

REPORT (1.1.1988--31.3.89)

SOCIETY FOR
EQUITABLE
VOLUNTARY
ACTIONS
[SEVA]

VIKAS KENDRA

(a project of Society for Equitable
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Post B Vill : ATGHARA, via KOLSUR

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Introduction

"In village after village, in small gatherings, in friendly talks, we are preaching the message that we have three enemies—poverty, ignorance and apathy." This we said in the introduction to our last annual report. It would have been nice if we could say this year that we no longer have the need to preach that message, but unfortunately the enemies are far too entrenched and far too strong to be vanquished so quickly. Jawaharlal Nehru, whose birth centenary the world is celebrating this year, knew this. In his famous speech when India awoke "to life and freedom", he said, "The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity." But he also said, in the same speech, that "the ambition of the greatest man of our generation"—he was referring to Gandhiji—"has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us but as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over." Even as he said this, Nehru, who embodied for his generation the spirit of rebellion, knew only too well that the road to success was long and hard and beset with pitfalls.

We in Seva thus have no illusions about what we have set out to do. Our last annual report ended with these words, "We have taken a small step towards our goal." The goal is still distant, and our steps are still small, if a little firmer and a little more confident. This present report will detail the steps that we took in the last 15 months.

In our commitment to removing poverty, ignorance, and apathy we marched arm in arm with all progressive forces, refusing to compromise with any communal or retrograde pressures. We always upheld and propagated the values of national integration. On November 19—the date on which, in 1831, Titumir became the first martyr in India's freedom struggle, and the date, by happy coincidence, now observed

as National Integration Day—we organised a march from Hyderabad, his place of birth, to Narkelberia, where he built his bamboo stockade of resistance to oppression and foreign rule. Hundreds of villagers joined us in the march and many times that number cheered us all along the eight-kilometre route. We were inspired by the participation in the march of Professor Santimoy Roy, veteran freedom fighter and Coordinator of the Calcutta University National Integration Council.

All through the period under review we put special emphasis on women's participation in the developmental process. There may well be other factors, but it cannot be gainsaid that the difference in their female literacy rates is a major reason why certain prime indicators of development differ so greatly in Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. In Kerala the female literacy rate is as high as 65.73%, and that State has the lowest infant mortality rate in the country, and the lowest proportion of married women in the age group 15-19. On the other hand, Uttar Pradesh has a female literacy rate of 14.04%, and the infant mortality rate there is the highest in the country, while the proportion of teenaged married girls is also very high. What we did with our women's efforts will be found in the section 'Mahila Mandali' in this report.

Ecology and preservation of the environment should be society's major concerns but unfortunately are still largely neglected. We tried consistently to promote ecological awareness among the villagers and also adopted specific programmes to that end. This aspect has been covered in greater detail later.

The Project Area

A typical neglected village of West Bengal when we came here in April, 1985 Atghara is the centre of our activities. It is in Baduria block, Basirhat sub-division, North 24 Parganas district. Our work is now spread over more than 50 villages in four blocks—Baduria, Habra I, Swarupnagar and Deganga. The greater part of the population comprises Muslims and landless labourers.

In January 1988, when this report begins, the construction of a modest, six-roomed, tiled accommodation was almost complete, but we soon found that the space was not adequate to meet the demands of our expanding work load. We then raised another six-roomed shed. Now we have a big hall where 100 people can sit on the floor, and also facilities to conduct three large-sized classes simultaneously.

Annual and Other Observances

The Titumir Fair has become a high point of life here. On the one hand, it is the culminating point of many of our previous year's activities, and, on the other, we pick up various threads from the fair for our future work. The State Government's Sericulture Department put up a stall in the 1987 fair and in 1988 we began sericulture as an economic activity in quite a few villages.

The Rural Literary Conference held their annual session at Atghara to coincide with the 1988 fair. We formed a reception committee for the purpose. The fair and the Literary Conference began on 30 March and continued till 3 April. Nearly 100 delegates attended the conference. An exhibition of more than 100 periodicals published in various parts of rural West Bengal was a major attraction in the fair.

Members of different faculties of the Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalay, the only agricultural university in West Bengal, came to the fair to attend a farmers' meeting. More than 20 stalls were put up by Government departments, universities, welfare organizations, etc. The emphasis was on science and appropriate technology.

Every evening there were cultural functions which drew altogether 20,000 people. Our volunteers, particularly those from our Mahila Mandali, worked hard to maintain discipline and order.

The Centre also observed nationally important days like

Republic Day, Independence Day, Gandhiji's birthday, World Health Day and World Environment Day. We also observed Mandela Day, demanding the release of that symbol of resistance to apartheid, rotting in a South African jail.

Our constant efforts to persuade the villagers in our project area, underprivileged though they themselves are in many respects, to do something for those who are even more unfortunate—the blind, the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded, and the people suffering from incurable diseases—bore some fruit. Our blood donation sessions are mentioned in the 'Youth Activities' section. On 28 January 1989, 75 youths took part in a scheme sponsored by the International Eye Bank, Calcutta, to popularize the *eye pledging* movement. They met at Vikas Kendra and then cycled all the way to Calcutta. The participants and the groups supporting the movement were all imbued with the spirit of the cause when they came to know that of the 10 million blind in India, about one third can get back their sight if enough corneas are found and grafted.

We have tried to render *assistance to small groups* even outside our project area who have the potential but lack expertise in various respects. One such group is in Murshida-bad district, and another is in Birbhum.

Co-operative Movement

We have created and nurtured three co-operatives in the project area. None of them is registered yet. The Panji *beekeepers' society* is working but not as well as it could. Its sales figures are given in the Animal Husbandry section.

Sevak, our group at Andharmanik, has organized a co-operative to market *powdered spices*. The local Mahila Mandali is working hard to make the project an economic success and several women are being partly sustained by this co-operative venture. During the period under review, spices worth more than Rs 4,000 were sold.

Vikas Samavayika at Atghara has more than 100 members, most of them women. Its sales figure was more than Rs 20,000. We have a programme to open a sales counter at the local 'haat' (the centre for the biweekly market). This co-operative is the sales outlet for the eggs produced at the Vikas Kendra poultry as well as for the products of the other two co-operatives and other local products like 'gamcha' (bathing towel) woven by women who have received some assistance from Vikas Kendra. We have planned to start a small savings scheme for village women, which would also extend credit facilities to them.

Agriculture

Our campaign to persuade farmers to come out of their overdependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides is slowly, but steadily, gaining ground. We have demonstrated that it is possible to grow even paddy, without either or even both. Farmers are gradually perceiving the environmental and economic hazards of modern agricultural methods. The stronghold over the farmers of the modern practices is difficult to break, but there is hope on the horizon. In 1987-88 almost 1,000 farmers in ten villages cultivated *boro rice without using chemical pesticides* in 1,200 acres of land. In 1988-89 the corresponding figures were 1,050 farmers, 11 villages and 1,300 acres.

Our pleadings to cultivate *boro rice without both chemical pesticides and fertilizers* have been somewhat less successful. In 1987-88, eight farmers in three villages did not use either; in 1988-89 no new farmer joined the experiment but the acreage under cultivation rose marginally, to four acres.

It is difficult to convince farmers about the efficacy of new methods, particularly when the accepted ones seem paying in the short run. But as yields have remained the same, while the cost of inputs decreases in the new methods, we are hopeful that more and more farmers will feel tempted to do without chemicals in the coming years, particularly as we

shall persist in bringing home to them the ecological benefits of the new method, which, as a matter of fact, is the old method.

In 1985 we raised only 1,000 *papaya plants* in our nursery. In 1987-88 this number rose to 40,000. In 1988-89 the number remained the same, mainly because of lack of space in our nursery in the appropriate season. These plants were distributed to women in 19 villages through our Mahila Mandali members and the teachers at non-formal schools. Earnings from *the sale of the fruits* grown on these went some way towards increasing the purchasing power of these generally poor women.

Deforestation is a major problem in our area, as in most parts of India. We have taken up *social forestry* in a big way. In the period under review we raised a total of 1,00,000 plants, including the papaya plants mentioned above. All were distributed free to villagers, in groups and also individually. Two gram panchayats were also supplied with a large number of saplings.

This help in afforestation is part of our larger drive to create *ecological awareness*. We take every opportunity to highlight the dangers of the greenhouse effect, the importance of the preservation of energy sources, etc.

Under a project of the Coconut Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Government of India, we assisted, during the period under review, 226 farmers in planting 7,031 *cocunut saplings*. In the previous year, the corresponding figures were 183 farmers and 6,000 plants. The two years taken together, about Rs. 1,00,000 went to the farmers as incentive to join the project.

We have plans to adopt several villages where every household will have trees to grow fruits that are needed daily or are nutritionally rich. Among these fruits are better quality lemon, guava, green banana, and mango. Along with this, we are

working on *improving the quality of the produce* of existing trees, by way of grafting, budding and 'gootee' making. During the period under review we gave 1,451 plants to 415 families in five villages. The success of the scheme makes us hopeful that we shall be able to cover all the villages in our area in the near future.

Potato is not particularly popular here as a commercial crop but we are slowly trying to change this. In this we get regular support from the International Potato Research Centre to propagate True Potato Seeds (TPS). In 1988-89, eleven farmers cultivated TPS and 18 farmers opted for Hybrid Potato Seeds (HPS) tubers. The cost of either is lower than what is entailed in the cultivation of traditional varieties. Also, the new varieties are disease-resistant and their yield is positively higher. We are helped in this work by regular visits to our area by internationally and nationally known experts who monitor our progress and give on-the-spot advice.

There are no cold storages in the area and other large-scale storage facilities are also not available. To help farmers store potato, we experimented with a *diffused light storage method*. The basic principle is not to allow the sun in directly into a thatched structure of bamboo and thick mud. A pit is dug in the floor where stone chips and sand are placed. The temperature inside the room is considerably lower than that outside. The first experiment was a failure but we had better results the next time. We are continuing with the experiment and shall spread the technology among farmers when we are satisfied that potatoes and certain vegetables can be preserved in this method for as long as six months without any consumption of electrical power.

We have introduced a *high-yielding variety of banana* in the area. We trained two men and two women and then gave them 75 plants each to start and prepare a demonstration plot. These fields will not only generate income for their owners but will also popularise the new breed. As extension

work, a sucker each from *green banana* plants was given to 29 farmers. These will gradually have a multiplying effect in the project area.

We also introduced *black pepper* cultivation in our area. This can be grown on the same plot and together with coconut and areca nut trees. We gave 36 black pepper saplings to 18 farmers in 13 villages.

Women were trained in *kitchen gardening*. In 1988-89 200 such gardens came up in five villages ; the corresponding figures for the previous year were 150 and four respectively. We have introduced a special variety of 'kalmi' saag which needs no proximity to water to grow, unlike its more traditional variety. A feature of all the kitchen gardens laid out with our support is that no chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used.

The area abounds in *jujube* trees, but the fruits are usually sour. We used a new technology to upgrade these into a sweet variety. During the period we are reviewing, 147 such plants belonging to 81 families were upgraded. Success of this experiment has meant not only better fruits for domestic consumption but also better prices in the market. This has created interest in the technique among many people.

The Sericulture Department of the State Government helped us in introducing sericulture in our area. As jute is proving to be an unprofitable crop, *sericulture* should easily be a better choice. Convinced of this, 22 farmers in eleven villages began mulberry cultivation during this period. If their pioneering efforts succeed, other farmers will overcome their resistance to the new crop, and we are ready to help meet their demand for know-how, seeds etc.

We asked the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, for seeds of a water-resistant type of paddy. This they could not give us but, instead, we received seeds of a specially

scented variety of *basmati paddy*. We gave a part of this to two farmers and sowed the rest on our own land, with encouraging results.

Impressed with our work, the local Agriculture Development Office gave us approximately 1,000 kg. of *groundnut* seeds to popularize the crop in the area. We trained 61 farmers before they planted the seeds in 60 acres. The farmers are convinced they have a new cash crop and the Government department is also reassured about our competence.

The same office gave us seeds of a new variety of *cabbage* which we persuaded a farmer to grow on his demonstration plot. The result was most encouraging and we have had many enquiries from other farmers. We now have to arrange for a steady supply of these seeds.

With the help of a Government grant, we helped two farmers build two *compost pits* which would provide them with organic fertilizer for their own fields.

We have received 15 saplings of two varieties of *medicinal plants* from the Department of Botany, Calcutta University, to grow and popularize. We are looking forward to receiving greater assistance from that department and other sources in respect of the project.

We conducted training on the following subjects.

Subjects	Training days
i) Biofarming	198
ii) Potato Cultivation (TPS)	54
iii) Upgrading of jujube trees	9
iv) Sericulture	900
v) Vegetable cultivation	229
vi) Social forestry	106
vii) Horticulture	572
viii) Black pepper cultivation	34
ix) Papain collection	24
Total	2,126

100 Khaki Campbell ducklings from a Central Government farm in Bangalore. Half of these were given to farmers who had been trained and the other half we utilised to start a model duck farm.

Our *beekeepers' cooperative* at Panji continued to collect unprocessed honey for marketing. Ramkrishna Mission Lokasiksha Parishad purchased honey worth nearly Rs. 11,000 and the total sale was around Rs. 19,000.

During the period under review our training schedule was as follows :

Subject	Training days
i) Poultry	1,161
ii) Primary treatment in animal husbandry	671
iii) Duck farming	26
Total	1,858

Youth Activity

Our basic aim is that every village should have a youth organization of its own, with perfect understanding between its members and the villagers as a whole. The organization will work for self-sufficiency, act as a link between all Government and non-Government development work, and use local resources as much and as best as it can.

During the period under review we organized 133 *youth meetings* in 39 villages, and held *training camps* on 17 days on eight subjects. Total training days were 529. In addition to these formal and pre-planned activities, constant contact was maintained between our centre and the village groups. Whenever there was any problem the groups came to us. Our core team members also made regular *visits* to the villages to monitor the work of the groups and to suggest better ways of working. The idea was to train the groups to make their own plans, take their own decisions, and work basically as

autonomous units under our overall guidance. Our success in this regard was uneven ; some groups displayed commendable qualities of leadership while some others were still to overcome their diffidence.

The following youth groups organized *cultural functions* as follows.

Village	Month	Group	No. of people attending
Andharmanik	February '88	Sevak	1,066
Bargharia	—do—	Bargharia Unnayan Samsad	575
Chandalati	April, '88	Pragati Sangha	753
Taragunia	—do—	Orient Sporting Club	300
Andharmanik	May, '88	Sevak	418
Jangalpur	—do—	Deshbandhu Sangha	320
Kolsur	November, '88	Agradut Sangha	600
Ghoshpur	—do—	Mitali Sangha	200
Mannudpur	—do—	Azad Sangha	150
Paschim Simla	December, '88	Sabuj Sangha	2,500
Bargharia	January, '89	Bargharia Unnayan Samsad	1,000
Jangalpur	February, '89	Deshbandhu Sangha	300

We helped the organizers whenever they sought our assistance and advice but basically it was all their own work. Current issues were discussed, awareness created in many respects and local talent got a chance to be tested and received by a large audience. All this meant a significant and regular interaction between villagers and group members.

Some youth groups also organised *blood donation camps* :—

Place	Date	No. of donors	Men	Women
Bargharia	15.2.88	40	24	16
Atghara	2.4.88	41	33	8
Andharmanik	12.5.88	33	28	5
Bargharia	22.1.89	66	52	14
Total		180	137	43

The following trainings were imparted under youth leadership :
Training days

<i>Subject</i>	
Resource survey	60
Blood donation motivation	74
Society and culture	43
Political science	144
Development workshop	83
National integration	61
History of peasant and women's movements in India	57
Organization management	7
	Total
	529

Community Health

Our first venture in laying 15 toilets was very successful, thanks to support from CART, NRDC, and CBRI. In the period under review we constructed a further 202 *low cost toilets*. Our target was to complete 200 toilets by March 1989, but we managed to reach the target a month earlier, with a couple of toilets more, to boot. CAPART paid nearly two-thirds of the total cost and the user(s) paid the rest. CBRI extended technical support this time, too. We are looking forward to receiving more support from such organizations.

For every toilet constructed we made at least six visits. There were community meetings as also meetings exclusively with the users who had to be trained in the ways of using and maintaining the toilets. We also spoke about the importance of basic public hygiene and sanitation. Since the users would be responsible for the maintenance of the toilets we expect this scheme to inculcate a sense of participatory responsibility among them.

This project may well be called the flagship project of Vikas Kendra during the period covered.

In our last report we spoke of a plan to house our *homeopathic treatment clinic* in a separate room to ensure privacy during the examination of the patients. This we now have. We have also arranged doctors' presence for more regular

and longer periods and larger supply of medicines ; both factors have contributed to a considerable increase in the number of cases treated, but it will yet be a long time before we can equip this clinic with all the facilities it needs.

Vikas Kendra keeps the *first aid* centre open for 24 hours. Besides, we have trained five groups in five villages in first aid.

During the period under review we could not add to the number of existing *smokeless chullahs* as the Social Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal and Ramakrishna Mission Lokasiksha Parishad, our original sponsors, could not extend any financial assistance. However, we made sure that the young people we had trained looked after the existing 2500 chullahs and kept them in working order.

One activity that we are especially proud of is our *mother and child care* project. Two of our women workers, trained by CINLI, have covered all children up to six years of age belonging to 253 families of Atghara. Our centre is keeping a meticulous record of these children's growth. We also organized, with the help of the primary health centre at nearby Rudrapur, eight immunization camps to give polio, BCG and DPT vaccines to altogether 1,335 children. Children and expectant mothers also receive Vitamin A oil and some other necessary health aids at these camps. We furthermore organized 12 health camps for mothers, attended by 333 of them.

When implementing the low cost toilet scheme we organized 15 *sanitation camps* as well, at which 281 villagers took part. We are telling villagers, discreetly and through our parish-based Mahila Mandalis, about the importance of family planning, now known as *family welfare* in official parlance. In the period under review, 21 women went in for permanent sterilization and another 20 women and four men began using contraceptive measures on a temporary basis. Our approach to this very important problem is that it is no use drilling slogans into people's ears ; we have to prepare their mind to understand and appreciate that the existing resources of India cannot support a rapidly increasing population.

We imparted the following trainings :

Subject	Training days
i) Sanitation	281
ii) First aid	154
iii) Smokeless chullah	279
iv) Mother and child care	333
Total	1,047

The Mahila Mandal:

As we said in the introduction we strongly feel that women's participation makes a lot of difference in all developmental processes, and we are proud of the activities of our Mahila Mandalis, particularly because we work in an area where women have been traditionally of little consequence in decision making in any form. The Mahila Mandal at Atghara is the strongest and in the village life perceptible changes are already visible even if they are occurring silently and below the surface. A prominent example of this change is that our principal women workers now ride a bicycle despite frowns and snide remarks in the beginning.

These women were responsible for implementing the mother-and-child care schemes and for popularising *contraception*. They built up a rapport with the local health centre which made their work easy when they organized *immunization and health camps*. Our Mandalis organized more than 100 small *meetings*—that is the forum they prefer, for it gives them a chance to establish personal relationship with all participants. The subjects discussed at these meetings were health, the small savings scheme, the Titumir fair, Kitchen gardens, mushroom cultivation, milk co-operatives, poultry and duck farming, distribution of papaya plants, social and economic problems like the dowry system, desertion by husbands etc., and the changing position of women in other countries and what we can learn from their experience.

The following trainings were conducted during the period under review.

Subject	Training days
Kitchen garden	600
Pickle-making	20
Vegetable cultivation	229
Upgrading country poultry	123
Total	972

Non-formal Education

In one of our preparatory papers we expressed our conviction that the evils of illiteracy cannot be fought wit out political will. Positive signs, however, can now be discerned. In 1985 we had only five non-formal schools with 85 students. At the end of the period under review we were running 19 schools with 356 students. Of these, 12 provided education to adults (aged between 15 and 35) and the other seven to children between 9 and 14 years of age, in a non-formal manner. These schools were located in 12 villages and were supervised by our youth groups. Core team members visited these schools 250 times, to keep in touch with the teachers and the taught and to help both with any problems. Some core team members attended a training course at the Bengal Social Service League, State Resource Centre, Calcutta to qualify as Resource Persons. This was of great help as most of our teachers were new to the job and were somewhat handicapped by the fact that they themselves were first-generation literates.

In several villages we organized *walks* with posters and slogans to create awareness and generate an inner urge. Nine schools had a *village committee* to provide back-up support. We hope to have a committee for every school in the near future.

We imparted the following trainings to our teachers.

Subject	Training days
Teaching methods	158
Spoken English	6
Total	164

Conclusion

Such, then, is an account of the small steps we took in the 15 month period. Where are these steps going to take us? These days the Indian nation is being pulled in various ways but our direction is clear. Men in various positions of responsibility and authority have not kept faith, but we refuse to lose faith in man. Following the ideals set by pioneers like Tagore, Gandhi and Nehru we want our villages to be self-contained republics as far as practicable. Our goal is not merely the economic regeneration of a small segment of rural India, but also the creation of a more equitable social order; not just an affluent society, but a just society as well. For this we need new men, and our main job is to act as a catalyst towards the creation of a new breed and band of dedicated animators. This is not a quantifiable achievement and we also admit that so far there is little to show for our efforts, but ever so slowly and ever so silently a new youth leadership is emerging, our hope for the coming years, crucial for India as a whole and even more crucial for the India that is Bharat. It takes time to establish one's credentials in a new place and village society, if not downright xenophobic, is not exactly known to respond with alacrity to fresh stimuli from outsiders. We derive great satisfaction from the fact that after the initial uncertainty the local population, by and large, has accepted us as its own.

This acceptance has been recognized elsewhere, too. The Rural Literary Conference hailed our Project Director, Sh. Asoke Ghosh, by bestowing on him the honorific 'Palli Bandhab' (Friend of the Village). This was in March, 1989, a month otherwise marked and marred by a train accident in which Shri Ghosh was severely injured and two of our active well-wishers from the Federal Republic of Germany, Ms. Petra Bald and Ms. Waltraud Haub, were also badly hurt.

For a new leadership to sprout forth it is essential that the decision-making process is decentralized. We tried to set an example by making sure that at Vikas Kendra every issue was

debated fully and no decision was imposed from above; the core team—comprising those who are more or less stationed at Aghara and who take part in the day-to-day working of Vikas Kendra—discussed problems freely and democratically before coming to a decision that would then be binding upon all. This core team met regularly and so that its members might not develop any feeling of self-complacency they were regularly sent out to attend workshops, seminars, and, when needed, to training courses, too.

The carper, we dare say, will not have a field day at Vikas Kendra but we are not unaware of our own shortcomings. Our library was an unmitigated failure during the period under review. The reading habit just did not catch on. We now have plans to reach the books to the reader if the reader does not come for the books. Our plans for strong, autonomous cluster committees to oversee the work of the village youth groups were also not a success, and we could make no headway with a proposed apex committee. And, while it is true that we went to many people and worked with them, we would like more people to come to us and work for themselves. However, it does not do to underestimate the juggernaut of mistrust.

All in all, we are satisfied with our achievement, even as we are fully aware of the vast extent of ground to be covered in the coming years. But there is no short cut in this work. We are prepared to give our blood, sweat and tears to inculcate the belief that we mortal millions do not stand alone and no man should be an island.

We are grateful to a large number of individuals, organizations, local bodies, Government departments etc. for their help and cooperation during the period dealt with in this report. Our special thanks are due to CAPART and we are grateful to Indienhilfe for its expressions of solidarity, unstinted support and encouragement.

Some of Our Visitors*Friends :*

Dr. A. Sarkar	Ms. Ira Roy
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Sh. Abdul Gani Khan	Sh. K. Roy
Professor Amlan Datta	Dr. K. K. Bhattacharya
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 Dr. Prabir Chatterjee, Co-Operative Department
 Sh. Pranab Sarker Sericulture Department
 Sh. R. K. Chakravarty, Deputy Director, CDB
 Sh. Rabindranath Santra, Animal Husbandry Department
 Sh. S. Basu Central Building Research Institute
 Sh. S. Chakravarty, OC, Baduria P.S.
 Sh. S. Dasgupta, Central Building Research Institute
 Sh. Sadhan Sarker, Health Department
 Dr. Samarendranath Ghosh, Sericulture Department
 Sh. Santosh Basak, BDO Baduria
 Sh. Strajul Islam Panchayat Pradhan
 Ms. Soya Sen, Health Department
 Sh. Sunil Sarker, Animal Husbandry Department
 Sh. Swapan Das, General Manager, Kisan Milk Union
 Ms. Sruti Datta, Field Publicity Officer, Government of India
 Dr. Utsab Chatterjee, Kisan Milk Union
 Sh. V. S. Khatana, International Potato Research Centre

<i>Name and address</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
a. Shri H. N. Sinha MCS Division Deloitte Haskins & Sells 2/2A Ho Chi Minh Sarani Calcutta 700 071	President	Consultant
b. Shri Anshava Sanyal Gramsevak Training Centre Hamkrishna Mission Narendrapur South 24 Parganas	Vice-President	Teacher
c. Shri Asok Ghosh Vikas Kendra PO & Village, Atghara Via Kolsur, 743438 North 24 Parganas	General Secretary	Social service
d. Shri Sakhar Ghosh 8/35 CIT Buildings Calcutta 700 010	Asst. Secretary	Service
e. Shri Ashis Bardhan PO & Vill, Atghara Via Kolsur, 743438 North 24 Parganas	Asst. Secretary	Social service
f. Shri Mirinal K. Roy Chowdhury Oriental Bank of Commerce 42/A Shakespare Sarani Calcutta 700 017	Treasurer	Bank officer
g. Shri Chandan Mukherjee 24/1B, Nursery Lane Calcutta 700 085	Member	Engineer
h. Sm. Sandhya Ghosh Dakshineswari Sri Sri Sarada Devi Balika Vidyamandir Dakshineswar Calcutta 700 076	Member	Head-mistress
i. Shri Alauddin Ahamed PO & Vill. Atghara Via Kolsur, 743438 North 24 Parganas	Member	Farmer