

Sein Behiaw Transport Cooperative Society

Faced with varied problems of transport and sale of wares because of the high fares charged to ferry them from and to the market by irregular private bus services, petty businessmen and women in Jowai met together in March 1980. They pooled in ideas and resources to address their continual transport problem by forming a transport co-operative under the name 'Sein Behiaw Transport Cooperative Society'. Through generous contributions from determined members, they were able to raise Rs 1,35,000/- at the meeting itself; they then purchased a pre-owned bus from Shillong with some additional amount, as suggested by a member who wanted to put the whole idea into action as soon as possible, starting the first transport co-operative society in the state.



The initial years were difficult with stiff competition from existing private bus services and their owners, who influenced a number of members enough to back out of the co-operative. However the remaining members were committed, and within 3 years time they purchased three more buses. With the co-operative formed, the transport needs of the members were met, and market days were no longer difficult. Their services have proven a boon to the marketing community of Jowai, and the general public as well, who now have more regular transport facilities to get to and from the markets and other places.



In normal circumstances, the usual fare is realized but on the market days that are slower, with low transaction and bad weather, the co-operative does not take any fare from members. In the event of death of any family member, Rs.5,000 is given as support. With sickness or hospitalization of employees, the co-operative usually assists by paying half bill. In cases of prolonged illness, the co-operative continues their



salary to unburden the family. They have twenty-five employees; seven drivers, twelve helpers, and six managers who double as conductors.



Name : Sein Behiaw Transport Cooperative Society Ltd.
Jowai, West Jaintia Hills

Year of Formation: 1981

Membership :	Male	Female	Total
	42	71	113

Chairman : Shri. W. Challam

Secretary : Shri. W. Lakiang

Total Share Capital: ₹ 12,53,600

Business Turnover: ₹ 60,01,115

Working Result: ₹ 1,89,280