

KURSEONG MUNICIPALITY

Annual Administrative Report on the working of the Kurseong Municipality, for the year 2007-2008

1. INTRODUCTION:

1.1 Darjeeling District has four Sub-Division namely Darjeeling, Kurseong, Kalimpong and Siliguri. Three Sub-Division are located in hill region and are in plan. Kurseong is one of the hill Sub-Division with longitude and latitude as $88^{\circ} 17m$ East and $26^{\circ} 53m$ North respectively.

1.2 Historical perspective - In the year 1835 Darjeeling was selected and acquired by the then British India Govt. for the purpose of establishing health sanatorium and summer residence for their officers and the soldiers. The first road to Darjeeling via Kurseong was constructed from Titalya, which is also known as Military Road, as it was also meant for the Military purposes. But it has remained unplayable for the last five or six decades due to non maintenance and on constructing one more road, Hill Cart Road now known as Tenzing Norgay Road, connecting the plains of Bengal with Darjeeling via hilly sub-stations viz. Tindharia, Kurseong, Sonada and Ghoom. As far as the history goes, Darjeeling area including Kurseong was a part of Sikkim and it was in the year 1835 leased to the British India Govt. by the then Rajan of Sikkim on yearly remuneration. The original inhabitants of Kurseong and Darjeeling were the Lepchas and the word 'Kharsang' now known as Kurseong comes from the Lepcha word, meaning 'The land of White Orchids': botanically known as Ceologeny, which grows abundantly in the trees and rock crevasses here.

1.3 Background of Kurseong Municipality – Kurseong Municipality was established in the year 1879. It is one of the oldest Municipality of West Bengal. According to the Census 2001, the total population of Kurseong Municipality is 40,172. The traffic between Kurseong to Darjeeling was opened in 1864 & from Siliguri to Darjeeling was opened in 1869. The Himalayan Railway line was laid in the year in 1880. The Kurseong Municipality has 20 wards in its present structure. Development of Kurseong Town has remained stagnant over the decades after its establishment due to the absence of any scope for the physical expansion of the Township. In the Eastern side Kurseong is blocked by the thick Reserve Forest of Coniferous, Pines, Oak and local trees and in the West, North West and South West by the Tea plantations. As such Kurseong has expanded only as a linear strip mainly along the Hill Cart Road which is now known as Tenzing Norgay Road and also NH-55 & also linked with the narrow gauge steam engine Railway line which has been declared as a Heritage very recently which makes the hill people proud enough throughout the Universe. The total area within the present Municipal limits of the Township is 7.5 Sq. K.M. It is the Sub-Divisional Head Quarter under Darjeeling District, West Bengal and lies 45 Km away from Siliguri enroute towards Darjeeling and 32 Km from Darjeeling towards Siliguri running along the Tenzing Norgay Road and its neighboring areas. Kurseong has all the venues required for development into an attractive Tourist Town thus enhancing the economic potential and employment prospects for the unemployed people not only of Kurseong but also of Darjeeling as a whole. Kurseong offers magnificent views of snow-clad peaks including the Kanchanjunga, the third highest mountain peak in the world. When the first rays of the sunrise fall on the peaks the whole range of Kanchanjunga becomes a golden landscape. Nature has also provided Kurseong with a wealth of other scenic beauties. The views of the South especially from Eagle's Craig or from the ridge near the T.V. Tower, of the plains reaching the distant horizon crisscrossed by the glimmering silvery rivers flowing through the forest at the base of the hills and the lush green fields are simply enchanting and magnificent. Another special feature of the town is the view of the glorious sun set in the evening which easily compares with the best in the world. These values, if systematically and properly exploited and enhanced, may help the Township in highlighting and augmenting its intrinsic importance as a Tourist Resort and ultimately converting it into a beautiful satellite town which will also accelerate its economic development tremendously.

1.4 Climate – Of the four Sub-Divisions of Darjeeling District it is said that Kurseong records the maximum rainfall touching almost 500 cm. annually. Maximum temperature in the summer rises upto 25° C and the lowest temperature in the winter comes down to 5° C to 10° C. However, the climate throughout the year is more congenial than that of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Siliguri Sub-Divisions. It has a very moderate climate.

2. OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives in planning the development of Kurseong Town and its surrounding areas are enumerated below:-

- (a) To arrest further deterioration of the environmental degradations of the Kurseong Town and its surrounding areas particularly in terms of Standard of living by providing adequate and more hygienic and appropriate public utility and amenity services.
- (b) To conserve and enhance the invaluable natural resources of this scenic and beautiful hill resort.
- (c) To provide better residential, commercial and recreational facilities for the citizen and visitors alike.
- (d) To establish an integrated all weather road network to provide easy access to most of the scenic areas of Kurseong Town and its neighboring areas and also to facilitate early availability of medical care to the patients in addition to accelerating the development works.
- (e) To acquire and develop unused neighboring areas for the ultimate conversion of Kurseong into a booming Satellite Town.

3. PROPOSALS:

With a view to achieving the objectives, as outlined above, we wish to focus our attention to the following proposals: -

3(a) LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT:

A partial Sewerage System has been developed for Kurseong town in 1918 for servicing 10 public community latrines and a few houses in Bazar area more than 736 Nos. of low cost sanitary latrines were constructed to eliminate the removal of night soil by head load an old and obnoxious practice. A central septic tank has been constructed with the technical assistance of Municipal Engineering Directorate at a cost of Rs. 12 crores. The Central Septic Tank has been commissioned at present but only a few wards of Kurseong town has covered this central septic tank besides that the night soil from almost all the houses are going into the open Jhoras which is causing health hazards. The present board of Councillors has prepared a detailed plan and estimate for construction of three more central septic tanks and covering the entire Kurseong town with sewerage line. The plans and estimates have already been submitted to Govt. of India through State Govt. Further keeping with the policy of State Govt. for inclusion of sewerage system the survey work of Kurseong Municipality has been completed and the scheme has been submitted to Municipal Affairs Deptt. through Municipal Engineering Directorate. It is hoped that the fund will be sanctioned in 2007-08 so that the whole town will be covered by the scientific method of Liquid Waste Management.

3(b) SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:

The main problem that has been faced by the people of Kurseong is the disposal of solid wastes. MPL does not have proper disposal site with latest technology. The daily volume of solid wastes is about 6 M.T. but these wastages is directly disposed of into Jhoras (Big Nullaha) without any grading & treatment causing blockage of Jhoras during rainy season and damaging the tea bushes & houses of B.P.L. families due to heavy flow of water in the Jhora. At present the Municipality have about 65 nos. of Conservancy Staff who look after both the liquid waste system & manage to dispose of the solid waste and only two nos. of Tractors to lift these garbage by head load which is not feasible to manage to keep the town clean due to difficult topography of Kurseong. Hence, the problem can be solved if proper site for disposal of solid waste with latest technology are developed in near future.

The new Board of Councillors has awoken to the necessity of having solid waste management and identified fallow land at Springside Tea Garden. The land is about 3 kilometers from the main town and far from the populated area. The Municipality has prepared a project for solid waste management in this land. The garbage collected from the houses will be transported in trucks to the above site and separated into bio degradable and non degradable items. After separation the items will be treated so that compost prepared from the items could be used as fertilizer. The tea gardens of the neighboring areas have shown keen interest in purchasing the compost so prepared for use in the tea garden. The Municipal Engineering Directorate has been requested for preparing detailed plans and estimates for the above project. The rough cost estimate for the project is Rs. 1.38 Crore for which the Govt. of India have been moved for allotment of funds through the State Govt. The West Bengal Pollution Board has sent their officials to visit the site of the project and the Chief Engineer, Municipal Engineering Directorate has also visited the project site. The West Bengal Pollution Board has issued the authorization certificate which has now cleared the path for undertaking the above project.

3(c) DRINKING WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT:

The drinking water supply to the Town is getting adversely affected on account of drying up of Catchment sources situated more than 12 K.M. away from Kurseong due to deforestation. It is our belief that with the aforestation of Catchment sources the daily demand of the people can be fulfilled and the old decaying & leaking pipes of different sizes laid during British Regime have to be replaced with new ones and further modernize the distribution system. The daily demand of the potable water is about 8,40,000 gallons (20 gallons per head per day) but in the lean driest period from March to June the people are getting only 2,89,700 gallons per day, a horrifying shortage of about 5,50,250 gallons and the water is supplied in alternative days only. Hence, we need immediate restoration of Catchment sources with Forest areas, replacement of decaying supply pipes with new ones, laying new water supply lines with modern technology, construction of new water reservoirs at different places & implementation of water harvesting system for providing proper civic amenities to the people of Kurseong & adjoining areas. Kurseong has the unique system of management of water supply. The storage and augmentation of water is the responsibility of the P.H.E.Department which is under the control of D.G.H.C., the entire distribution system is managed by the Municipality. Due to the age old reservoirs and faulty distribution system the Municipality is facing acute problems in supply of water to the tax payers. During the dry seasons, at times, distribution of water has to be made to the public through tankers and trucks. It is necessary to re-vamp the existing water reservoirs and water distribution systems in order to provide efficient service to the public.

3(d) TOURISM:

The area of the Kurseong Municipality is only about 7.50 Sq. KM which is not feasible to cope with all the tourists flowing from foreign & indoors due to congestion. Kurseong town is completely land locked by and crisscrossed by green valley, high peaks and tea gardens with nature at its best. The scope for developing tourism holds tremendous potentiality. It has beautiful scenic areas like Borbung Busty, Giddhapahar, Rohini, Sittong, Latpanchar, Dowhill, Durpin Dara, Dear Park etc. These spots are ideal for developing tourism resorts with trekking facility. There is an ample scope for water sport on Balason River which can be facilitated by making an artificial lake there. There are some possibilities of Ropeway and Amusement Parks in the town area (from Victoria side to Eagle Craig) introducing different joy rides and games for the visitors and tourists. The small road known Old Military Road can be improved like Mall Road where Popy Rides can be introduced. Despite all these possibilities of tourism as well as having Wealth of scenic beauties the Kurseong has not been included in tourism map of India .The people of Kurseong have been demanding to put Kurseong into the tourism map of India for a long time.It is a genuine and legitimate demand of the public of Kurseong .The new board is trying hard to put Kurseong into the tourism map of India.

3(e) ROADS:

Roads are important to connect one place with another and depend upon its conditions & capacity of carrying load for providing better civic amenities to the public. At present we have about 82 KM length of pucca road, 12 KM Black Top, 20 KM Concrete, 5 KM Mecadar & 8 KM length of Kuttcha road situated within Kurseong Municipality. The conditions of these roads are not upto the mark and need to be widened for easy flow of vehicles & should be strengthened immediately. The roads within Kurseong town are maintained by different agencies who are not within the control of this Municipality. As such the Municipality is at the mercy of these agencies regarding the maintenance of the roads.

3(f) LOCAL TAXI STAND

This Municipality have no proper taxi stand in the town for parking of Taxis & Private Vehicles coming from outside carrying passengers due to which the local people as well as the tourists have to face great inconvenience. Tourists passing through Kurseong have a difficult time in finding a parking place in order to go to any restaurant or hotel for short sojourn or for marketing in the town.

The previous Board of Councillors had selected a slope land near Kurseong Loco Shed for construction of a taxi stand for which plans and estimates were also prepared. But the execution of work could not be started by the previous Board. The present Board of Councillors felt that the site selected by the previous Board of Councillors was not suitable for construction of a taxi stand as it will be able to accommodate not more than 25 vehicles at a time and for the portion of the land NOC from the Railway Authorities is not possible. With the ever increasing population of Kurseong as also the increase in the number of vehicles every day, a bigger area was necessary for construction of a taxi stand. The Hat Bazar presently being used as a temporary market under the control of Land and Land Reforms Department, would be most suitable for construction of a taxi

stand. There is an open space of about 0.127 acre and is within the heart of Kurseong town. The present Board of Councillors have decided to construct a taxi stand cum market complex in the said land. The taxi stand will be able to accommodate about 100 vehicles at a time. The plans and estimates for the above project have been prepared and submitted to Govt. of India through the State Govt. for sanction of funds under IDSMT project. The total cost of the project is Rs. 3.56 Crore and Rs. 2 Crore has been assured by the Govt. With the completion of the project, the Kurseong town will have solved a chronic problem of a taxi stand. The Municipality has also moved the State Govt for transfer of the Hat Bazar land to the Municipality. The State Govt. has intimated that the amount of Rs. 46 lakh shown due against the previous Board under IDSMT will be adjusted against the sanction of loan meant for construction of the taxi stand cum market complex. The matter has been taken up with the Govt. for waiving of the same

3(g) (i) STADIUM:

Kurseong town does not have any facility to cater to the needs of our sportsmen and to encourage new talents. The youth, therefore, are left with no option but to go astray. To keep this particular Section of our people occupied and to channelize their energy, the requirement of a sporting complex and a stadium is greatly felt. The stadium within the area of Kurseong Municipality will cater to the needs of all the youths of our town. A place in the vicinity of Tiru Tea in Ward No. XIV has been earmarked for this project and necessary correspondence has also already been initiated.

3(g) (ii) INDOOR STADIUM:

Kurseong town does not have an indoor stadium. There is a huge demand for construction of an indoor stadium in Kurseong where the young generation of the town can improve their talents in various like badminton, volleyball, basketball, kho-kho, kabaddi , table tennis etc.. There is a DRC godown in Kurseong which was used by the Food Corporation of India for storage of food. Now the State Govt. have appointed food distributors in Kurseong and the distributors have rented their own godown for storage of food and hence the abovementioned DRC godown has been lying vacant for the last three years. The land where the DRC godown is constructed belongs to Kurseong Municipality and the same had been given to the State Govt. for construction of food godown . Now that the godown is no longer in use and no longer required by the FCI, the Municipality has decided to use the above place for construction of in indoor stadium to fulfill the aspirations of the local people. Numerous correspondences have been made with the Food Commissioner, Director of D.D.& P.S. , District Magistrate, District Controller and even with the Minister of Food Department for handing over the said godown to Kurseong Municipality. But no action has been taken in the matter by the State Govt. The matter is quite frustrating and due to the delay of the State Govt. in taking a decision, the project is being delayed. It is hoped that the State Govt. will see reason and pass orders for handing over the above godown to this Municipality at an early date.

3(h) CHILDREN'S PARK AND VIEW POINT:

Another greatly needed and very important requirement of this town is the Children's park. Because of the extra academic load, liberalized airing of various T.V. Channels and the hectic life style in general, the children seem to pass their days in daze. The absence of the place where they can relax with family members and friends in natural surroundings is greatly hampering the growth of the tender minds. The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council had undertaken a project for construction of a Children's park, in the vacant land near Kurseong College but the same had to stopped due to land dispute. Recently D.G.H.C. has handed over 2 parks, Eagles Craig & View Point at Giddhapahar to the Municipality and the Municipality is contemplating schemes to beautify & upgrade them to suit the needs of local resident and to entice the flow of tourist in Kurseong.

3(i) REPAIR & RENOVATION OF JHORAS (BIG NULLAS):

This Municipality have a number of big and small types of streams passing through the heart of Kurseong to channelize the water during rainy season. But at present the conditions of these streams are very bad due to non-maintenance of these streams and this Municipality is not in a position to maintain these streams due to paucity of fund. Hence to save the lives and properties of the people of Kurseong due to frequent landslide in the areas situated along these streams, immediate repairing & maintenance work have to be done.

The Municipality does not have enough funds for renovation or repairs of the jhoras. The Municipality has requested the Irrigation Department under Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council to take over all the jhoras of Kurseong town for maintenance purposes and we are waiting for a positive response from the DGHC.

3 (j) ACQUISITION OF TEA GARDEN LAND:

Kurseong Town, as it stands today, has become heavily congested and has little scope for expansion. It is therefore, proposed to acquire the vacant and unused land below A.I.R., Eagles Craig, Spring Side Tea Garden, Kurbia Tea Estate, Monteviot Tea Estate areas which are contiguous to the town. With such land and the vacant plots in the Municipal areas, Kurseong Town will have adequate space to build additional Residential Complex, Tourist Complex, Commercial Complex and Industrial Complex alongwith hotels, restaurants, markets & recreation centers.

3 (k) PARA MEDICAL COLLEGE:

Kurseong has good number of Secondary Schools and degree college but more such schools are needed to accommodate the increasing of student every year. The absence of avenues for student to pursue Medical Diploma & Nursing Course with in the Kurseong has been a severe handicap. Pursue the students are compelled to go outside like Siliguri, Kolkata, Delhi for study. And this results in extra expenditure to the students in order to ameliorate the student from such difficulties a need has been felt for opening a Para Medical College in Kurseong. There is a possibilities for opening the same in S.B. Dey Sanatorium locate in Kurseong town. It is an important institution where patients suffering from tuberculosis are treated but lately it has been seen that very few patients are being treated here as such it may cease to function as a Sanatorium. The total area of the instutution is 50 acres with large bulding, the institute is likely to encroached upon in course of time by local inhabitants. If the said institute could be converted into a Medical College or an institution for para Medical training like Nurse training center or Pathological training center, this with be help the students of the area in their venture for higher education, not only Kurseong town but the adjoining district will also be benefited and the Kurseong sanitorium will be utilized for better purpose in near future.

The proposal have already been submitted to concern department for consideration.

4. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Kurseong town has a population of 40019 according to the Census report of 2001. Out of this total population 20,410 are male and 19609 are female. The Ward wise population of the town is shown below:

| Name | Total Population | Total Male | Total Female | SC | SC Male | SC Female | ST | ST Male | ST Female |
|-------------|------------------|------------|--------------|------|---------|-----------|------|---------|-----------|
| Kurseong(M) | 40019 | 20410 | 19609 | 3320 | 1650 | 1670 | 2304 | 1128 | 1176 |
| Ward 1 | 1756 | 1031 | 725 | 316 | 168 | 148 | 101 | 53 | 48 |
| Ward 2 | 2235 | 992 | 1243 | 80 | 36 | 44 | 150 | 75 | 75 |
| Ward 3 | 1236 | 574 | 662 | 112 | 49 | 63 | 94 | 45 | 49 |
| Ward 4 | 4043 | 1879 | 2164 | 240 | 128 | 112 | 77 | 29 | 48 |
| Ward 5 | 2059 | 1060 | 999 | 181 | 92 | 89 | 48 | 22 | 26 |
| Ward 6 | 1328 | 665 | 663 | 118 | 61 | 57 | 174 | 91 | 83 |
| Ward 7 | 2917 | 1505 | 1412 | 288 | 144 | 144 | 415 | 204 | 211 |
| Ward 8 | 2112 | 1074 | 1038 | 132 | 67 | 65 | 136 | 78 | 58 |
| Ward 9 | 2698 | 1356 | 1342 | 257 | 121 | 136 | 127 | 61 | 66 |
| Ward 10 | 1996 | 1015 | 981 | 330 | 161 | 169 | 155 | 73 | 82 |
| Ward 11 | 1018 | 579 | 439 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 33 | 14 | 19 |
| Ward 12 | 1226 | 667 | 559 | 117 | 54 | 63 | 125 | 61 | 64 |
| Ward 13 | 2244 | 1196 | 1048 | 214 | 118 | 96 | 96 | 46 | 50 |
| Ward 14 | 2323 | 1205 | 1118 | 211 | 104 | 107 | 91 | 44 | 47 |
| Ward 15 | 1136 | 608 | 528 | 79 | 38 | 41 | 74 | 40 | 34 |
| Ward 16 | 1580 | 922 | 658 | 128 | 60 | 68 | 39 | 17 | 22 |
| Ward 17 | 2753 | 1407 | 1346 | 219 | 103 | 116 | 90 | 39 | 51 |
| Ward 18 | 1988 | 948 | 1040 | 29 | 10 | 19 | 96 | 44 | 52 |
| Ward 19 | 1610 | 847 | 763 | 148 | 75 | 73 | 93 | 49 | 44 |
| Ward 20 | 1761 | 880 | 881 | 109 | 54 | 55 | 90 | 43 | 47 |

The above chart shows the total ward wise population, the male and female population and the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Kurseong town. In addition to the above population there is a floating population of about 10,000 at a given point of time. Kurseong town has many schools most of which are boarding schools. The students studying in these schools are not taken into consideration at the time of census. Besides, the parents and guardians of these students also frequently visit Kurseong throughout the year. As such, it can be safely said that the population of Kurseong town exceeds 50,000 at any time.

The total area covered by Kurseong town is 4 Square Kilometer. Kurseong town has been divided into 20 Wards.

5. (a) NEW BOARD OF COUNCILLORS: The election to the new Board of Councillors was held in July, 2004 and a new Board of Councillors was formed. The previous Board was dissolved on 3rd June, 2005 prelude to the election of New Board of Councillors. The Administrator took over charge and ran the Municipal administration till 15th July, 2004. The present Board of Councillors took over charge on 15th July, 2005. The Board of Councillors unanimously elected Sri P.C.Agarwal as the Chairman and Sri Sanjay Chettri was nominated as the Vice Chairman by the Chairman.

The following are the names of the Councillors of the present Board of Councillors.

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) | Shri P. C. Agarwal, | Chairman |
| 2) | Shri Sanjay Chettri, | Vice-Chairman |
| 3) | Shri Darbeswar Prasad, | Councillor, Ward No. I, |
| 4) | Shri Krishna Limbu, | Councillor, Ward No. II, |
| 5) | Smt. Harimaya Mangrati, | Councillor, Ward No. III, |
| 6) | Smt. Asha Chettri, | Councillor, Ward No. IV, |
| 7) | Shri Kishore Thapa, | Councillor, Ward No. V, |
| 8) | Shri Balaram Chettri, | Councillor, Ward No. VI, |
| 9) | Shri Shyam Sherpa, | Councillor, Ward No. VII, |
| 10) | Smt. Nima Sherpa Gurung, | Councillor, Ward No. VIII, |
| 11) | Shri Nima Namgyal Lepcha, | Councillor, Ward No. IX, |
| 12) | Shri Ravi Tamang, | Councillor Ward No. X |
| 13) | Smt. Zaytum Nisha Ahmed, | Councillor, Ward No. XI, |
| 14) | Smt. Mingma Doma Bhutia, | Councillor, Ward No. XII |
| 15) | Shri Sanjeev Chandra Sharma, | Councillor, Ward No. XIII, |
| 16) | Smt. Sunita Lama, | Councillor, Ward No. XIV, |
| 17) | Shri Bhanu Pratap Gupta, | Councillor, Ward No. XV, |
| 18) | Smt. Phul Kumari Nirola, | Councillor, Ward No. XVII, |
| 19) | Shri Palden Dorjay Bhutia, | Councillor, Ward No. XIX, |
| 20) | Smt. Yanki Moktan, | Councillor, Ward No. XX |

5(b) STANDING COMMITTEES: Kurseong Municipality has been placed in Category D and hence as per new rules, the Chairman in Council is not allowed to be set up. Instead, there are several Standing Committees to look after the various affairs of the Municipality. The Board of Councillors formed the following Standing Committees which are functioning satisfactorily:

- i) Finance and Resource Mobilisation Standing Committee:
- ii) Solid Waste Management Standing Committee
- iii) Water Supply Standing Committee:
- iv) Public Works Standing Committee:
- v) Health Education and Poverty Alleviation Standing Committee:
- vi) Public Health and Sanitation Standing Committee
- vii) Public Accounts Committee:
- viii) Super Market Committee :
- ix) Relief Committee

5 (c) MEETINGS: On the last Thursday of each month the Board of Councillors holds its ordinary meeting wherein all the matters related to establishment, development, finance etc. are placed for discussion. During the period under report, the Board of Councillors has held 8 (eight) ordinary meetings. In addition to the ordinary monthly meetings, 3 (three) special meetings were also held. The average percentage of attendance of the Councillors in various meetings was 91 per cent.

6. STAFF: The Municipality has a total number of 135 permanent staff. In addition there are 55 casual staff. There are many staff who have been working on consolidated pay/casual basis for many years. Their services are yet to be regularized. The State Govt. has prepared Staff Pattern on the basis of the Municipalities of the plains. But the topography, population, climatic condition and other factors of the hills demand more staff to meet the demand of the ever growing population. The Municipality has been approaching the State Govt. for sanction of additional posts and approval to the appointments made by the Board of Councillors. But the matter is still pending with the Govt. It is worth mentioning that the Municipality has not engaged any new staff during the tenure of the present Board of Councillors.

The Municipality have one Executive offices Smt. Tilanjali Singh who joined as Executive officer on 01.08.2005 Smt. Singh belonging to Cooperation Service as Assistant Register of coop societies (ARCS). The Municipality does not have a Health Officer, Finance Officer, Assistant Engineer, Head Clerk, Assistant Engineer to see its day to day administration efficiently.

The MPL has approached the state Govt. for approval of revised staffing pattern but matter has been kept pending by the Govt. despite several request of the MPL.

The attendance of the staff is regularly monitored by the Chairman and Vice Chairman who are almost full time functionary and stay in the office throughout the day.

The following are the existing staff of the Municipality

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u>GENERAL STAFF</u> | |
| 1 | Shri Suren Katwal | Asstt. Head Clerk |
| 2 | Shri Edwin Sinha, | Accountant |
| 3 | Shri Madhu Lama | Typist |
| 4 | Sushri Padma Moktan | 3rd Asstt. Clerk |
| 5 | Smt. Shashi Kala Pradhan | L.D.C. |
| 6 | Shri D.K. Chettri | Record Keeper |
| 7 | Shri Milan Subba | Chairman's Orderly |
| 8 | Shri Kumar Sanyasi | Office Boy |
| 9 | Shri G.D. Chettri | Tax-Daroga |
| 10 | Shri Pritam Kumar Chettri | Cashier |
| 11 | Shri Edwin Chettri | Assessment In-Charge |
| 12 | Shri Benoy Kumar Pradhan, | Tax-Collector |
| 13 | Shri Biren Kumar Pradhan, | Tax-Collector |
| 14 | Shri Dawa Tshering | Tax-Collector |
| 15 | Shri Raju Lama | Tax-Clerk |
| 16 | Shri Raj Kumar Chettri | Record Keeper Gr. III. |
| 17 | Shri Rajen Pradhan | Collecting Peon |
| 18 | Shri Subash Chettri | Collecting Peon |
| 19 | Shri Passang Lama | Head Fitter |
| 20 | Shri Bandhan Sarki | Asstt. Fitter |
| 21 | Shri Arjun Chettri | Asstt. Fitter |
| 22 | Shri Mohan Mukhia | Asstt. Fitter |
| 23 | Shri Deben Kumar Pradhan | Fitter Chowkidar |
| 24 | Shri Shyam Mangrati | C.A. Chowkidar |
| 25 | Shri Padam Bahadur Lama | C.A. Chowkidar |
| 26 | Shri Mitra Pradhan | Asstt. Khalasi |
| 27 | Shri Nima Noori Sherpa | Asstt. Khalasi |
| 28 | Shri Nima Gyalzen Lama | Asstt. Khalasi |
| 29 | Shri Chandra Thing | Asstt. Khalasi |
| 30 | Shri Passang Yolmo | Asstt. Khalasi |
| 31 | Shri Rabi Chettri | Asstt. Khalasi |
| 32 | Shri Purna Kr. Gurung | Sanitary Inspector |
| 33 | Shri I.B. Rasaily | Vaccinator |
| 34 | Shri Bhanu Prakash Rasaily | Conservancy Supervisor |
| 35 | Shri Ramesh Subba | Asstt. Conservancy Baidar |
| 36 | Shri Jiwan Gurung | Tractor Driver |
| 37 | Shri Kubir Thami | Coolie |
| 38 | Shri Kiran Rai | Coolie |
| 39 | Shri Sukraj Thapa | Coolie |
| 40 | Shri Arjun Thapa | Coolie |
| 41 | Shri Rajen Lama | Coolie |
| 42 | Shri Mani Kumar Rai, | B.B. Gr. Chowkidar |
| 43 | Shri Manoj Kumar Chettri | Sub-Asstt. Engineer |
| 44 | Shri Govind Adhikari | S.A.E. (Building Plan) |
| 45 | Shri Deo Kumar Rai | Work Sarkar |
| 46 | Shri Bhim Bdr. Chettri | Head Master |

| | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 47 | Shri Devendra Kumar Pradhan | Asstt. Teacher |
| 48 | Smt. Dwarika Baraily | Asstt. Teacher |
| 49 | Smt. Latika Rana | Asstt. Teacher |
| 50 | Smt. Urmila Gurung | Asstt. Teacher |
| 51 | Smt. Audity Subba | Asstt. Teacher |
| 52 | Smt. Geeta Tamang | Head Mistress |
| 53 | Sushri Prava Sunwar | Asstt. Teacher |
| 54 | Sushri Sushma Pradhan | Asstt. Teacher |
| 55 | Smt. Roma Gurung | Asstt. Teacher |
| 56 | Smt. Shovamit Lepcha | Asstt. Teacher |
| 57 | Shri Subra Rumba | Asstt. Store Keeper |
| 58 | Shri S.N. Pradhan | Store Baidar |
| | <u>CONSERVANCY STAFF</u> | |
| 59. | Shri Chandulal Harijan | N. S. Man |
| 60. | Shri Jiwan Routh No. I | N. S. Man |
| 61. | Shri Prakash Routh | Night Soilman |
| 62. | Shri Suren Routh | P.P. & Cesspol |
| 63. | Shri Buddha Routh | Road & Drain |
| 64. | Shri Rajen Hari | N. S. Man |
| 65. | Shri Ashok Routh | N. S. Man |
| 66. | Smt. Sewarathi Routh | Public Latrine |
| 67. | Smt. Chhaya Routh | P.P. & Cesspol |
| 68. | Smt. Kaushilya Routh | Public Latrine |
| 69. | Smt. Sabitri Hari | Road & Drain |
| 70. | Shri Binod Routh | Public Latrine |
| 71. | Shri Indra Prakash Mothay | - do - |
| 72. | Shri Santa Kr. Chettri | - do - |
| 73. | Shri Ganesh Bdr. Pradhan | - do - |
| 74. | Smt. Lilia Routh | - do - |
| 75. | Smt. Bimla Routh | - do - |
| 76. | Smt. Janaki Routh | - do - |
| 77. | Smt. Radhika Routh | - do - |
| 78. | Shri Mohan Hari | Road & drain |
| 79. | Shri Suresh Routh No. II | - do - |
| 80. | Shri Ashok Ram | - do - |
| 81. | Shri Suresh Routh No. III | Road & drain |
| 82. | Smt. Banarashi Routh | - do - |
| 83. | Shri Dilip Hari | - do - |
| 84. | Smt. Anita Routh | - do - |
| 85. | Smt. Laxmi Routh | - do - |
| 86. | Shri Kumar Routh | - do - |
| 87. | Shri Rajen Routh | - do - |
| 88. | Shri Shyam Routh | - do - |
| 89. | Shri Laxman Routh | - do - |
| 90. | Shri Raju Routh - II | - do - |
| 91. | Shri Siva Kr. Routh | - do - |
| 92. | Shri Rajesh Routh - I | - do - |
| 93. | Shri Arjun Hari | - do - |
| 94. | Shri Mahendra Routh | - do - |
| 95. | Smt. Geeta Routh | - do - |
| 96. | Shri Kiran Routh | - do - |
| 97. | Smt. Shova Routh | - do - |
| 98. | Smt. Chandrakala Routh | - do - |
| 99. | Shri Birkha Bdr. Biswakarma | - do - |
| 100. | Shri Ram Tamang | - do - |
| 101. | Shri Rajesh Routh - II | - do - |
| 102. | Shri Narendra Sharma | Road & drain |
| 103. | Shri Bimal Moktan | - do - |
| 104. | Smt. Rupa Dom | - do - |
| 105. | Shri Sekhar Mallick | - do - |

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|--------|
| 106 | Shri Gautam Routh | - do - |
| 107 | Shri Bhim Hari | - do - |
| 108 | Shri Ratan Harijan | - do - |
| 109 | Shri Lalchand Routh | - do - |
| 110 | Shri Sonam Tsh. Lepcha | - do - |
| 111 | Shri Raj Kr. Routh | - do - |
| 112 | Shri Roshan Routh | - do - |
| 113 | Shri Bharat Routh | - do - |
| 114 | Smt. Sujata Routh | - do - |
| 115 | Shri Phuchu Routh | - do - |

In addition to the above staff the Municipality has engaged 55 casual staff to provide minimum basic services to the tax payers as the existing staff are not enough to meet the demand of the public. Due to the unique topography of the hill areas, the number of staff required is at least 40 per cent more than the Municipalities of the plains. The engagement of casual staff is justified for the above reasons.

7. (a) REVENUE COLLECTION : The main source of revenue collection of the Municipality is through the collection of holding taxes, imposition of fees etc.

In addition to above, the Municipality receives fixed grant, entertainment tax , dearness allowance etc. to meet the salaries of the permanent staff. The details of the allotments received are shown separately. The yearly expenditure on salaries of the staff per month is Rs. 135 lakhs /- out of which the State Govt. allots an amount of Rs. 102 lakhs /- under fixed grant, salary grant, D.A. etc. which leaves a yearly deficit of Rs. 33 lakhs /-.

A statement showing the demand, collection, remission and outstanding taxes for the year under report is shown below:

| | | |
|---------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Demand: | Arrear: | Rs. 24,61,349.00 |
| | Current | Rs. 23,38,874.00 |
| | <u>Total :</u> | <u>Rs. 48,00,223.00</u> |

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Collection: | Arrear: | Rs. 4,76,991.00 |
| | Current: | Rs. 16,18,049.00 |
| | <u>Total:</u> | <u>Rs. 20,95,040.00</u> |

| | | |
|------------|--------------|----------------|
| Remission: | Arrear: | Rs. Nil |
| | Current: | Rs Nil |
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Rs. Nil</u> |

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Outstanding Dues: | Arrear: | Rs. 19,84,358.00 |
| | Current: | Rs 7,20,825.00 |
| | <u>Total:</u> | <u>Rs. 27,05,183.00</u> |

Percentage of Arrear Collection: 19.38 per cent

Percentage of Current Collection 69.18 per cent

(b) Tax on Profession and Trade:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| (a) Trade Tax: | Rs. 1,67,549.00 |
| (b) Licence Fees: | Rs. 16,990.00 |
| (c) Other Non Tax Revenue: | Rs. 30,09,892.00 |

7(c) Demand and Collection of Property Tax for the year 2007 – 2008:

a) **Property Tax:**

| | Demand | Collection |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Arrear | Rs. 24,61,349.00 | Rs. 4,76,991.00 |
| Current | Rs. 23,38,874.00 | Rs. 16,18,049.00 |
| Total: | Rs. 48,00,223 | Rs. 20,95,040.00 |

7 (d) COLLECTION FROM MOBILE TOWERS: The Municipality has imposed charges for sanction of plans and for permission to set up mobile towers by various mobile companies. The following amounts were realized from different Companies:

| Date | Name of Company | Amount realised |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 01.04.2007 TO 31.03.2008 | RelianceTower,Tatatelecom,Aircel | Rs. 2,32,000 |

8(a)Objectives:

The main objectives of this paper are

- (i)To highlight the problems in providing potable drinking water to the residents of Kurseong town and neighboring rural areas.
- (ii)To work out and suggest measures to ameliorate such problems to the possible extent with approximate cost appreciation to implanting such measures.

8(b) The present position of providing potable water to the residents of Kurseong town:

Kurseong town has quite a number of perennial and semi perennial sources of water in the form of hilly streams and Nullahs. Out of such sources of water from the following streams which are also known as Nullahs and kholas are impounded with small setting tanks and reservoirs for storage of water for supply to Kurseong town. Such impounded water are conveyed to the main storage tanks located at convenient places for equitable distribution to the residents of various wards under this Municipality with network of 2” approximate diameters of connection pipes.

8(c) Sources of water for feeding Central Water Reservoir

| Sl. No. | Sources of Perennial Khora and Jhoras | Location | Feeding Reservoirs |
|---------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | DareyKhola | Near Bagora | Central Water Reservoir at Durpin (Dowhill Forest Area) |
| 2 | Baluwakhani Khola (8 th Mile) | Near Sonada | Eagles Craig Central Reservoir |
| 3 | Aringalay Khola | Near Dilaram | St. Helens Central Reservoir |
| 4 | Sepoydhura Khola | Near Sepoydhura | St. Helens Central Reservoir |
| 5 | Whistle Khola | Near St. Mary Hills | Circular Reservoir near Church(St. Helen Area) |
| 6 | Babu Khola | Near Gundrukay Busty | C.W.R. at Durpin(Dow Hill Forest area) |
| 7 | Pahwa Khola | Near Deorali Busty | C.W.R. at Victoria |
| 8 | Chittray Khola | Near Chittray Busty | C.W.R. at Victoria (Dowhill Forest) |
| 9 | Amaa Khola | Near Khundrukey Busty | C.W.R. at Durpin |
| 10 | Thotay Khola | Near Tung | Eagles Craig Central Reservoir |

8 (d) Storage Facilities and Capabilities of the Storage Tanks: The following are the Primary Storage Tanks for the potable water from where distribution is made to the Secondary Storage Tanks located at cardinal spots for distribution to the consumers:

8 (e) Storage Facilities and capacities of the Storage Tanks:

The following are the Primary Storage Tanks for the potable water from where distributions is made to the secondary storage tanks located at cardinal spots for distribution to the consumer:-

| Sl. No. | | Capacity | Type |
|---------|---|--|---|
| (i) | R.C. Storage Tank at Dow Hill Forest Area (Durpin) | 45,00,000 Gallon | Rectangular |
| (i)(a) | This is always kept in reserve for maintaining supply during emergencies. | | |
| (ii) | Central Water Reservoir near Victoria School (a) (with Filter and Chlorination Devices). (b) | R.C.C. Tank 45,000 Gallon 20,000 Gallon | Circular Rectangular (RCC) |
| (iii) | Central Water Reservoir(with Filter and Chlorination Devices) (a) Near St. Helen's Convent. (b) | R.C.C. Tank 88,000 Gallon 20,000 Gallon | Rectangular Circular (RCC) |
| (iv) | Central Water Reservoir(with Filter and Chlorination Devices) (a) At Eagles Craig. (b) | R.C.C. Circular 45,000 Gallon 50,000 Gallon | Circular Circular (RCC) |
| (v) | Central Reservoir near Municipality Office for tapping unfiltered water, water from various (a) springs Raw Water for use in washing (b) lavindering Toilets and fire hydrants. (c) | R.C.C. Tank 20,000 Gallon 20,000 Gallon 20,000 Gallon | Rectangular Rectangular Rectangular (RCC) |
| (vi) | Central Water Reservoir at Dowhill near Post Office (without filter and Chlorination devices). | R.C.C. Tank 10,000 Gallon | Rectangular (RCC). |

8 (f) Availability and distribution of Water:

As Kurseong has the natural sloped areas the gravity flow system has been adopted for channeling and distribution of water to different places. Kurseong Municipality has no tube wells nor any pumping stations and all the water is directed to the primary reservoirs through different sizes of G.I. Pipe Lines from their respective natural springs sources located in the dense forest areas for distances from 2 to 20 K.M. from Kurseong after preliminary sedimentation of filtration. The day to day requirement of potable water per day/per head is about 20 gallons to be comfortable. This can be made available to the public during the rainy, autumn and winter seasons. But the water scarcity is strongly felt during the three summer months as detailed below:-

(a) Total storage facility during the summer months.- 3,55,000 Gal./Per Day
 Less 5% due to water (loss) - (-) 17,550 Gal./Per Day.
 Net available 3,37,250 Gal./Per Day

(b) Present Population of Kurseong Town - 40,172 Nos.
 Add Floating Population Per Day (+) 2,400 Nos.
 42,572 Nos.
 Say : 42,500 Nos.

(c) Average Water supply per day = 3,37,250 Gal.
 42,500 Nos.
 = 7.90 Gallons per day per head.

Present demand per day = 8,40,000 Gallons (for 42,000 population @ 20Gal./per head/ per day)

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Actual supply available | = | 3,37,250 Gallons |
| | | Per day during the dry |
| | | Season. |
| Shortfall during dry | | 5,02,750 Gallons. |
| Period. | | |

The existing capacities of all the above reservoirs are inadequate to cater to the present demand due to increase in population in the command areas and the supply is done in alternative days in most of the areas, especially during the dry season. In view of this scarcity, water is brought from the jhoras in trucks, jeeps, water tankers for supplies to house holds, hotels, restaurants, commercial establishments and other during water scarcity months. Some of the new commercial complexes & Dormitory and Housing complexes are under construction in the area of Kurseong Municipality, which will also require adequate supply of potable water. It is therefore imperative and necessary to augment the numbers of water reservoirs where required remodeling and realigning the water supply pipe lines in the Town area & also those pipe lines from catchment areas to central water reservoir which were constructed during pre-independence days and replace the old and ineffective ones with new ones if adequate supply of water is to be maintained. The Kurseong Town has no provisions of specified water reservoirs for fire fighting or any fire fighting devices in order to remain prepared against similar situations which devastated the Kurseong Town during the fire havoc in the year 1986.

8 (g). Water Supply Projects:

The water supply project in Kurseong Municipality needs urgent improvement. The age-old distribution system of water supply needs to be revamped. In addition improvement of the catchment areas, existing water reservoirs and addition of water reservoirs in some places are urgently required in order to maintain the water supply to Kurseong town. For this a master project was prepared by the Municipality and submitted to the Hon'ble Minister in Charge, Municipal Affairs Department and related Deptt. several times. But no fund has been sanctioned for this purpose till date. The Supply of water from the sources situated within the forest areas upto the Central Reservoirs located within the Kurseong Town is being maintained by the P.H.E. Deptt. and from these Central Reservoirs Water is being distributed to the public by Kurseong Municipality. The main feeder conduit pipes from the source to the Reservoir are in dilapidated conditions, which were laid nearly 30 years ago. But due to financial crunch the P.H.E. Deptt. has not been able to maintain these main conduits, which is causing profuse leakage of water in the way, resulting in inadequate supply of water to the reservoirs. Moreover the condition of the distribution system within the town area is not good which need replacement and renovation. The brief description of the items to be taken up is given below:

| | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| i) | Total quantum of water required per day during lean & non lean period | : | 3.975 MLD | |
| ii) | Total quantum of water supplied per day | : | 1.410 MLD | |
| iii) | Total Quantum of Water deficit per day | : | 2.569 MLD | |
| iv) | Municipal Wards to be covered | : | 20 | |
| v) | Water supplied to houses- how many times a day | : | once in alternative days in all wards | |
| vi) | Population covered under portable water system | : | 38,000 | |
| vii) | Through house connections | : | 1410 | |
| viii) | Through stand post | : | 190 | |
| ix) | No. of hand tube wells/wells installed | : | Nil | |
| x) | No. of spot sources (Natural Catchment Source) | : | 27 | |
| xi) | Projected requirement of water with year | : | Year | Qty. Req. |
| | | | 2007 | 4.50 MLD |
| | | | 2020 | 5.591 MLD |
| | | | 2033 | 6.877 MLD |

8 (h) FUTURE PLAN :

The future plans have to be taken up immediately to cope with the situation and to eliminate the crisis of water supply to fulfill the individual demand, we have prepared few schemes to augment supply of potable water required for the people of Kurseong Municipality area from the present supply of 6.90 Gallons per head per day to 20 Gallons per head per day even during the months of dry seasons taking into consideration the likely anticipated population of Kurseong by 2011 A.D. At present the rain water conservation technique are being followed in hilly terrain adopting by different methods during rainy season.

- i) Water harvesting method on roof top.
- ii) Ground Trench preservation method.

9. (a) ASSESSMENT OF HOLDINGS: The assessment of the holdings of the Municipal area has not been done by the Valuation Board for a long time. The Municipality has requested the Central Valuation Board to undertake the work of assessment at an early date. In the meantime, the Assessment Committee of the Municipality takes up assessment of newly constructed holdings and fixes the annual rents of the holdings. The following number of assessments were done during the period of report :

Total number of Assessment done: 56
Total revenue collected: Rs. 14,788.00

9 (b) METHOD OF ASSESSMENT AND LEVY OF RATES: The West Bengal valuation Board has been regularly pressurizing the municipality to take up the work of assessment of its holdings. During the previous board of councilors, the W.B.V.B has written to the chairman that the general valuation of land and buildings has fallen due on 1.1.96 and that it is mandatory as per Gov. instruction that the general valuation of the land and buildings has to be taken up by the above valuation board. Accordingly, the officials of the valuation board had visited the office of the Kurseong municipality on 2nd and 3rd June 2003 to finalize the dates. But the previous Board of Councilors could not take any decision in the matter for reasons best known to themselves. After the present board took charge, the director of local bodies, government of W.B. had several times talked about the revaluation of the properties and vide its memo No 1802/DLB/C-3/CBCB/1-2005 dated 22 Sep2005. The valuation of the properties in Kurseong Municipality area was assessed during 4th quarter 89/90 and there after no revision was done. In view of the above, the board of councilors in its ordinary meetings held on 28th October. 2004, 17th February 2005, 26 August 2005 and 23rd February 2006 discussed the matter at length and each ward councilors gave the names of two persons to assist the members of the valuation board in preparing the details etc. The W.B.V.B issued public notice on 15th February 2006, regarding the assessment of holdings which was published simultaneously in the statesman and Himalayan Darpan. The member secretary and other officials of the valuation board subsequently visited this office and imparted training to the field staff to be appointed for the assessment work. After the completion of the training programme the councilors have decided to postpone the valuation work until further decision.

10. PUBLIC WORKS:

The Municipality has a Public Works Department headed by two permanent Sub Assistant Engineer, one overall in charge and the other in charge of building plan and Street Light one permanent work sarkar besides them 3 more S.A.E. on consolidated pay have been engaged for smooth running of public work Deptt. assistant, one work Sarkar .During the year 2007-08 the following schemes or work were undertaken within the Municipal area:

| Sl. No | Name of the work | Estimated Amount |
|--------|--|------------------|
| 1 | Construction of Footpath & drain near Bhanu sing at Upper Duma ram Busty | 35000.00 |
| 2 | E/R of Jhora near rajen Pradhan House at ward no. XX . | 34975.00 |
| 3 | Providing & Laying of G.I.Pipe for Public Hyderant at deokota tole near Deepak roka;s house at ward no. IX | 36440.00 |
| 4 | Const. of Damage Public Path near Sunita House at ward no. VII | 34960.00 |

| | | |
|----|---|----------|
| | | |
| 5 | Construction of road side protection Wall near the house of Plara Rai at ward no. III | 35000.00 |
| 6 | Renovation & improvement of link road in front of Scavenger qtrs at ward no. I | 35090.00 |
| 7 | Construction of link road near Pradip Lama house and public hydrant at ward no. XIV | 35080.00 |
| 8 | Improvement & renovation of public path at H. C. Road ward no. XII | 50443.00 |
| 9 | Improvement & renovation of footpath & drain near Pradhan house ward no. XIII | 35038.00 |
| 10 | Construction of footpath and steps below the house of Wangdi Lama at ward no. XIX | 35000.00 |
| 11 | Improvement of public path & drain near Raj Rajeshwari Hall upwards upto Dowhill Road at ward no. VIII | 34980.00 |
| 12 | Improvement & Renovation of public path in front of M.R.Shop of Sharda Gupta, Rahman House at ward no. XV | 34996.00 |
| 13 | Improvement of link road near Suren Pradhan house & drain near Manik Pradhan house at ward no. XI | 35039.00 |
| 14 | Construction of footpath & drain near Asha Mukhia's house at Hasibul dara at ward no. XX | 35000.00 |
| 15 | Construction of protection wall & damaged path near Sarku Pradhan's house at ward no. II | 35414.00 |
| 16 | Proposed finishing near Subedar busy community hall, construction of path & public hydrant near Sudersan Jaisi House in ward no. XVI | 35000.00 |
| 17 | Construction of path & railing near Ashok Chettri house & drain cover slab near Gyanukar School in ward no. XVII | 35000.00 |
| 18 | Construction of path & railing near N. K. Thapa & N. K. Nirola house & drain near Rajen Thapa's house at ward no. V | 35000.00 |
| 19 | Construction of public drain & protection wall at cremation road below Hudco qtr at ward no. VI | 35000.00 |
| 20 | Construction of protection wall, footpath near the house of J. K. Limbu's at ward no. II under BMS | 60004.00 |
| 21 | Construction of community hall (first floor) at Sudapatole at ward no. IX under BMS | 60233.00 |
| 22 | Construction of protection wall below Ram Majhi's house & public path & culvert near Dharamsala to below SDM Bungalow ward no. VIII under BMS | 60180.00 |
| 23 | Construction of public path near & below public latrine at Sitaloo busy at ward no. VIII under BMS | 59980.00 |
| 24 | Renovation & improvement of link road beside Sachin's shop at ward no. XII under BMS | 59978.00 |
| 25 | Construction of railing near Arun Rai & wall near Rajen Thapa house ward no. V under BMS | 59980.00 |
| 26 | Construction of public path at Gandhi Gram & Buddha Gram at ward no. X under BMS | 59975.00 |
| 27 | Proposed construction of link road near Kumar Thapa house at Ragay Dhura at ward no. XIV under BMS | 59998.00 |
| 28 | Construction of protection wall & railing near Acharya Club at ward no. XVII under BMS | 59990.00 |
| 29 | Construction of footpath at Hasibul Dhara, dustbin at Fatak Dhara at ward no. XX under BMS | 59995.00 |
| 30 | Construction of footpath & drain near the house of Uma Rai at Upper Dumaram Busy at ward no IV under BMS | 59990.00 |
| 31 | Improvement & renovation of Galbin Street Road & Masjid lane at ward no XV | 59959.00 |
| 32 | Improvement & renovation cement concrete road & footpath near Himalayan Bayamsala at ward no. XIII under BMS | 60000.00 |
| 33 | Const. of Footpath & wall near the house of sri Shanta Tamang at ujjery Busy at ward no. XIX Under BMS | 59960.00 |
| 34 | Const. of Footpath & wall near the house of Janki Tamang at ward no. XI Under BMS | 59990.00 |
| 35 | Imp. Of link Road near Anita Restaurant at ward no. XI Under BMS | 59988.00 |
| 36 | Imp. Of link Road near Mallai Shah Qtr. at ward no. I Under BMS | 59970.00 |
| 37 | Construction of protection wall near the house of Nakul Rai at ward no | 60000.00 |

| | | |
|----|---|----------|
| | .XVI under BMS | |
| 38 | Const. of Footpath near Lamu Sherpa at ward no. VI | 59985.00 |
| 39 | Const. of Footpath & Drain near Director Qtr. at ward no.I | 50036.00 |
| 40 | Construction of Damage Wall near the house of Rajesh Gajmer at ward no II . | 50107.00 |
| 41 | Construction of Footpath & drain near step in restaurant at ward no III . | 49910.00 |
| 42 | Construction of Footpath & drain near the house of Kaliman Sailal at ward no. IV . | 49920.00 |
| 43 | Construction of Path & railing Belo Saila Villa at ward no. V | 49965.00 |
| 44 | Construction of Path & Wall from near Mount Egmund School at Thauthakay Busty at Ward no. VI. | 49973.00 |
| 45 | Imp. Of public drain with guide wall loden Sherpa house & const. of public path at subaydar aBusty at Ward no. VII | 49985.00 |
| 46 | Imp. Of wall & drain near Raj Rajeswari hall at ward no. VIII | 49995.00 |
| 47 | Construction of Community Hall (2 nd Floor) at Sudhapatole Ward No | 49980.00 |
| 48 | Construction of Public drain with side wall below nag mandir at Gandhi gram ward no XX | 49962.00 |
| 49 | Imp. Of Link road & road side drain ,wall at ward no. XI | 50000.00 |
| 50 | Imp. & const. of drain and footpath near the house of raju lama at ward no. XIII | 50028.00 |
| 51 | Imp. Of Link road near murtuja ali house & drain near little flower school at ward no. XIII | 50006.00 |
| 52 | Imp. Of Link road Drain near the house of Jasoda lama at Manbir Busty ward no. XIV | 50000.00 |
| 53 | Imp. Of Link road Drain & Wall near the house of T.K. Pradhan hat bazaar at ward no. XV | 50015.00 |
| 54 | Const. Of Culvert over Jhora near the house of sudersan jaisi at suberdar busty in ward no. XVI | 50000.00 |
| 55 | Const of footpath near Rajbari School & Ranikoop area & Public Hydrant blow the house of S. Katwal at ward no. XVII | 49893.00 |
| 56 | Const. / Imp. of drain near the house of Kishor Gurung at ward no. XVIII | 49990.00 |
| 57 | Imp. & const. of drain and footpath near the house of Kancha Lama at Ujjery Busty at ward no. XIX | 50000.00 |
| 58 | Imp. & const. of drain and footpath near Hansibul Dhara and Thana area at ward no.XX | 49980.00 |
| 59 | Const. of Protection Wall of Takbir Busty , Dowhill at Ward no. II | 50080.00 |
| 60 | Const of path & railing near Daniel Pradhan house's at Takbir Busty at ward no III | 49985.00 |
| 61 | Imp. & const. of drain and footpath Above Const. Board ,near the house of Bimal Thapa at ward no. V | 50000.00 |
| 62 | const. of drain and footpath near the house Of Sunita Lama ,Above sherpa Monastery at ward no. VI | 49980.00 |
| 63 | const. of Public drain with Path near Ranu Dukpa house's at sherpa busty at ward no. VII | 49980.00 |
| 64 | Construction of Public drain with side wall below Church at ward no. VIII | 49980.00 |
| 65 | Imp. & const. of drain & Wall below the Reservoir at ward no IX | 49988.00 |
| 66 | Imp. & const. of drain Near the of Purba Lama at ward no X. | 49965.00 |
| 67 | const. of Public drain with Path near the house of Sabbir at Guddi Lain at ward no. XI | 50170.00 |
| 68 | Imp. Of Link road Drain & Wall near Kumai Studio towards Guddi lain at ward no. XII | 50272.00 |
| 69 | Imp. Of road near the House of Kumar Pradhan & Drain ,wall near the house of Santosh Mukhia at Ward no. XIII | 50038.00 |
| 70 | Imp. & const. of footpath near the house of Karma Darjee at Manbir Busty at ward no . XIV | 50000.00 |
| 71 | const. of drain and footpath near Masjid in ward no. XV | 49965.00 |
| 72 | E/Const. of protection wall & Jhora Guide Wall near the house of Naren Chettri at ward no. XVI | 49995.00 |
| 73 | Const. of protection wall Near the house of Sabim Gurung at Ujjery Busty at ward no. XIX | 49980.00 |
| 74 | Const. of path near the Cometary & Public Hydrant at Chanbari Road at ward no. XX | 49980.00 |

11. STREET LIGHTING:

During the year under report the total No. of Street Lights as per schedule was 872 within Municipal Area.

With an average 80% lights were burning and 20% remaining unburnt and continuous non-burning of street lights are due to the dilapidated and rotten condition of poles which are required to repair or replace with new poles , as this Municipality is running with insufficient fund and limited resources the maintenance work could not be taken up. With an improved fund position it and when sanctioned by the Govt. in future , this Municipality has put this scheme on a priority list.

12 HEALTH AND SANITATION:

The Health and sanitation Department of every Municipality has one Sanitary Inspector , one Conservancy Supervisor, two Asst. Conservancy Baidar and 65 conservancy staff with the following equipments:-

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Tata truck WB 73B 1118 | - | 1 |
| Pick up Van WB 73B 1146 | - | 1 |
| Tractor Ford no. WB 76-1216 | - | 1 |
| Jeep Trailer | - | 1 |

There are altogether 74 dustbins in the Municipality area. There is one central Septic Tank, one dumping ground, 18 public latrines having 200 seats and 505 sewer connection. In addition there are 32 Community latrines in the town.

The existing number of staff maintaining the public latrines, dustbins, roads and drains is quit inadequate. Many staff have retired or died and in their place the Municipality has not been able to appoint new staff or no approval to the proposals submitted by the Municipality has been obtained from the State Govt.

12(a) Slaughter House:

Kurseong Municipality has one centralized stay liter home constructed on land purchase at a total cost of Rs. 1,60,000/- at Park Location, Kurseong. The said slaughter house having six apartment and one shed was constructed in the said land in consultation with the West Bengal livestock Department at an estimated cost of Rs. 16,00,000/- only sanctioned by the Govt.

12(b) General Health: The general health of the town people are quite satisfactory thorough the year. No information of any epidemic or illness due to unhealthy sanitation was received during the year.

12(c) Infectious and Epidemic Diseases: The following number of cases of infectious diseases were received during the year:

| Sl. No. | Name of the Disease | No. of persons affected | No. of persons died |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Dysentery | 581 | Nil |
| 2 | Diarrhea | 728 | Nil |
| 3 | Influenza | 509 | Nil |
| 4 | Whooping Cough | Nil | Nil |
| 5 | Diphtheria | Nil | Nil |
| 6 | Measles | 35 | Nil |
| 7 | Chicken Pox | 9 | Nil |
| 8 | Tuberculosis | 42 | 6 |

All possible measures were taken against the spread of diseases. Five houses were thoroughly disinfected during the period.

12(d) Births and Deaths: The following is the report of births and deaths in the Municipal area during the year:

| | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------|------|--------|-------|
| Births | 574 | 467 | 1041 |
| Deaths | 195 | 140 | 335 |
| Still Birth | 04 | 02 | 06 |

12(e) Food seized and Destroyed: The following food were seized and destroyed under the provisions of West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993, during the period or report:

| Particulars of food seized | Quantity seized |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Fish | - |
| Meat | 12 Kg. |
| Cow Milk | - |
| Sweetmeats | - |
| Vegetables | - |

12(f)Animals Slaughtered: The following is the details of the animals slaughtered during the period of report:

| Details of animals slaughtered | Cattle | Buffalo | Total | Goat | Sheep | Pig | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------|---------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Antemortem Examination | 1584 | 151 | 1735 | 3527 | 102 | 2004 | 5633 |
| Rejected | 18 | 4 | 22 | 6 | 15 | 5 | 26 |
| Name of Disease | | | | | | | |
| Hytatid Cyst | 18 | 4 | 22 | - | - | - | - |
| Round Worm | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Fagiola | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Liver Abscess | - | - | - | 10 | 14 | 6 | 30 |
| Cysticireia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| T.B. Lesions | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Para Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

13. EDUCATION:

The Municipality is running two Primary School in Kurseong .The School are located just above the office building .The Municipality constructed two storeyed R.C.C. building for Boys with the financial assist, received from D.G.H.C. but condition of the girls school is very poor and due to financial constraints the Municipality has not been able to construct or repair the same. Details of School are as follows:

| Sl. No. | School | Established | Students | Teachers | Establishment Cost |
|---------|--|-------------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| 01. | Municipal Boys' Primary School, Kurseong | 1935 | 70 | 6 | 7,76,992/- |
| 02. | Municipal Kanya Pathsala, Kurseong | 1948 | 55 | 5 | 6,29,525/- |

The running of the two Primary school is a big burcher for the Municipality and is not sustainable .The yearly established cost for running the schools are approximately 15,00,000 during the year 2007-08 the Municipality has to spend about Rs. 14,06,517/- as establishment cost for the school. But the Municipality does not get any return from these institutions. As such the Board of Councillor have decided to hard over the two schools to Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council as all the Primary schools of three hill sub division have already been take over by D.G.H.C. The matter is already placed in the D.G.H.C. In response of this the District Inspector of School (P.E.) D.G.H.C. Darjeeling on 12.08.2005 has inspected the schools. Essential formalities has been fulfilled by the Municipality .The matter is under consideration of the concerned Authority of the D.G. H.C.

14. TOWN CLEANING: Every year the Municipality takes up the work of cleaning of the drains and bushes of the road side for which some additional workers are engaged as the Municipality is handicapped by the shortage of cleaning staff. Bleaching powders are also spread in the drains for disinfecting the drains.

15. OUTSTANDING DUES: The total contractor outstanding dues as on 01.04.2007
Rs- 1,162,636.

16. NEW ASSETS: The Municipality has not purchased any assets during this year .

17. LOAN SCHEMES SPONSORED BY THE MUNICIPALITY

The Municipality sponsors various loan schemes to the banks. The loans are sanctioned to the Scheduled Caste and Tribe candidates and those who are below poverty level. The various loan schemes are advertised by the Ward Councillors and applications are invited from the interested persons. After receipt of the applications the Screening Committee formed by the Municipality which includes officials from the Bank and administration screen the candidates and recommend loans to the banks. The banks again interviews the candidates and then sanctions the loans. Unfortunately, the banks take inordinately long time for sanction of the loans. The following cases were recommended to the banks and sanctioned during the year:

| Sl. No. | Target | Name of Bank | Sponsored to Bank | | | Sanctioned by Bank | | | Disbursed by Bank | | | Rejected by bank | | | Pending with Bank | | |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|----|-------|--------------------|----|-------|-------------------|----|-------|------------------|----|-------|-------------------|----|-------|
| | | | SC | ST | Total | SC | ST | Total | SC | ST | Total | SC | ST | Total | SC | ST | Total |
| 1 | SC/ST: | C.B.I | 5 | - | 5 | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| | Total: | . | 5 | - | 5 | 5 | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 10 | S.B.I | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | | A.B. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL: | | | 13 | - | 13 | 11 | - | 11 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 2 | PMRY 36 | CBI | 06 | | | 05 | | | 05 | | | 01 | | | - | | |
| | | SBI | 10 | | | 07 | | | 07 | | | 03 | | | - | | |
| | | A.B. | 5 | | | 02 | | | 02 | | | 03 | | | - | | |
| TOTAL: | | | 21 | | | 14 | | | 14 | | | 07 | | | - | | |
| 3. | SJSRY 2006- 07 | CBI | 16 | | | 12 | | | 12 | | | 4 | | | - | | |
| | | SBI | 21 | | | 07 | | | 07 | | | 14 | | | - | | |
| | | A.B. | 13 | | | 09 | | | 09 | | | 4 | | | - | | |
| TOTAL: | | | 50 | | | 28 | | | 28 | | | 22 | | | - | | |

(CBI- Central Bank of India. S.B.I.- State Bank of India. A.B.- Allahabad Bank)

18. PROGRESS OF SJSRY

18(a) Report of DWCUA Scheme: The DWCUA Scheme was started in Kurseong Municipality in the year 2003-04, for this 5 groups have already been formed each groups consisting of ten members. Five groups of DWCUA case was sanctioned by the Bank in the year 2003-04 and same has been disbursed to groups. During the year 2007-08 no new DWCUA group was formed.

18(b): Report on T & C Group

The Scheme has been started in Kurseong Municipality since 2001. At present we have two CDS Units. The Government has registered both the units. At present there are total Two thousand members in 111 groups of the T & C Groups. The progress of the Scheme is quiet encouraging. The yearly audit of the accounts of the groups has also been done regularly. The details of the groups are given below:-

| Name of CDS Unit | Nos. of T& C Groups formed | Nos. of Members | Amount deposited(including Revolving Fund) | Amount of Loan sanctioned | Amount of Loan Recovery so far | No. of Beneficiaries | Amount of Revolving Fund received from SUDA |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Kurseong CDS-I | 49 | 784 | 14,44,128/- | 10,08,000/- | 6,00,000/- | 710 | 2,50,000/- |
| Kurseong CDS-II | 47 | 752 | 13,86,337/- | 9,10,000/- | 5,50,000/- | 690 | 1,80,000/- |
| Total:- | 96 | 1536 | 28,30,505/- | 19,18,000/- | 11,50,000/- | 1400 | 4,30,000/- |

18 (c) Report on Bank Loan under SJSRY

| Sl. No. | Name of the Bank | 2006-07 | | | | Remarks |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| | | Target | Sponsored by Bank | Sanctioned by Bank | Rejected by Bank | |
| 01. | State Bank of India, Kurseong | 30 | 21 | 07 | 14 | Loan Sanctioned and disbursed to the applicants |
| 02. | Central Bank of India, Kurseong | 20 | 16 | 12 | 04 | |
| 03. | Allahabad Bank, Kurseong | 20 | 13 | 09 | 04 | |

18 (d) Report on Antadaya Anna Yojana & Annapurna Yojana:

(i) Antadaya Anna Yojana (AAY):

| Target of Beneficiaries | Family Identified | Card Issued |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 550 | 550 | 312 |

(ii) Annapurna Yojana:

| Target of Beneficiaries | Beneficiaries Identified | No. of Ration Card Issued |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 38 | 28 | 23 |

19. AUDIT AND INSPECTIONS: The Accountant General's team of audit has inspected and audited the accounts of the Municipality upto the year 2002-03 to 2004-05 on dt. 16.1.2006 to 31.10.2006. But the Audit report has been received.

The office is regularly inspected by the Deputy Director of Local Bodies. . The follow up action on the reports of the inspection has also been taken and intimated to the concerned authorities.

20. Rollout of KUSP:

The training on Draft Development Plan under KUSP held on 13.02.2007 at Kalimpong. The ULB level workshop has been held on 09.12.2006 at the Kurseong Municipality. according to guidelines of KUSP Rollout Programme Draft Policy Group, Draft Technical Group I, II, III & Core Committee has constituted in Ordinary Monthly Meeting held on 11.01.2007. The constituted Core Committee conducted the meeting as ward level launching of DDP under KUSP Rollout Programme in all 20 wards from 16.04.2007 to 20.07.2007. After discussion & interaction with the people in different wards the common problem & proposal being observed. Ms sanjay Prasad as Town Planner engaged as on 01.11.2007 & Mr Rajan Agrawal as Account & Finance Coordinator engaged as on the date 01.09.2007. The two computers for KUSP programme has been purchased & the training is going on. The core committee for Citizen Charter has also been formed. Between November & 31st march :-

- socio economic survey started .
- GIS Base maps Started .
- Project list of DDP completed.
- Mission & vision workshop held .
- Citizen charted submitted
- Opening balance sheet Started .
- Assets identification progress .

21. Rollout of HHW:

Health Department, Kurseong Municipality started from 2006-2007 but till then no staff's were appointed. M.S cell staff's were engaged from July 2007, namely Smt.Dikki Sherpa (Multi purpose clerk cum store keeper), Miss Menuka Tamang (Computer Assistant), Mr Adwitya Gurung (Accounts Assistant). Other M.S Cell staffs, Dr. M.K. Giri (Medical Officer) and Miss Pratigya Gurung (Health Assistant) were appointed later.

Health Department is based upon 4(four) Sub-Centres which started from February 2008 . It consists one supervisor and 5 health workers in each center with Medical Officer and Health Assistant attending the centers subsequently.

DUTIES: Duties are mainly focused to BPL family mother and child. Centre provides medicines to those patients who finds hard to meet the daily expenses. Necessary Awareness programmes are held for the public and ward visits are regularly done.

M.S cell staff's looks upon the administration and proper management.

22. Conclusion:

The Kurseong Municipality is one of the oldest Municipality of West Bengal. The State Govt. has categories this Municipality as 'D' grade status. Actually the category is decided primarily on the basis of the population of a town. This practice puts the Municipalities of the hill areas at a disadvantage as the various factors like topography, population, climate, etc. are entirely different from the plains and putting the hill Municipalities at the same level as with the plains Municipality is not fair. The Kurseong Municipality has 20 wards & the entire area lies in mountainous terrain. The houses in the terrain are scattered and far between. In the hill areas the houses are not concentrated in any particular area. They are scattered all over the hilly terrain and the roads leading to these houses or villages are also accordingly located. For a staff, it will be very difficult to cover a large area for cleaning, for serving of tax bills and for other works due to the distance they have to cover while taking up the work in one holding to another holding. Another problem faced in the hill areas is that there are no local buses for easy transportation of the staff, unlike in the plains, the staffs cannot take the journeys in bicycles. For undertaking official work, the staff have to walk all the way to different holdings or different roads. In plains one person may be able to cover a large area in a given time whereas in the hills atleast three or four persons will required to cover the same area. As such the prayer for revision of the staffing pattern on the need based strength is required to be considered.

Kurseong Municipality has completed 128 years of its establishment in the year 2007. This Municipality is one of the oldest Municipalities of West Bengal. After completion of 128 years, this Municipality has not achieved the expected development. The reasons are as follows:

- i) Lack of upgrading of the Municipality to 'D' category status.
- ii) Non inclusion of Kurseong in Tourism Map of India. Tourism is a powerful economic catalyst and its multiplies effect on employment generation and potential for earning revenues but the Kurseong is deprived from such advantage.
- iii) Lack of Manpower (Staff)
- iv) Lack of fund.

The Municipality has submitted several representations to the various authorities of the state Govt. regarding above matters but so far the matter has not been given due attention by the State Govt.

The State Govt. should give due consideration towards these matters for further development of Kurseong in near future.

Date:

Chairman
Kurseong Municipality
Kurseong

KURSEONG MUNICIPALITY

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ON THE WORKING OF THE
KURSEONG MUNICIPALITY

FOR THE YEAR

2007 – 2008

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