

0213. 6th Progress Report on the Extensions (Dec 1994)

Icco Project No: 923333; A recording and critical reflection on Government benefits obtained by Coolie families through their CSUs in the 4 Extension taluks/Areas

THE STOCK TAKING EXERCISE

During the first 10 days of December 1994, all the CSUs in the erstwhile Icco supported extension programme Areas of Chickballapur, Chintamani, Siddalaghatta and Julapalya made an exhaustive study of Government benefits received by their members through the direct efforts of their respective CSUs during the past 3 years. Great care was taken to ensure that all and every benefit received by member coolies (through their individual efforts) were not included in this stock taking exercise. Only those benefits which accrued to member families through the direct efforts of their CSUs were recorded. It was also ensured that only benefits accrued during the past 3 years (i.e. after the earlier stock taking exercise was completed) were recorded. One of the means by which accuracy was ensured was by checking whether the efforts and struggle to get them were recorded in the CSU Minutes Books *at the time of getting the benefits*.

In this study we have also compiled a list of common (as opposed to individual) Government benefits that reached villages with CSUs in each of the 4 Icco supported Areas. The reason for this was to check the conclusions we were drawing and validate the same. By looking at the Government inputs that reached the entire village as a whole, we felt we could compare the efforts of the organised coolies bargaining through their CSUs with items which were, quite often, NOT THE RESULT of CSU pressure ALONE.

The conclusion we draw from this study is that good strategies and the bargaining capacity of a population couple with political opportunities in order to result in greater developmental investments. In the coming weeks and months, this Note, along with the Cluster wise data found from page 6 onward, will be discussed in all the CSU and Mahila Meetings so that the coolies can better their strategies in the next 3 years.

INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS OBTAINED BY MEMBER COOLIE FAMILIES

1,894 families (58% of a total of 3,285 member coolie families) received various benefits totalling to Rs 8,541,005. On an average each was benefited with Rs 4,501. But the Per Capita benefit (Total Benefit / Total Membership) was only Rs 2,600. They got included 300 free houses under the *Ashraya* scheme, 479 free electricity connections for their homes under the *Bhagyajothi* scheme, 315 animal husbandry loans, 27 loans under from the SC/ST Corporation, 505 social welfare scholarships and 116 house sites. 152 member coolies got temporary title deeds or *Saguvali Chittis* for 342 acres of land they were tilling.

Area wise Resume of Families who got Government Benefits through their CSUs

| | Chickballapur | Chintamani | Siddalaghata | Julapalya | Total |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Ashraya Houses | 95 Rs 1,425,000 | 50 Rs 750,000 | 61 Rs 915,000 | 94 Rs 1,410,000 | 300 Rs 4,500,000 |
| Bhagyajothi | 181 Rs 81,450 | 88 Rs 39,600 | 110 Rs 49,500 | 100 Rs 45,000 | 479 Rs 215,550 |
| Animal Husbandry Loans | 161 Rs 1,140,700 | 15 Rs 84,000 | 43 Rs 288,500 | 96 Rs 288,000 | 315 Rs 1,801,200 |
| SC/ST Corporation Loans | 3 Rs 125,000 | | | 24 Rs 600,000 | 27 Rs 725,000 |
| Social Welfare Scholarships | | 166 Rs 482,000 | 271 Rs 514,225 | 68 Rs 129,030 | 505 Rs 1,125,255 |
| House Sites | 31 Rs 46,500 | 56 Rs 84,000 | 29 Rs 43,500 | | 116 Rs 174,000 |
| Saguvali Chittis | 20 40 acres | 46 107 acres | 52 132 acres | 34 63 acres | 152 342 acres |
| Total | 491 Rs 2,818,650 | 421 Rs 1,439,600 | 566 Rs 1,810,725 | 416 Rs 2,472,030 | 1,894 Rs 8,541,005 |

INTERPRETING THESE FIGURES

A slightly more detailed look at these figures reveals, however, that not all the Areas have been equally successful in mobilising Government benefits for their members.

- Julapalya presents a picture all by itself with an astounding 69% of the membership benefiting an average of Rs 5,942. The Per Capita benefit obtained in Julapalya thereby shot up to Rs 4,106.
- Only 43% of the membership got Government benefits to an average tune of Rs 5,740 at Chickballapur. But the Per Capita benefits were low at Rs 2,447.
- 77% of the membership got benefits at Siddalaghata. The average benefit was Rs 3,199 which is a little more than half of what their counterparts at Chickballapur got. But the Per Capita benefits stayed the same at Rs 2,447.
- The situation at Chintamani was the worst. Only 53% of the membership managed to get Government benefits to the tune of Rs 3,419 each. The Per Capita benefits dropped to Rs 1,820 which was substantially lower than any of the other 3 Areas.

Still more detailed Cluster and Village wise figures are available (but only the former have been annexed to this Note from page 6 onward) and these too show similar variations. Many local factors like the interest levels of member coolies, skill and efficiency of village functionaries and elected CSU Representatives, etc. have all contributed to differences in levels of mobilisation.

Area wise comparison of performance

| Area | Membership | Members Benefited | Total Benefits | Percentage Benefited | Average Benefit | Per Capita Benefit |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chickballapur | 1,152 | 491 | Rs 2,818,650 | 43% | Rs 5,740 | Rs 2,447 |
| Chintamani | 791 | 421 | Rs 1,439,600 | 53% | Rs 3,419 | Rs 1,820 |
| Siddalaghatta | 740 | 566 | Rs 1,810,725 | 77% | Rs 3,199 | Rs 2,447 |
| Julapalya | 602 | 416 | Rs 2,472,030 | 69% | Rs 5,942 | Rs 4,106 |
| Total | 3,285 | 1,894 | Rs 8,541,005 | 58% | Rs 4,501 | Rs 2,600 |

2 important points must be borne in mind when interpreting these figures:

1. The stock taking exercise has not been done for entire village populations or even all the poor in the villages. It only provides data for member coolie families.
2. We have not covered entire taluks or legislative assembly constituencies. The figures pertain to Areas delineated by ADATS for administrative convenience in Coolie Sangha building.

We have always believed that the total quantum of Government input into an Area does not get substantially altered due to the presence of an NGO. But the MANNER in which such input reaches the people, the actual percentage of benefits that PERCOLATE to the people, and WHO they reach do get positively influenced. Except for extra programmes specially brought into an Area through negotiations between an NGO and the Government, the overall quantum of assistance to any given MLA constituency tends to get averaged by in-built mechanisms in the State apparatus. Except, of course, when powerful political personages are involved. These figures must therefore give us an indication as to how successful the CSUs have been in getting genuinely deserving beneficiaries identified, and in preventing leakage and pilferage.

RANKING THE DIFFERENT AREAS

In an overall ranking of performances, the CSUs at Julapalya beat the other 3 Areas by 11 points. Siddalaghatta takes 2nd place with 8 points. Chickballapur takes 3rd place with 7 points. Chintamani trails behind in 4th place with 6 points.

Ranking of the 4 Areas (with points):

| According to: | Percentage Benefited | Average Benefit | Per Capita Benefit | Overall Ranking |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1st Place | Siddalaghatta (4) | Julapalya (4) | Julapalya (4) | Julapalya (11) |
| 2nd Place | Julapalya (3) | Chickballapur (3) | Chickballapur (3) Siddalaghatta (3) | Siddalaghatta (8) |
| 3rd Place | Chintamani (2) | Chintamani (2) | Chintamani (2) | Chickballapur (7) |
| 4th Place | Chickballapur (1) | Siddalaghatta (1) | | Chintamani (6) |

SOCIO-POLITICAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED

Many socio-political factors contributed to this regional variance from Area to Area. But when reading these reasons one must understand that, perhaps for the very first time, Government benefits reached a people who actually DEMANDED for them, as opposed to such benefits simply reaching the villages BECAUSE THEY HAD TO.

- Julapalya and Siddalaghatta shared a conscientious MLA who made it a point to take great care of his constituency. This person, the erstwhile Energy Minister in the state

government, was also single handedly responsible for putting an end to communal violence in the town and surrounding villages. The bargaining position of the CSUs *vis a vis* this politician (and through him the Government officials) was consequently the highest.

- Chintamani, on the other hand, had a very seasoned MLA who was first the Urban Development and later Home Minister in the erstwhile government. Though personally a very good person, he tended to take his constituency for granted since the taluk had always been the bounden dynasty of his and another equally powerful Reddy family who alternately won elections for the past 45 years. There had always been a tradition of subservience in the relationship between the population and these 2 Reddy leaders. The CSUs were not able to completely break out of this mould of appealing - quite different from demanding...
- Chickballapur had earlier been characterised by a very peculiar and particular political poverty wherein the electorate did not participate fully, whole heartedly, or even in a quasi informed manner even during election campaigns and voting! All this had changed with the advent of the Coolie Sangha about 5 years back. The rather new element of people's pressure from the bottom up had contributed to the Government parting with quite a substantial level of benefits to the genuinely poor.
- Chickballapur is a reserved constituency which had an elderly Harijana woman MLA, who had been Minister twice in her younger days. She just wasn't bothered about her constituency any more since she was, in any case, at the fag end of her political career. As a result, the organised coolies were able to demand, negotiate and obtain a whole lot of benefits directly from the Government officials, encountering hardly any political interference.

COMMON BENEFITS THAT REACHED THE VILLAGES

But before we accept these rather subjective socio-political readings of the 4 Areas, perhaps it would be good to look at the common (as opposed to individual) Government benefits that reached villages with CSUs. These must be understood as quite different from the foregoing which listed Government benefits that reached individual member coolie families due to CSU efforts. As already mentioned in the beginning of this Note, the following lists include items that reached the entire village as a whole and they were, quite often, NOT THE RESULT of CSU pressure ALONE.

Such common works included the building of village roads, asphaltting existing roads, stone paving (pitching) of streets, building drains, erecting street lights, digging drinking water bore wells, constructing water tanks, setting up mini water supply projects, building Anganwadi buildings, constructing check dams, etc.

Area wise resume of common Government benefits got in the past 3 year (not necessarily through the CSUs' efforts alone)

| Area | Member Families | Value | Per Capita |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Chickballapur | 1,152 | Rs 1,283,000 | Rs 1,114 |
| Chintamani | 791 | Rs 180,000 | Rs 228 |
| Siddalaghatta | 740 | Rs 452,000 | Rs 610 |
| Julapalya | 602 | Rs 1,039,150 | Rs 1,726 |
| Total | 3,285 | Rs 2,954,150 | Rs 900 |

These figures show a different picture. Julapalya shows a very high Per Capita mobilisation. Siddalaghatta, in spite of sharing the same MLA, trails way behind even Chickballapur. The main difference between Julapalya and Siddalaghatta is that the former forms part of Bagepalli taluk and is therefore directly connected to a relative stronger and more mature Taluk Coolie Sangha. This definitely suggests that political patronage alone does not automatically influence the flow of government benefits into the villages. Good strategies and the bargaining capacity of a population couple with political opportunities in order to result in greater developmental investments.

There is the possibility of some error having crept in while listing these common benefits got from the Government. These have not been recorded in the CSU and Cluster Minutes Books and we have banked on the coolies' recollection powers. It is possible that some benefits obtained in the past 3 years have been left out. But the differences are far too high to be dismissed on this account.

Number of Families who got Government Benefits through their CSUs in Chickballapur

| Name of Cluster (Membership) | Ashraya Houses | Bhagyajothi | Saguvali Chittis | Animal Loans | House Sites | SC/ST Corp Loans |
|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Hanumanthapura (82) | 7 | 24 | 3 | 7 | | |
| Bommahalli (114) | 5 | 7 | | 6 | | |
| Ittappanahalli (100) | 11 | 11 | | 16 | 3 | |
| Reddigollahalli (85) | 1 | 9 | | 5 | 9 | |
| Nasathimmanahalli (151) | 6 | 7 | | 24 | 4 | |
| Pathur (80) | | 5 | | 28 | | 2 |
| Nallappanahalli (77) | 5 | 23 | | 14 | | |
| Yelagalhalli (195) | 40 | 68 | 4 | 25 | 8 | 1 |
| Thumakunta (100) | 9 | 13 | | 15 | 4 | |
| Thaligenahalli (77) | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 3 | |
| Jeeganahalli (91) | 3 | 8 | 10 | 14 | | |
| Total: | 95 | 181 | 20 | 161 | 31 | 3 |
| Value: | Rs 1,425,000 | Rs 81,450 | 40 acres | Rs 1,140,700 | Rs 46,500 | Rs 125,000 |

Common Government benefits got in the past 3 years in Chickballapur (not necessarily through the CSUs' efforts alone)

| Cluster | Common Works implemented by the Government: | Value: |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| Hanumanthapura | 1. Street Lights 2. Road 3. Pitching Works | Rs 42,000 |
| Bommahalli | 1. Drinking Water Bore Well 2. Check Dams | Rs 65,000 |
| Ittappanahalli | 1. Road Asphaltting 2. Street Lights 3. Water Tank 4. Pitching 5. Anganwadi Building | Rs 162,000 |
| Reddigollahalli | 1. Road Works 2. Drainage 3. Street Lights 4. Pitching | Rs 110,000 |
| Nasathimmanahalli | 1. Anganwadi Building 2. Lighting 3. Check Dams 4. Mini Water Supply 5. Pitching and Drainage | Rs 205,000 |
| Pathur | 1. School Bdg | Rs 50,000 |
| Nallappanahalli | 1. Primary School Bdg 2. Road Works | Rs 65,000 |
| Yelagalhalli | 1. Water Tank 2. Bore Well 3. Pitching 4. Road 5. Drainage 6. Anganwadi Building 7. Street Lights 8. Mini Water Supply | Rs 333,000 |
| Thumakunta | 1. Pitching 2. Street Lights | Rs 30,000 |
| Jeeganahalli | 1. Street Lights 2. Pitching 3. Drinking Water Bore Wells 4. Primary School Bdg | Rs 221,000 |
| Total: | | Rs 1,283,000 |

Number of Families who got Government benefits through their CSUs in Chintamani

| Name of Cluster (Membership) | Ashraya Houses | Bhagyajothi | Saguvali Chitti | Animal Loans | House Sites | Social Welfare Scholarships |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Korlaparathi (166) | 13 | 24 | 11 | 6 | 22 | 77 |
| Papathimmanahalli (166) | 9 | 12 | 12 | 3 | | 31 |
| Nandanahosahalli (95) | 7 | 11 | | 1 | | 9 |
| Appasanahalli (56) | 8 | 11 | 16 | 5 | | 17 |
| Nadimpalli (204) | 5 | 14 | 4 | | 34 | 15 |
| Narasapura (76) | 4 | 12 | | | | 8 |
| Venkatareddipalya (28) | 4 | 4 | 3 | | | 9 |
| Total: | 50 | 88 | 46 | 15 | 56 | 166 |
| Value: | Rs 750,000 | Rs 39,600 | 107 acres | Rs 84,000 | Rs 84,000 | Rs 482,000 |

Common Government benefits got in the past 3 years (not necessarily through the CSUs' efforts alone) in Chintamani

| Cluster | Common Works implemented by the Government: | Value: |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Korlaparathi | 1. Pitching 2. Mud Road 3. Anganwadi Building | Rs 100,000 |
| Papathimmanahalli | 1. Pitching | Rs 5,000 |
| Appasanahalli | 1. Pitching | Rs 10,000 |
| Narasapura | 1. Primary School Bdg 2. Mud Road | Rs 65,000 |
| Total: | | Rs 180,000 |

Families who got Government benefits through their CSUs in Siddalaghatta

| Name of Cluster (Membership) | Ashraya Houses | Bhagyajothi | Saguvali Chittis | Animal Loans | House Sites | Welfare Schemes | Artisan Tools, etc. |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Dodda Tekuhalli (89) | 15 | 18 | 15 | 6 | 10 | 86 | 5 |
| Valasahalli (177) | 10 | 25 | 11 | 14 | 9 | 60 | 5 |
| Chowdareddihalli (86) | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | | 66 | 4 |
| Pallicherla (110) | 8 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 17 | |
| Devappanagudi (77) | 5 | 13 | | | | 11 | |
| Thalakayalakonda (102) | 13 | 26 | 10 | 17 | 5 | 10 | 2 |
| Yerrabachanahalli (99) | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | | 5 | |
| Total: | 61 | 110 | 52 | 43 | 29 | 255 | 16 |
| Value: | 9,15,000 | 49,500 | 132 acres | 288,500 | Rs 43,500 | 498,225 | 16,000 |

Common Government benefits got in the past 3 years in Siddalaghatta (not necessarily through the CSUs' efforts alone)

| Cluster | Common Works implemented by the Government: | Value: |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Dodda Tekuhalli | 1. Pitching 2. 2 Anganwadi Schools 3. Mini Water Supply | Rs 210,000 |
| Valasahalli | 1. Pitching 2. Anganwadi Building 3. Mini Water Supply | Rs 126,000 |
| Chowdareddipalli | 1. Pitching | Rs 6,000 |
| Pallicherla | 1. Pitching | Rs 10,000 |
| Thalakayalakonda | 1. Mini Water Supply | Rs 50,000 |
| Yerrabachanahalli | 1. Middle School | Rs 50,000 |
| Total: | | Rs 452,000 |

Families who got Government benefits through their CSUs in Julapalya

| Name of Cluster (Membership) | Ashraya Houses | Bhagyajothi | Saguvali Chittis | Animal Loans | Welfare Schemes | SC/ST Corporation Loans |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Kanumpalli | 8 | 19 | | 7 | 7 | 2 |
| Aachaganapalli | 24 | 23 | | 14 | 14 | 5 |
| Polanayakanapalli | 4 | 19 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| Bandakindapalli | 20 | 27 | 13 | 50 | 26 | 6 |
| Muddalapalli | 38 | 12 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 9 |
| Total: | 94 | 100 | 34 | 96 | 68 | 24 |
| Value: | 1,410,000 | 45,000 | 63 acres | 288,000 | 129,030 | 600,000 |

Common Government benefits got in the past 3 years in Julapalya (not necessarily through the CSUs' efforts alone)

| Cluster | Common Works implemented by the Government: | Value: |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|
| C401 Kanumpalli | 1. 4 Hand Pumps 2. 2 Water Tanks 3. 300 mtrs Drainage 4. 180 mtrs Pitching 5. 250 mtrs Mud Road 6. 1 Primary School Bdg | Rs 67,650 |
| C403 Aachaganapalli | 1. 6 Hand Pumps 2. 2 Water Tanks 3. 300 mtrs Drainage 4. 150 mtrs Pitching 5. 1 km Mud Road 6. ½ km Tar Rad 7. 1 Middle School Bdg 8. 1 Primary School Bdg 9. 1 Culvert 10. 2 Village Temples | Rs 322,250 |
| C405 Polanayakanapalli | 1. 5 Hand Pumps 2. 2 Water Tanks 3. 300 mtrs Drainage 4. 150 mtrs Pitching 5. 1 km Mud Road 6. ½ km Tar Road | Rs 109,250 |
| C406 Bandakindapalli | 1. 11 Hand Pumps 2. 4 Water Tanks 3. 400 mtrs Drainage 4. 600 mtrs Pitching 5. 400 mtrs Mud Rod 6. 1 km Tar Road 7. 1 Primary School Bdg | Rs 184,000 |
| C407 Muddalapalli | 1. 16 Hand Pumps 2. 8 Water Tanks 3. 1,200 mtrs Drainage 4. 800 mtrs Pitching 5. 3 km Mud Road 6. 2 Primary School Bdgs 7. 1 Middle School Bdg | Rs 356,000 |
| Total: | | Rs 1,039,150 |