iii. The initiative taken focussed on sustainable livelihood and sanitation. Through Self Help Groups able to develop profit generating micro-enterprises in Niger oil extraction, fly ash brick manufacture, etc.

7.1. Interaction:

- i. **Secretary (Rural Development)** felt that the District Collectors should proactively develop a shelf of projects both on public land and private land. In respect of upcoming infrastructure projects, District Collectors should try to establish linkages with the local people creating a stake for them in the project by utilising the CSR or other funds so that there are no local impediments.
- ii. **Joint Secretary (Rural Development)** opined that (i) the District Collectors as District Programme Coordinators have to look into the quality of the assets under MGNREGS. Sustainability of assets depends on the selection of works; (ii) efforts should be made to reduce the delay in payments of wages; (iii) simple technologies are to be implemented for improving the processes for curtailment of delay.
- iii. **Secretary (Rural Development)** informed that the Ministry has rolled out e-FMS in many states. In the NREGA software, if any additional reports/forms are required, proposals can be sent through respective State Governments. He also desired that the lag in data entry be curtailed.
- iv. **Secretary (Panchayati Raj)** informed that under BGRF, there are some untied funds which can be utilised by making plans at the village level.

8. Views, Comments and Opinions on Sanitation – Shri Pravin Bakshi, District Collector, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya

- i. The initiative for implementation of community-led total sanitation in the District required innovative ways to involve the local population, especially women, at all levels and enabled the District achieve 216 Nirman Gram Samman awards in 2011.

8.1 Interaction:

- i. To a query from **Joint Secretary (S&A)** regarding convergence of MGNREGS and Nirman Bharat Abhiyan, Shri Bakshi informed that there has been inconsistency in flow of funds from both schemes.
- ii. **Secretary (AR&PG)** requested Secretary (RD) and JS (M/o Drinking Water & Sanitation) to look into the problems flagged in respect of convergence of MGNREGS and NBA funds.
- iii. Secretary (RD) opined that it would have been better if the funds were converged at one or two levels higher and the combined funds flowed in to the district.

9. Land Acquisition & Rehabilitation in Airport and Power Projects – Shri R. Vishal, District Collector Chickballapur, Karnataka

- i. Successful rehabilitation packages were executed while implementing the Airport Project and Gulbarga Power Project.
- ii. Two issues which were highlighted in the packages were best compensation and provision of job to the families of displaced populations.

10. Suo motu Pahani (Land Records) Correction and Khatha Drive, Pandavapura Sub Division, Mandya District, Karnataka – Dr. P.C. Jaffer, District Collector, Bidar

- i. Initiative taken for correction of mistakes in land records implemented on a suo motu basis.

10.1 Interaction:

(a) Secretary (RD) highlighted the following points:

- (i) Giving legal sanction to computerised records and discarding of hand written records is necessary for the success of computerisation of land records project.
- (ii) Placing the records on website increases accuracy significantly.
- (iii) Ideal thing would be to have a national database.
- (iv) The long term perspective is to have title document which can be transacted as a commodity.

(b) Secretary (AR&PG) urged the collectors to give importance to computerisation of land records. He requested all the participating collectors to fill up the feedback forms in respect of the institution of District Collector on which a study is being commissioned.

Technical Session –II

Education

11. (Aadhar: An initiative towards excellence in Elementary Education)- Presented by Shri Surender Singh District Collector Muzaffarnagar UP.

- i. In spite of lot of infrastructure development and funds, efforts in education is not giving quality results.
- ii. Reasons for poor results are irregularity of teachers' attendance, no monitoring system, corruption. It was surprising to see a parallel BSA Office was running in the District. Teachers were paying bribe to even get suspended because for them suspension was not a penalty. After suspension from school, they were happy to be placed in other private activities.
- iii. Planned strategy for improving quality education initiated alongwith fair posting of teachers Started Medhavi Chhatra Khoj Pratiyogita, which gave tremendous improvement in the quality education.
- iv. Honouring good teachers, who motivated children to come to the school and increasing attendance in the school.
- v. Focus on interactive session with teachers, parents, local bodies and other stakeholders and within a year enrollment of students increased by 60% to 85% at different levels. Also about 8000 students shifted from private schools to government schools because of the quality improvement in Government Schools.
- vi. 'Medhavi Chhatra' was selected from all communities (OBCs, SCs, STs, Minority) to motivate them for study.

11.1 Interaction :

- i. Shri P.K. Tiwari, JS, ARPG enquired to know as to the steps that were taken during the DM's tenure of 1-1/2 years only to make a sea change in a quality of education of the District. DM informed that, as an administrator he had approached the teachers and other stakeholders and motivated them; by encouraging those, who were good in their work. Secondly, he gave them protection from problem creators, He took strict action against the 'Gunda' elements from the teachers community.
- ii. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, AS, M/o HRD appreciated the effort of DM and said that this was a good example of fundamental shift from quantity of education to quality of education and emphasised implement such models in other Districts.
- iii. Shri Arun Jha, AS, ARPG stated that nowadays people of even lower economic strata are looking for quality education. However, the big question is

- of sustainability and continuity of keeping quality education on priority even after change of officers concerned (in the instant case the District Collector).
- iv. District Collector from Bihar stated that language of communication between teacher and student in the class room should be in a manner that the students are able to connect with the teachers. For that teachers should be given training even in local dialect.
 - v. Ms. Shalini Rajneesh, Pr. Secretary (AR), Government of Karnataka emphasized on evaluation by Government of India. AS, HRD assured to write to the State Government.
 - vi. Shri Sanjay Kothari, Secretary (AR&PG) summing up the interaction session stated that Muzaffarnagar Model can be replicated in other districts and appealed that the DCs present to take such initiatives.

**12. Mu Bi Padhibi - Presented by Shri Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, DC
Mayurbhanj, Odisha :**

- i. **Mu Bi Padhibi** means I Will Study. More than 50% population is tribal. Most of the children, particularly girl child, were not coming to school.
- ii. State identified them and motivate them for enrolment.
- iii. Review of drop out cases was also done.
- iv. Parents & local communities were pursued to send their child back to school.
- v. Socio-economic data at village/block levels were collected.
- vi. Publicity by mass media campaign for increasing enrolment was also done.
- vii. Results started coming after that.
- viii. About 2800 children, who had never gone to school got enrolled at various levels.
- ix. Retention strategy through talks with stakeholders by organizing special child friendly activities like story telling etc. and parent interaction was initiated.
- x. DC, personally started taking meeting with headmasters at frequent intervals and also ordered them for tracking attendance.

12.1 Interaction :

- i. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, AS, M/o HRD stated that enrolment of children is a big problem particularly in the states having tribal areas. Government of India through RTE (Right to Education) has initiated policies for bringing more and more children to the school. Onus of implementing RTE is basically on State Government particularly in the state where majority of the people are from tribal community. She further informed that Government of India is taking all necessary steps to compensate State Government by transferring funds from various schemes. One of the states to have taken advantage is Karnataka.

- ii. One of the points raised was about the neighbourhood school within the radius of one kilometre and it is so regulated that the child should come to neighbouring school only. Ms. Vrinda Sarup, AS, M/o HRD stated that in a democratic country like ours, we cannot deny the choice of affordability. We cannot bar anybody sending their child to better/best private school. RTE only says child of a particular age must enrol.

13. Universal Provision of Public Services in Mandwal Block – Presented by Shri Kiran Gitte, DM & Collector, West Tripura :

- i. DM and Collector gave example of giving services to the people of a small block of a district. Emphasis is on lifecycle approach at various stages (Marriage Recording, Mother & Child Health, Quality Education, Income generation for livelihood and financial inclusion).
- ii. Each family is facilitated with a seven digit ID alongwith ID being assigned to each of the members of the family.
- iii. Through ID marriage registration, mother-child tracking system introduced.
- iv. e-Janani Programme is introduced, whereby identified expecting mother were brought to health sub-centre and Aanganwadi Centre, which are interlinked with the result out of about 1500 delivery there was no death of mother or child.
- v. Akshar Tejas Project launched whereby letter based learning of each child was ensured, leading to quality education.
- vi. Thereafter, income generation by focussing on harnessing natural resources like bamboo, tea plantation, sericulture.
- vii. Income generation resulted into financial upgradation of people of Mandwai Block. Now out of total 13740 rural house force, 12096 are having bank accounts.

13.1 Interaction :

Due to paucity of time interaction could not take place. Smt. Sindhushree Khullar, Secretary, Planning Commission asked DC to send his Presentation to the Planning Commission.

14. Implementation of Flagship CSS Programmes in Jhajjar – Presented by Shri Ajit Balaji Joshi, DC, Jhajjar, Haryana –

- i. Mera Gao Meri Bagia. In urban and metro cities, we have huge amusement parks, water parks etc. but in rural areas children have no such parks for amusement, hence, this concept emerged.
- ii. Parks for different categories of the people like children, senior citizens etc. Were provided.

- iii. Funds from MNREGA/Gram Panchayat and from State Government were used.
- iv. Prayas were made by Shramdan of local people.
- v. Emphasized on financial tracking of budget allocation of various government schemes like NRHM, SSA etc.
- vi. DC expressed concern on time consuming process of monitoring of funds. Had to depend upon local account officer, which are difficult to handle.
- vii. He suggested system of integrated monitoring system/Aadhar based data tracking system by using technology.

14.1 Interaction :

Due to paucity of time interaction could not take place.

- 15. This was followed by presentation by Planning Commission on the revised Format of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in 12th Five Year Plan – by Smt Sindhushree Khullar, Secretary (Planning Commission) and Shri Rakesh Ranjan, Advisor (Planning Commission). It was informed that
 - i. A number of flexibilities have been incorporated in the revised guidelines for implementation of Plan schemes.
 - ii. From 2013-14, 137 schemes + ACA based schemes have been mapped into 66 umbrella schemes including 17 flagship schemes. Under the revised scheme, funds will go from Ministries to the State Government directly.
 - iii. Flexibility to introduce state specific guidelines have been included.

15.1 Interaction:

- i. The participating District Collectors raised the following concerns in respect of implementation of schemes.
- ii. Integrated planning is a problem for small states, therefore, hand-holding is required.
- iii. District Collectors though are the main implementing agency but face huge human resource crunch. A team of professionals is necessary to assist them in management of the implementation of the various schemes.
- iv. There is no common platform to see details and status of all the flagship schemes.
- v. More flexibility is to be built in into the District Innovation Fund.
- vi. There is lot of emphasis on expenditure and not on qualitative development of assets.
- vii. There is acute problem for land for development of any infrastructure. Scheme guidelines recommend free land. But free land available may not be convenient or in secure areas. There should be provision to purchase land if necessary and thus accordingly reflected in the Schemes.

- viii. Secretary (AR&PG) on behalf of the District Collectors urged the Secretary (Planning Commission) to (i) consider reducing number of statements in respect of monitoring of schemes; (ii) providing some flexibility in recruiting necessary human resources.
- ix. Secretary (Planning Commission) agreed to rationalise the information being sought from the States.

Technical Session –III

Urban Development

16. Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green House Scheme- Dr. M. Karunakaran, DM, Coimbatore

Presentation was made on the schemes implemented in the district.

17. Drinking Water Supply – Ms. Jayashree Muraleedharan, DM, Thiruchirapalli,

- i. Measures taken by the District Administration to improve availability of drinking water in the district in times of drought through rejuvenation of community wells, defunct bore wells, etc. was presented.

17.1 Interaction:

- i. Secretary (UD) appreciated the initiatives taken at Thiruchirapalli for rejuvenation of water bodies. He also highlighted the need to rejuvenate urban water bodies, recycling of waste water, city drainage plans on micro-watershed basis and creation of a chain of water bodies. He spoke about the concept of zero land fill. DM (Trichy) was asked to get in touch with Secretary (UD) in respect of the initiatives for its replication elsewhere.

18. Computerization of land records undertaken in District South West Delhi- Shri Vikas Anand, Secretary, NDMC and Shri Krishna Mohan Uppu, DC (Revenue)

- i. Objective and purpose is to provide a single window system
- ii. This was initiated in 2002. But could not take off because of certain problems in rules. Any change in maintenance of land revenue records depends upon change in rules.
- iii. Another problem is updation of land records. Updation needs to be carried out immediately.

18.1 Interactions:

- i. Secretary (AR & PG) emphasized that the role of Patwari needs to be re-examined. The whole process of digitization of land records will fail in case integrated system is not developed both for registration as well as mutation.

He recommended Gujarat/ Karnataka model in this regard. He mentioned that District Collectors should visit personally the places where such models are being implemented successfully.

.....

Technical Session –IV

Disaster Management

19. Approach to Disaster Management : The Nilgiris – Tmt. Archana Patnail, DC, Ooty, Tamilnadu:- Highlights of the Presentation were as under:

- i. There is no separate funding for the disaster management.
- ii. There is need to enable field level functionaries.
- iii. In order to strengthen disaster management, there is need to involve local bodies and NGOs –for example students and volunteers from Nehru Yuva Kendra.
- iv. There is a need to strengthen and developing simple warning systems through means of communications
- v. Better coordination and with Armed forces in view of disaster management.

19.1 Interactions:

- i. Ms Gauri Kumar, Secretary, Border Management, MHA stated that besides institutional structure, one has to create Disaster Communication Network. This has to be created before a disaster strikes as a mission-mode project. For Resource Network, one must focus on regular updation of contact details. Emphasised on introduction of systems even before disaster struck.
- ii. Mr. Sidharth (DC, Assam) informed that annual floods in Assam is a regular feature. All the stake holders consisting of Departments of Central Government, State Government, armed forces, para-military forces, volunteers and local bodies are the members of quick response team. They are accessible round the clock. They have a disaster management Plan and Central and State funds are given regularly for disaster risk reduction activities. As floods occur on an expected time, early warning system is activated. The media is also involved in early warning system.
- iii. Secretary, Border Management: emphasised on keeping updated communication resource data like e-mails, websites, mobile phones so that in the case of emergency or disaster, the authorities and victims can be accessed via calls/SMS, etc. Resource directory should be maintained, maps should be kept on web, help of ISRO can be availed in communication and maintaining the resource directories. Three tier disaster management plans i.e. National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), State Disaster Management

Plan (SDMP) and District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) have been prescribed. Secretary AR&PG endorsed her views and added that in a country having 120 crore population, messages can be communicated via SMS within a few moments as 70 crore of the peoples have mobile phones. He suggested that basic instrument like mikes or alarms should be checked to be in working condition at all times.

- iv. District Collector (Poudi, Uttarakhand)- briefed the participants about the recent calamity (called the Himalayan tsunami) which came in the northern part of Uttarakhand, mainly in the districts of Pithoragarh, Rudraprayag, Kedarnath. He added that the main focus was to rescue the pilgrims who were stranded in various pilgrim places. He emphasised on the relief works to be extended to the people and the districts/ places through they are being carried. The requirements of food, water clothes, medicines, are to be kept in mind. Having anticipated this problem, Government of Uttarakhand had granted an amount of Rs. 25 lakh to each adjoining district. DC also emphasised that livelihood issues of people engaged in trades relating to service to pilgrims and tourists should be focused. Secretary, Border Management informed that a number of discussions have been held in Planning Commission for re-construction efforts in Uttarakhand. A package is also being prepared for rehabilitation of victims. DC, Poudi shared how the use of mobile connectivity of missing persons helped in locating them.
- v. DC Barpeta Assam and DM Muzaffarnagar UP mentioned the issues of the incidence of falling of children in a recently bored borewell or a single person falling in the streams and they wanted to know whether NDRF/NDMA should be approached for such rescue operations. Shri Krishna Choudhary (DGP, NDRF) informed that in this type of disasters, NDRF should not be called for as disaster preparedness of NDRF/NDMA is for Level Three disasters only. However, Army does have suitable infrastructure and expertise for these operations.
- vi. Shri Rajiv Sharma, Additional Secretary (Naxal Management) gave detailed introduction of the activities and preparations of NDMA. He underlined the importance of mock drills and rehearsals for recognising the short-comings in our preparations for any disaster. He also referred to the information uploaded on the official website of MHA/NDRF. He informed that the contact numbers of Battalion Commandants area wise of responsibility has also been circulated who can be contacted in case of impending disaster.

Technical Session –V

Law & Order

20. Presentation - South Garo Hills District Baghmara, Meghalaya: Shri Chinmay Pundlikrao Gotmare, Dy. Commissioner

- i. The place has coal reserves in Nongalbibra and Jai area whereas Siju and surrounding area has limestone caves. Also, a spectacular tourist destination, Siju has a “Bat Sanctuary”, probably the only one of its kind in India.
- ii. It is a major producer of cashew nut, Areca nut and jackfruit. Areca nut and cashew nut processing unit have been constructed at Gasuapara Block. Under BRGF, funds have been earmarked for setting-up a jackfruit processing unit at Baghmara.
- iii. Tourist destinations such as Balpakram National Park, Siju Caves and others need promotion.
- iv. The presentation brought out unorganized, hazardous and unscientific coal mining practices in the district which also involved child labour. It was also informed that the traditional rights of mining has been converted into large scale exploitation. Regularization of mines is the only solution to this.
- v. A workshop on “Mine Safety” needs to be organized for educating the mine owners and operators. The District Administration already tried for this, but the Directorate of Mine Safety cited inability due to personnel shortage. Matter has been referred to Central Govt.
- vi. It was also pointed out that remoteness and difficult terrain led to increase in the cost of things exponentially.

20.1 Interactions

- i. Secretary (WCD): Mining being the only source of livelihood of the locals, a balance between mine safety and livelihood is required. She emphasized that all important institutions are in place. DCs are in-charge and custodian of child-rights. Focus should also be on rehabilitation of children rescued from child labour. Funds can be asked from the Centre to run rehabilitation homes. It was desired ICPC should be used very effectively.
- ii. It was suggested that skill upgradation of available manpower may be done under MNREGA. These trained men can then be picked for useful services.
- iii. Secretary (ARPG) informed the participants that support will be available to save child labour. DCs only have to ask for support.

21. Presentation: SARANDA Development Plan-Shri K. Srinivasan, Director, Information technology, Jharkhand

- i. It is the most dangerous internal security threat India has ever faced-180 districts across 9 States. It has assumed a shape beyond a normal law and order problem. It forms vicious cycle of poverty, unawareness, exploitation, insecurity, poor development, corruption, backwardness and conflicts among various classes of society.
- ii. There is lack of proper coordination between security operation and developmental approaches. There is a general negligence of area both in terms of personnel as well as infrastructure.
- iii. The problem may be solved through active participation in implementation of developmental schemes in a secured and safe atmosphere and by delivering the positive result in the shorter period.
- iv. The strategy of CLEAR, HOLD and OWN (CHO) was implemented in Saranda which is a highly critical naxal corridor in Jharkhand.
- v. Security of stakeholders is obviously the major priority since abduction of senior officials has been a long time strategy for the naxals.
- vi. A model plan worth Rs. 240 crore has been approved by MoRD. These plans are supposed to have a Planning and monitoring Committee with the help of Panchayat representatives, traditional village heads, social activists, educated youths, etc. Plan is implemented through the PPPP(political will, protection, progress, public will)

21.1 Interaction

- i. AS (Home) Naxal Management stated that : Naxalism can be tackled by a two pronged strategy – development and force. We need to have a force which should not confine to a certain area but can also intervene in other district/ States to contain naxalism (such as Grey Hounds in AP). As regards, funding, Instead of giving money to district as a whole, it should be distributed to all identified blocks evenly.
- ii. Secretary (WCD) : One has to look after the functioning of Aanganwadi in the area. Local people should be involved for which relaxation in educational qualification can be given. Further, malnutrition of women and children, especially pregnant women, is a new category added for states for leveraging extra allocation as provision of sufficient food is given in Food Security Bill.
- iii. AS (DARPG): From perspective of administrative reforms, greater transparency and accountability should be accorded to public service delivery in the naxal affected area. This may bridge the gap between government and people. One has to go incrementally in reforming the local administration in making it corruption free. Setting up Eklavya Vidyalayas in each block in these districts should be considered. Posting of Government officials is

another issue which needs to be addressed. A system of incentives for posting in such areas can be thought of.

- iv. JS (Social Justice): Developmental issues like supply of electricity and distribution of utensils to such areas make a lot of difference.

22. Presentation Mamta's story- Maternal Health, Social Welfare & PDS, Ms. Arati Dogra, DC, Bikaner

- i. There has been high mortality rate because of highest child marriages, dominant feudal system and inadequate control over resource for women. It is somehow difficult to control the maternal death because of such impeding issues.
- ii. Implementation of SQRS (Small Query Reporting System) that tracks medical activities besides online reporting through SMSes.
- iii. Astha Project objectives include tracking of high risk pregnancy and therefore taking necessary precaution.

22.1 Interactions

Secretary (WCD): Wanted to know if tracking is being done for extra-ration for mothers and child? She suggested that the matter of child ration can be looked through Aanganwadi and tracking system for incentives available for pregnancy period.

23. Presentation : Innovation in areas of health, nutrition and sanitation – Ms. S. Ministhy, DC, Barabanki

- i. Barabanki has very low MMR and IMR, low community awareness and rampant malnutrition. The focus of her presentation was on efforts of district administration on improving MMR/IMR Some of the innovative projects taken up in the district were 'Mutti Bhar Anaj Abhiyan' where families contribute a fistful of food for community purposes, public weighing of pregnant women and children registered in Anganwadis, to create awareness, tracking increasing weight, haemoglobin levels and safe delivery.
- ii. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan -Total Sanitation Campaign for reducing open defecation – It focuses on women and dignity issues through hard hitting nukkad nataks, public oath ceremonies, involvement of school children, etc.
- iii. Promotion of menstrual hygiene under NBA - Barabanki is the second district in UP to take up this unique project. To establish production unit for sanitary napkins, a training was imparted on 26.06.2013 in DSC meeting. Setting up the unit, to be established at Panchayat Udyog Masauli, is underway. Local

women are being trained as workers in the unit. These low cost but high quality sanitary napkins will be made available in rural areas and specifically in Kasturba Girls residential schools, social welfare deptt. government hostels, rural PHCs and CHCs.

23.1 Interactions

Secretary (WCD): informed that the promotion of menstrual hygiene under NBA may be used for scheme SABLA.

24. Presentation: Unique Empowerment Project for Persons with Disabilities(PwDs)''- Shri J. G. Hingrajia, Collector PATAN & presently, Collector Banaskantha

- i. A new methodology was adopted to reach out to and help the most vulnerable– the “Persons with Disabilities”. Different schemes provided by the State/Central Governments were made available to them through this method without any hurdles.
- ii. Earlier there was no platform for the persons with disabilities of Patan district, which covers large remote rural areas, socially and economically backward persons to provide help through those schemes. Even NGOs struggle to reach them.
- iii. Seven camps were organized in the districts where all stakeholders including village sarpanches, aanganwadi and health workers, patwaries, etc. participated.
- iv. The presentation highlighted various activities held in the camps and initiatives in the district on the subject where the PWD were asp given appliances /instruments do overcome their disabilities.

24.1 Interactions

- i. JS (Social Justice) : DCs have to be aware of the various schemes run by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. These schemes include pre and post matric scholarships for students (OBCs, SCs and STs). To protect the senior citizens, the Government has brought the Protection for Senior Citizens Rights Act. DCs can also set up Old age Home in their districts and for that funds may be asked from the Ministry. Likewise, de-addiction camps may be initiated in the districts to overcome the drug Menace.
- ii. DDG, Narcotics: Funds may be asked from the Centre for the rehabilitation camps in the districts.
- iii. AS (Home): In view of recent incidents of violence and crime against women and children there is need to sensitise the society at large were asked to be sensitive to the acid attacks, sexual harassment at work place, sexual

harassment of young girls and boys. Apart from police personnel even the society at large are required to be sensitised One has to adopt a serious attitude towards women atrocities and find out ways of abetting them.

Technical Session –VI

25. Open Forum

- i. The matter of relaxation in physical attributes and educational qualification while recruiting the local people in police forces in LWE areas was raised. The Union Home Secretary, Mr. Anil Goswami observed that some concession has already been made in this regard for tribals in such areas but it is up to a point and in case of educational qualification, relaxation would be very difficult. He also asked DC to check through his colleagues posted there whether such concession had met the objective behind the move lest a fresh look would be needed regarding the same.
- ii. Utilisation of Integrated Action Plan (IAP) funds in LWE affected areas and involvement of MPs and MLAs was also flagged by DC, Koraput, Odisha. Secretary felt that issues of affecting LWE area comprising 82 districts of the country is to be tackled through proper planning and good governance, and not just through policing only.
- iii. The issue of Anganwadi - problems faced by *karyakartas* in Rajasthan villages and involvement of social groups in such schemes was raised. Secretary (WCD) told them to pick up restructured ICDS norms and emulate the model of southern States where children at Aanganwadis are given early education through toys. Ministry of WCD is going to Cabinet with a Cabinet note where it would be made mandatory across the country, that Early Childhood Education Act would have a syllabus. The states are being sensitised about the same.
- iv. The issue of compensation to Meghalaya people who live on the Indo-Bangla border where fencing is being done was flagged. The Secretary said that the Central Government can not directly interfere in the acquisition matters. They have to accept the assessment made by the Hill Council which is the executing agency.
- v. The issue of security of SDMs was also raised.
- vi. The matter of drug menace of Punjab and Tripura was also flagged. The Secretary informed necessary action can be taken after receipt of proposal from and Government of Punjab are not ready to admit that this is a problem.

It is such a lucrative business and profits are so high that prohibition is not successful anywhere. Efforts are still on to stop the menace. The issue of use of beacon lights and flags in Karnataka was also discussed.

26. Valedictory Session

- i. Secretary (AR&PG) welcomed the Cabinet Secretary and briefly referred to the first DC Conference held in January, 2013. He also gave an overview of session-wise proceedings of the present conference.
- ii. The Cabinet Secretary was informed that focus of MOS address was redressal of public grievances, conversions of programmes, shortage of manpower and priority of livelihood issues over all other issues.
- iii. Land Acquisition Act and the example of Karnataka in maintaining good land records came up for discussion.
- iv. On disaster management, the experience of DC from Uttrakhand on flash flood disaster and the use of mobile technology in relief and rehabilitation was also discussed.
- v. In the session for Law & Order, Left Wing Extremism was extensively discussed. Some of the important points coming out of discussions were (a) tenure of Collector, SP and DFO should be fixed for two years, (b) local recruitment should be done in LWE districts, (c) relaxation of qualification for employment in para-military forces and other such avenues, (d) Maternal and child tracking systems should be used extensively.
- vi. Under the centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in districts one major concern that came up was lack of skilled and professional manpower at DC level. There is a flexibility available under these schemes for use of 10% of allocated funds as per the specific requirement of districts. It was suggested that the centrally sponsored schemes should allow some more staff and a CSS monitoring committee could be constituted under the District Collector.
- vii. Cabinet Secretary mentioned that professionals are required to be involved in monitoring of these schemes.
- viii. Cabinet Secretary underscored the need to understand temperament of staff members working under DCs. He further stressed need for use of imaginative thinking for addressing adverse situations. Power of quick adaptation would help the young officers in hostile environments to perform better.
- ix. Cabinet Secretary exhorted the DCs to go beyond the usual traditional ways of doing things and asked them to do more than what Government manuals/orders asked. He asked them to be innovative and technology savvy to break the usual inefficient public delivery systems.