

The Shripram Vishwanandal
Seashram
Shirpur, Dist. Ratnagiri 4125405
Maharashtra State
India
March 19, 2004

Mr. Chidambaran Narayan
Hochstrasse 8, 8052 Zurich
Switzerland.

Dear Mr. Chidambaran

I guess you must've got the second round of answers to queries you sent by email via FR. FRAZER MASCARENHAS, of St. Xaver's College, Mumbai. Frazer phones me and relays the questionnaire. I reply on phone as quickly & briefly as I can so he can email back in good time. If this procedure is fine by ASHA we keep going. Otherwise this poor but dependable tortoise of a letter is our next option.

Yes, they keep telling us that in Shining Nations places like Shirpur should spangle email/internet-web/etc. It is a mercy to have continuous electricity. And to masses of our rural poor it is a greater mercy of our ruling powers to even remotely assure them of electric poles one day in history. Yes one can swamp people with illusions of development. But the need of simple, "limited", grass-root programmes, I guess, will never be gainsaid. To tread gently with the rural poor, who survive irrespective of our great & small abilities to help, that is the ethos of our efforts here.

I would've sent you photographs as well. But I refrain only because ASHA's could be a different sort of altruism: wherein the overadvertised could be interpreted as dubious. However if you bear with this ordinary post I could send you photographs of the intrepid people and their terrain.

Maybe you need time to process my replies. Would ASHA have some definite period needed to make up your minds to help or otherwise. I should be grateful to know that, at least.... Summer blazes fiercely. The scene

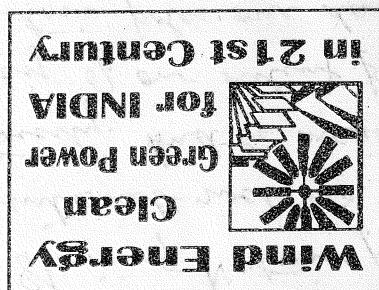
Sets more & more stark & dry. Great sweeps of browning fields, a patch of green if some stray well bubbles. Dry cream dust tosses in the wind. The scorch silences festivity, limits mid-day movement, imposes a frugal diet and holds sway over commerce. Our watershed work on the hill-slopes prepares for rain-recharging and brings wages to otherwise migrant crowds. Our campaign to promote vermi-compost persists with 10 sample sites. We gear up to meet the hairy-caterpillar menace when the rains may start in early July. Meantime the NFE classes close for summer holidays, the teachers undertake trip and other refuelling action before the academic year reopens in June 2003. Best wishes — Fodfrey

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No Enclosures Allowed
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Shirpur Dt. Dhule Maharashtra 425605
The Shirpur Lishwamandal Seva Samraam
Fr. Godfrey Dillon SJ

Senders Name and Address:
कृपा करें कि यहाँ तक कि तिथी

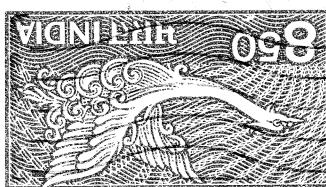


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Swastikshala trenching in
summer, Shirpur, M.P.



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Aerogramme
कृपा करें