

IPN REQUEST RQ07/02

March 23, 2007

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

**Re: Request for Inspection
India: Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project
(Credit Nr. 3907-IN)**

On March 7, 2007, the Inspection Panel (the “Panel”) received a Request for Inspection (the “Request”), dated February 21, 2007, related to the Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project (Credit Nr. 3907-IN) financed by the International Development Association (IDA).

The Request was submitted by Mr. Tejender Kotnala, the President of “Sarvodya”, on behalf of the “representatives of Sarvodya”, an organization dealing with hygienic rural development in India. On March 9, 2007, the Panel received a second letter submitted by Mr. Tejender Kotnala. This letter contained the names and signatures of five persons, including Mr. Kotnala, who are part of the Request¹, and who claim to be from communities in Uttaranchal and affected by the Project. The Request also refers to other “social workers, community members” from different districts of Uttaranchal.²

The Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project builds “upon the successful experiences, and scale-up the coverage of the current IDA/IBRD financed Integrated Watershed Development Hills II project (IWDP)”.³ The Project aims “to improve the productive potential of natural resources and increase incomes of rural

¹ Mr. Tejender Kotnala (President of Sarvodaya), Dr. Anajali Thapiyal (Vice-President of Sarvodaya), Ms. Ranjeeta Verma (Treasurer), Mr. Gaurav Thapiyal, and Ms. Poonam.

² Letter dated March 9, 2007, pg.2.

³ Project Appraisal Document on a Proposed Credit in the Amount of SDR 47.40 Million (US\$69.62 Million Equivalent) to India for a Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project (UDWDP), dated April 14, 2004, hereinafter “PAD”, pg. 1.

*inhabitants in selected watersheds through socially inclusive, institutionally and environmentally sustainable approaches”.*⁴

According to the PAD, this objective includes three themes: “(i) *community participation in watershed development and management aimed at integrating land-water use with the objectives of moisture retention and biomass production, while simultaneously enhancing incomes and livelihood options, (ii) strengthening administrative capacity of GPs to manage project financial resources, implement sub-projects, deliver legally mandated services (in the context of natural resource management), and to sustain those services beyond the duration of the project; and (iii) ensuring equitable participation by all groups – especially the landless and women who rely disproportionately on common-pool resources for fodder, fuel and other forest products.*”⁵

The objective of this project is to be achieved through the three major Project components: (1) Participatory Watershed Development and Management; (2) Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities; and (3) Institutional Strengthening.⁶

The Requesters state that they are likely to suffer as a result of World Bank omissions in the Project. They are concerned with the “*monitoring and management*” of the Project⁷, and believe that “*poverty alleviation is not monitored properly*”.⁸

They state that the Project claims to benefit the communities by “*encouraging adoption of improved agricultural technologies and diversification of increased productivity and watershed approach for sustainable management and resources*”.⁹ However, according to the Requesters, “[t]he actual report on the beneficiaries by Gram Panchayats (village level institution) is available in our portfolio which shows that the actual improvement is not taking place, in enhancing livelihood opportunities.”¹⁰ According to the Requesters, there is evidence that shows that “*water harvesting measures, rejuvenation and development of water sources, treatment of catchment area through watershed treatments and village development, is not taking place per the monitoring plan.*”¹¹

The Requesters assert that the Project’s participatory watershed development and management component is not being implemented as described in the PAD. As a consequence, they claim, the people in the community are not getting any benefit from the project and “*are likely to suffer*”.¹²

In their Request, the Requesters ask the Inspection Panel to recommend to the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank that an investigation be conducted on the alleged matters.

⁴ PAD, pg. 2.

⁵ PAD, pg. 2.

⁶ PAD, pg. 3.

⁷ Requesters’ letter dated March 9, 2007, pg. 2.

⁸ E-Mail from Mr. Gutta to the Inspection Panel, dated March 13, 2007.

⁹ Requesters’ letter dated March 21, 2007.

¹⁰ Requesters’ letter dated March 9, 2007, pg. 2.

¹¹ Requesters’ letter dated March 9, 2007, pg. 2.

¹² Requesters’ letter dated March 9, 2007, pg. 2.

The Requesters have confirmed that they contacted Bank Management stating their concerns and requesting a reply, and informed the Panel that as of March 22, 2007, they had not received any response from Management.

The above claims may, *inter alia*, constitute non-compliance by the Bank with various provisions of the following operational Policies and Procedures:

OP/BP 4.01	Environmental Assessment
OP/BP 4.04	Natural Habitats
OD 4.15	Poverty Reduction
OP/ BP 4.36	Forests
OP/BP 13.05	Project Supervision

Until further notice, all communications with the Requesters in connection with the Request will be sent to Mr. Tejender Kotnala.

Pursuant to paragraph 17 of the Panel's Operating Procedures (the "Operating Procedures"), I am notifying you that I have, on March 23, 2007, registered this Request in the Inspection Panel Register.

In accordance with paragraph 18 of the IDA Resolution that established the Panel ("Resolution"), paragraphs 2 and 8 of the *Conclusions of the Board's Second Review of the Inspection Panel* (the "1999 Clarifications"), and paragraph 18 (d) of the Operating Procedures, Bank Management must provide the Panel, no later than April, 23, 2007, with written evidence that it has complied, or intends to comply, with the Bank's relevant policies and procedures in relation to the above-referenced Project. The subject matter that Management must deal with in a response to the Request is set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the 1999 Clarifications.

After receiving the Management response, the Panel will, as outlined in the 1999 Clarifications and as provided by paragraph 19 of the Resolution, *"determine whether the Request meets the eligibility criteria set out in paragraphs 12 to 14 [of the Resolution] and shall make a recommendation to the Executive Directors as to whether the matter should be investigated."*

The Request has been assigned IPN Request Number RQ07/02.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Tejender Kotnala
President of Sarvodya
B-3, Street No. 2, Mandawali Fazalpur Unchepar,
Delhi-110092
India

Mr. Paul D. Wolfowitz
President
International Development Association
Room MC12-750

The Executive Directors and Alternates
International Development Association