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Date.07/08/2015

Sub: Request for support for registration and capacity building on norms and procedures on cooperative bodies to Board of Directors of Sanghas (Gram Panchayat level women SHG federation).

Dear *Sw,*

As you may already be aware, the West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (WBSRLM) is facilitating the formation and strengthening of institutions of poor women in rural areas under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). As a part of this process, SHGs formed by organising poor rural women are being federated at the Gram Sansad Level (as Upa-Sangha) and at Gram Panchayat level (as Sangha).

You would be happy to learn that after careful consideration of all legal aspects and the requirements and needs of such a federated body, it was decided that all Sanghas will be registered under the West Bengal Cooperative Societies Act. Consequently, we have already sent the draft Bye-law for Sanghas for vetting by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies and are awaiting approval of the same. In all, 3347 Sanghas will be registered as cooperative societies in the state. In the meantime, some Sanghas in Purulia and Purba Medinipur districts have already been registered under the Act. Other districts have also been advised to follow in their footsteps. However, we understand that for these Sanghas to function as envisioned, their capacity will have to be built accordingly as well since registration itself will not serve any purpose.


It is imperative that WBSRLM will need all the support it can get from the officers and institutions under the Cooperation Department not only for registration of these bodies but also for training and capacity building initiatives that have to be undertaken.

Accordingly, I would like to seek your kind indulgence and request you to kindly help us in our endeavour by kindly instructing the District officials to help us with the registration process and the personnel of the District Cooperative Unions to assist us in our capacity building efforts by collaborating with us. An instruction from your end to the concerned officials at the district level will definitely give this initiative the push it needs to expedite the same. For better coordination, I would like to request you to kindly nominate an officer at the state level with whom WBSRLM can be in touch for ensuring the process is rolled out smoothly and quickly.

On my part, I would send necessary instructions to the Project Directors of DRDCs to contact the concerned officers of your department at the district level for taking up the work at hand in right earnest. Cost of training will be borne by WBSRLM following approved norms.

Thanking you in anticipation,

with warmest regards,


(Choten D Lama) 7/8/15.

Shri Sumanta Chaudhury, IAS
Principal Secretary
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New Secretariat Building, Kolkata

