

CHAPTER - XIII

REVIEW & LOOKING FORWARD

CHAPTER – XIII

REVIEW AND LOOKING FORWARD

13.1 Tenth Plan Review:- During the Tenth Plan period, the State Plan investment was Rs. 2922.77 Crores as against the approved projected plan size of Rs. 3009.00 crores and cumulative approved annual plans of Rs. 3516.34 crores. The implementation of the Tenth Plan of Meghalaya faced serious handicaps due to a number of factors, particularly resource constraints. The poor resource-base compelled the State to be largely dependent on Central Assistance sanctioned by the Planning Commission and the decision of the Central Government to provide only 90 percent grant while asking the State Governments to raise the 10 percent loan component had put further strain on the financial resources of the State.

13.2. Investment pattern during the Tenth Plan:-

During the Tenth Plan, investment in respect of the State Plan are as indicated below:-

Table 13.1 Investment Pattern during 10th Plan [Rs. crores]

Year	Approved Outlay	Revised Outlay	Actual Expenditure
2002-03	545.00	480.43	400.04
2003-04	555.00	536.00	486.16
2004-05	716.34	679.00	590.17
2005-06	800.00	718.00	687.78
2006-07	900.00	810.50	758.62
Total	3516.34	3223.93	2922.77

The resources available during the Tenth Plan period for Meghalaya in respect of the State Plan as indicated in the table below indicates that the Plan resources suffered due to less availability of funds under EAP and Loans :-

Table 13.2 Tenth Plan Resources [Rs. crores]

Items	10th Plan approved	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total	Excess (+)/ Shortfall (-)
1. Central Assistance	2323.15	414.14	483.99	494.59	433.72	553.96	2380.40	57.25
i. NCA	1505.52	290.28	324.02	296.90	328.62	400.42	1640.24	134.72
ii. Others	680.13	115.75	149.69	181.64	91.77	144.48	683.33	3.20
iii. EAP	137.50	8.11	10.28	16.05	13.33	9.06	56.83	- 80.67
2. Loans	594.78	67.56	53.00	41.79	31.03	26.25	219.63	- 375.15
Total - CA & Loans	2917.93	481.70	536.99	536.38	464.75	580.21	2600.03	- 317.90

The broad sectoral distribution pattern of investment during the Tenth Plan period in the State of Meghalaya may be seen below :-

Table 13.3 Tenth Plan distribution pattern (Rs. in lakhs)

Sectoral Groups	10th Plan Approved Outlay	10th Plan Outlay based on Annual Plan allocations	10th Plan 2002-2007 Total Expenditure
I. Agriculture & Allied Services	29960.00	29272.00	24585.94
	[9.96]	[8.32]	[8.02]
II. Rural Development	19768.00	27141.00	28420.38
	[6.57]	[7.72]	[9.28]
III. Special Area Programme	4470.00	3984.00	4415.66
	[1.49]	[1.13]	[1.44]
IV. Irrigation & Flood Control	9740.00	5987.00	4776.08
	[3.24]	[1.70]	[1.56]
V. Energy	51627.00	86000.00	53725.33
	[17.16]	[24.46]	[17.53]
VI. Industry & Minerals	14400.00	11828.00	10903.56
	[4.79]	[3.36]	[3.56]
VII. Transport	54030.00	49181.00	50486.99
	[17.96]	[13.99]	[16.48]
VIII. S & T & Environment	790.00	770.00	732.17
	[0.26]	[0.22]	[0.24]
IX. General Economic Services	5970.00	9223.00	5104.02
	[1.98]	[2.62]	[1.67]
X. Social Services	103435.00	119073.00	104031.30
	[34.38]	[33.86]	[33.95]
XI. General Services	6710.00	9175.00	5086.38
	[2.23]	[2.61]	[1.66]
Total	300900.00	351634.00	292277.81
	[100.00]	[100.00]	[100.00]

N.B. Figures in brackets indicate percentage to total.

13.3. Gross Domestic Product/ Net State Domestic Product :-

The State has witnessed a steady increase in income during the Tenth Plan period. The table below indicates the level of Gross Domestic Product and Net State Domestic Product (at current and constant prices) including the per capita income in the first year and the last year of the Tenth Plan, i.e. 2002-03 and 2006-07 respectively :-

Table 13.4 GDP/NSDP

Sl. No.	Income	2002-03		2006-07	
		Total (Rs. Cr)	Per capita income (Rs)	Total (Rs. Cr)	Per capita income (Rs)
1.	GDP at current prices	4900.10	20702	7051.65	28343
2.	GDP at constant (1999-2000) prices	4240.26	17914	5396.04	21688
3.	NSDP at current prices	4439.58	18756	6254.96	25141
4.	NSDP at constant (1999-2000) prices	3829.08	16177	4713.33	18944

13.4. The growth rate for Meghalaya has been 6.33 percent in the Tenth Plan as compared to 7.8 percent in the Ninth Plan. This is mainly due to the inability of infrastructure, particularly

power, to sustain and support a high level of growth. There is need for accelerated investment in infrastructure. A graphical representation of the sectoral estimates of Gross Domestic Product and Net State Domestic Product at current prices and at constant prices during the Tenth Plan period is indicated below :-

Sectoral estimates of Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices



Sectoral estimates of Gross Domestic Product at Constant (1999-2000) Prices



Sectoral estimates of Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices



Sectoral estimates of Net State Domestic Product at Constant (1999-2000) Prices



■ Agriculture ■ Industry □ Services

During the Tenth Plan, the growth rate achieved in agriculture was 4.43 percent, industry was 8.67 percent and services 6.02 percent as against the overall growth of 6.33 percent.

13.5. Socio Economic Indicators:-

Some of the socio economic indicators of Meghalaya are indicated in *the Appendix*. The table and the foregoing chapters clearly depicted the developmental lag, especially in the socio-economic sphere. These would require policy and reforms interventions.

13.6. A. The Status of Human Development in Meghalaya:

As per the National Human Development Report 2001, among the 32 states in India (data on the three newly created states of Chhattishgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand were not available), Meghalaya ranks poorly in level of Human Development. Meghalaya ranked 24th in HDI in 1991. Its position has deteriorated from a rank of 21 in 1981. The HDI value of 0.365 is also lower than the all-India average of 0.381. This is the case when we take the combined HDI of rural and urban sectors. It reflects the situation in the rural areas due to the population weightage of the rural sector.

The picture in the urban sector, however, is different. The HDI has improved from a value of 0.442 in 1981, which incidentally is exactly equal to the All India average, to 0.624 in 1991, which is higher than the All India average of 0.511. The rank of urban Meghalaya in HDI over the same period improved from 21st to 10th. Obviously, this is a big leap forward.

Looking at the per capita income of the state, it emerges that in 1990-91 Meghalaya ranked 18th among all the states (Economic Survey 2000-01, p. S-12). The HDI rank of Meghalaya at 24th in 1991 raises questions that the resources have not been effectively put to use for the well-being of the people, especially the rural people.

Among the North Eastern States, Meghalaya fares better than Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The other states of the region, namely, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura show higher achievements in human development.

The situation in 2001 is almost the same. Although the HDI values are not directly comparable with those of the NHDR, 2001; the ranking of the states may be compared. Out of the 35 states and Union Territories, Meghalaya ranked 22nd in human development. The HDI rank for the rural areas of the state is 21st and for the urban areas, it is 15th. Thus it is apparent that human development in the three basic dimensions of health, education and income in Meghalaya during the 20 year period of 1981 to 2001 has been stagnant vis-à-vis most of the states in India. It also appears that the improvement in the spheres of human development has been achieved only in the urban areas.

As far as the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) is concerned, Meghalaya is in a better position compared to most of the states in India. The GDI rank of Meghalaya was 12th in 1981 and improved to 7th in 1991. However, the GDI could not be calculated in 2001 due to lack of data.

Details regarding the above aspects of socio-economic development, Gender - related issues and other aspects of human development are presented in the Meghalaya Human Development Report, 2008.

13.6. B. The Status of Human Development in Meghalaya: Inter District Variations

The district with the highest HDI is East Khasi Hills district followed by West Garo Hills district. The two major towns of the state namely, Shillong and Tura, are in these two districts and the relatively higher HDIs of these districts seem to reiterate that human development in Meghalaya has been urban-centric. The other five districts exhibit HDIs that are lower than the state average.

Economic development measured in terms of Domestic Product does not necessarily reflect the actual well-being of the people. It is observed that the ranking of the seven districts by the Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) does not have a one-to-one correspondence with the ranking by HDI. The most backward district of the state as per calculations is East Garo Hills. However, five districts out of seven have HDIs value that are lower than 0.5. The HDI scale is a 0 to 1 scale and if we take 0.5 as the half way mark of development, then all districts of Meghalaya except East Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills fall short of that mark. Put another way, they have not achieved even half of what is supposed to be done in the basic areas of human development.

The gender-related development index (GDI), measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI but captures inequalities in achievement between women and men. It is simply the HDI adjusted downward for gender inequality.

MHDR 2008 reported the GDI for each district. The GDI values show the existence of gender inequality in all districts. The ranking of the districts by GDI is exactly the same as the ranking by HDI with two exceptions. West Khasi Hills replaces East Garo Hills at the bottom of the GDI ranking, although the GDI values of the two districts are more or less the same; and South Garo Hills replaces Ri Bhoi at No. 3.

Table 13.5: Human Development Index of Districts of Meghalaya

District	Infant Mortality Rate	Literacy	Combined Gross Enrolment Ratio	NSDP Per Capita at current prices (Rs.)	HDI	HDI Rank
East Khasi Hills	34.51	76.98	63.10	17264	0.684	1
West Garo Hills	18.13	51.03	65.99	10654	0.597	2
Ri Bhoi	60.63	66.07	50.47	9798	0.499	3
South Garo Hills	102.01	55.82	85.52	16847	0.498	4
Jaintia Hills	77.34	53.00	43.31	15095	0.487	5
West Khasi Hills	86.17	65.64	79.13	9345	0.462	6
East Garo Hills	90.60	61.70	60.91	9928	0.432	7
Meghalaya	52.28	63.31	62.87	13082	0.570	

Notes and data sources: MHDR 2008 (under print)

- (i) Infant Mortality Rates are as per the estimates obtained from the Birth & Mortality Survey, 2007.
- (ii) Literacy rates are as per the Census of India, 2001
- (iii) The gross enrolment ratio is obtained by dividing the combined enrolment numbers by the population aged 5 - 19 years in 2001. The combined enrolment numbers are for Classes I - XII as per the All India Seventh Educational Survey, 2002.
- (iv) Net State Domestic Product Per Capita at current prices are for the year 1999-2000 as per the Meghalaya District Gross Domestic Product 1993-94 to 1999-2000, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of Meghalaya.

Table 13.6: Gender Related Development Index of Districts of Meghalaya

District	Sex	Population	IMR	Literacy	Combined gross enrolment ratio	Share in economically active population	Ratio of female to male rural labour wage	NSDP at current prices (Rs in lakh)	GDI	GDI Rank
East Khasi Hills	M	333187	27.26	78.12	60.67	63.03	0.679	125313	0.659	1
	F		41.43	75.82	65.55	36.95				
West Garo Hills	M	259440	18.96	57.51	66.42	59.82	0.825	57479	0.580	2
	F	256373	17.32	44.51	65.54	39.99				
South Garo Hills	M	51051	88.08	62.60	85.74	55.38	0.813	18717	0.498	3
	F	48054	114.99	48.61	85.30	44.63				
Ri Bhoi	M	99315	53.09	69.22	48.64	57.52	0.729	20840	0.491	4
	F	93480	68.28	62.67	52.39	42.47				
Jaintia Hills	M	149376	97.64	50.52	37.94	57.10	0.683	52227	0.474	5
	F	146316	55.80	55.54	48.71	43.00				
East Garo Hills	M	126312	96.75	67.39	61.46	54.77	0.846	25743	0.428	6
	F	121243	84.83	55.74	60.36	45.26				
West Khasi Hills	M	149159	91.51	67.02	75.91	53.91	0.544	28817	0.426	7
	F	144956	81.14	64.21	82.53	46.06				
Meghalaya	M	1167840	51.55	66.14	61.12	58.51	0.742	329136	0.562	
	F	1138229	52.99	60.41	64.67	41.47				

Notes and data sources: As in Table 2.4: MHDR 2008 (under print)

Meghalaya exhibits lower achievement in the sphere of human development compared to most of the states in India. Further, there seems to be no substantial improvement especially in the rural areas. There are wide variations across the districts within Meghalaya with five out of seven districts showing lower HDI values than the state average. Three districts have HDIs that are below the half-way mark of 0.5.

The concept of human development is much broader and more complex than any summary measure can capture. The HDI is not a comprehensive measure. It does not include important aspects of human development, notably the ability to participate in the decisions that affect one's life and to enjoy the respect of others in the community. The indices give an overview of some basic dimensions of human development, but they must be complemented by looking at the underlying data and other indicators.

13.7. Infrastructure - There exists a substantial gap between the infrastructure required and that in place at present. Some of the gaps in critical infrastructure are:

Table 13.7 Critical Infrastructure Gaps.

Sl.No.	Development Sectors	Unit of Development	Infrastructure Dev. Required	Present Status	Infrastructure Gap
1.	Power	Total demand of power (MW)	610	185.20 (30%)	424.80 (70%)
	-Do-	Villages electrified(Nos.)	5782	4217 (73%)	1565 (27%)
	-Do-	Households electrified(Nos.)	365989	135416 (37%)	230573 (63%)
2.	Roads Communication	Road density (Kms./Sq.Kms.)	75/100(All India)	36/100 (48%)	39/100 (52%)
	-Do-	Village connectivity (Nos.)	5782	2857 (49%)	2925 (51%)
3.	Health & Family Welfare	Sub-Centres (Nos. as per G.O.I. norm)	773	401 (52%)	372 (48%)
	-Do-	P.H.Cs (Nos. as per G.O.I. norm)	116	102 (88%)	14 (12%)
	-Do-	C.H.Cs(Nos. as per G.O.I. norm)	29	24 (83%)	5 (17%)
4.	Education	Training of teachers (Nos.)	21152	9294 (45%)	11558 (55%)
	-Do-	Literacy rate (%)	100%	62.6%	37.4%
5.	Irrigation	Potential (Lakh hectares)	2.18	0.26 (12%)	1.92 (88%)
7.	Water Supply	Number of habitations	8636	8389 (97%)	247 (3%)+ Slipped-back habitations
8.	Infrastructure	CMIE Index of infrastructure (92-93)	100	65 (100)	35
		10th Finance Commission index of Economic & Social Infrastructure	100	70 (100)	30 [Massive investment in infrastructure required]

A calculation of the infrastructure Index for all the North Eastern States in a scale of 0-1 indicate that within the region itself Meghalaya stands at the lower rung of the ladder.

(Source: MHDR 2008– Paper by Dr. S. Umdor & Dr. B. Panda, NEHU)

Table 13.8 Infrastructure index and States Ranking

States	Index Value	Rank
Nagaland	0.39	1
Tripura	0.37	2
Manipur	0.35	3
Mizoram	0.33	4
Assam	0.30	5
Meghalaya	0.23	6
Arunachal Pradesh	0.22	7

Table 13.9 Bottom 10 States in Descending Order

1971-72	1981-82	1991-92	1994-95
Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
Mizoram	Tripura	Tripura	Tripura
Tripura	Mizoram	Mizoram	Mizoram
Nagaland	Sikkim	Nagaland	Nagaland
Sikkim	Meghalaya	Sikkim	Meghalaya
Meghalaya	Nagaland	Meghalaya	Sikkim
Assam	Manipur	Assam	Assam
Manipur	Assam	Manipur	Manipur
Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh	Orissa	Orissa
Orissa	Orissa	Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh

Source: Strategic Analysis: What Ails The Northeast: An Enquiry Into The Economic Factors By Sreeradha Datta * A
 Monthly Journal of the IDSA April 2001 (Vol. XXV No. 1)

From the above it is clear that infrastructure deficiency is in acute form in the state and the region. Hence, there is a need for adequate investment in infrastructure. Further, since the scope of PPP mode is limited in the North Eastern Region, such investment is largely dependent from agencies of the Government of India.

13.8. Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012):-

Priorities of the 11th Plan :- While taking into consideration the approach and the national priorities as decided by the Government of India, the State Government has accorded the following priorities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan :-

- Power generation, transmission, grid connectivity and rural electrification.
- Agriculture and allied sectors with strong emphasis on horticulture including post harvesting management and processing.
- Roads and Bridges for ensuring better connectivity.
- Sericulture & Weaving for generation of income and employment to the women folk.
- Tourism infrastructure and tourism services.
- Trade with Bangladesh and creation of infrastructure for the same.
- Decentralization of planning and involvement of the people in the development process.
- Social Services like education, health, water supply and nutrition.
- Poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas through Rural Development Programmes.

During the deliberations in the planning Board in January 2009, Human Resource Development, Crop Husbandry, Horticulture, Industries, Minerals, Tourism, Health Care, Water Supply and Sanitation was taken as focus area.

(b). Meghalaya had proposed a Plan allocation of Rs. 8695.00 Crore for the Eleventh Plan period as against the approved allocation of Rs. 3009.00 crore during the Tenth Plan period which was a step up of over 188 percent. However, the Plan size during the Eleventh Plan for Meghalaya was approved at Rs. 9185.00 crore and the broad sector-wise allocations are indicated below:-

Table 13.10 11th Plan Approved Outlay

Sl. No.	Sectoral Groups	Eleventh Plan (2007-2012)	
		Proposed outlay [Rs. lakhs]	%age to total
I.	Agriculture & Allied Services (excluding Forestry & Wildlife)	73,522.00	8.00
II.	Rural Development	80,230.00	8.73
III.	Special Area Programme	18,909.00	2.06
IV.	Irrigation & Flood Control	21,972.00	2.40
V.	Energy	1,08,488.00	11.81
VI.	Industry & Minerals	29,050.00	3.16
VII.	Transport	1,62,362.00	17.68
VIII.	Science, Technology & Environment (including Forestry & Wildlife)	24,507.00	2.67
IX.	General Economic Services	25,300.00	2.75
X.	Social Services (including Education)	3,48,174.00	37.91
XI.	General Services	25,986.00	2.83
Total		9,18,500.00	100.00

There have been suggestions that allocation for Energy, Road is most consuming of plan resources. The normal individualized priority to a sector should be between 10-15% as a cap, and this may go up to a maximum of 20%. However, given the lopsided emphasis and wastage of resources and allocations in the past, the desired shift and focus appeared timely and needs further fine tuning. Also total investment in Public sector should be seen holistically taking into account Plan, Non Plan, all find flow from Government of India. If taken comprehensively, the picture would be different and sometimes revealing.

13.9. Performance in physical terms during the Tenth Plan and targets for the Eleventh Plan:-

The table below indicates the physical performance during the Tenth Plan period as well as the targets for the Eleventh Plan.

Table 13.11. 10th Plan Physical Performance & 11th Plan targets

Items	Units	10 th Plan Achievement	11 th Plan Target	Annual Plan 2007-08 Target
Food Grains	'000 tonnes	269.93	379.00	291.00
Oil Seeds	'000 tonnes	14.53	26.18	22.17
Potatoes	'000 tonnes	203.04	246.69	225.10
Horticulture	'000 tonnes	245.57	291.98	288.64
Crop Area:				
Cross area	'000 ha	320.00	330.00	325.00
Net sown area	'000 ha	250.00	265.00	260.50
Area covered under Irrigation	'000 ha (cum)	28.69	45.19	30.69
Production of Eggs	Million Nos.	98.00	110.00	100.00
Production of Meat	'000 tonnes	37.00	42.00	38.00
Milk	'000 tonnes	76.00	95.00	77.20
Fish Production	'000 tonnes	5.50	6.50	5.50
Fish Seed Production	Million Nos.	1.15	3.00	2.00
SGSY	SHG's Assisted	4313	7000 (cum)	1200
SGRY employment	Lakh mandays	175.41 (cum)	251.50 (cum)	29.62
IAY	No.	19736 (cum)	45222 (cum)	5352
Installed Capacity	MW (cum)	185.20	313.00	185.20
Rural Electrification	No. of villages	5062	Complete full electrification	5951
Road Length	Kms. (Cum)	8254.00	9013.00	8354.00
Surface Roads	Kms. (Cum)	5073.00	6567.00	5253.00
Road Density	Kms./ 100 sq. Km.	36.79	40.18	37.25
Primary Enrolment	'000 nos.	444.4	500	480
Upper Primary Enrolment	'000 nos.	178.4	250	200
Secondary Enrolment	'000 nos.	115	120	116
Higher Secondary Enrolment	'000 nos.	6	7	6.2
College Enrolment	'000 nos.	40	45	41
Training of elementary school teachers	Nos. (cum)	13962	21152	4799
Sub Centres	Nos. (cum)	419	431	425
PHCs	Nos. (cum)	110	115	112

MEGHALAYA STATE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Items	Units	10 th Plan Achievement	11 th Plan Target	Annual Plan 2007-08 Target
CHCs	Nos. (cum)	32	36	34
Doctors	Nos. (cum)	542	804	584
Nurses	Nos. (addl)	1655	1847	1735

13.10. Monitorable targets during the Eleventh Plan :-

During the 11th Plan period, the **target growth rate fixed** for the State is 7.2 percent, comprising of growth rates of 4.7 percent in agriculture, 8.0 percent in industry and 7.9 percent in services sectors. Besides the above, **the monitorable targets** as agreed and projected by the State Government are as indicated below:-

Table 13.12 Monitorable Indicators

Monitorable indicators	India		Meghalaya	
	Current level	11 th Plan Goal	Current level	11 th Plan Goal
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	58.0	28.0	54.0	26.0
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	301.0*	100.0	450.0\$	100.0
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	3.0	2.1	4.6#	2.6
Malnutrition amongst children (0-3 years)	47.0	23.5	37.9	19.0
Anemia among women (15-49 years)	56.5	28.3	63.3	31.7
Sex ratio (0-6 years)	927.0	935.0	973.0	981.0
Drop out rates in Elementary Education	42.69^	20.00^	62.26	31.63
Literacy Rate :-				
Male	75.26	89.80	65.43	87.87
Female	53.67	79.80	59.61	87.35
Total	64.59	85.00	62.56	87.61
Gender gap in literacy rate	21.6	10.0	5.8	0.5

N.B. * 2001-03 figures

\$ State report survey

National Family Health Survey (1998-99)

^ Projected for 2006-07

It was agreed to bring down the level of poverty by 10% from the Household Survey 2002 level which stands at 48.9 percent. It was also planned to generate additional work opportunities to 1.50 lakh people and facilitate employment generation.

13.11. Annual Plan allocations – The Annual Plan allocations during the 11th Plan are indicated as below:-

Table 13.13 Annual Plan Allocations

[Rs. crores]

Annual Plan	Approved Outlay	Expenditure
2007-08	1120.00	984.06
2008-09	1500.00	1450.00(Anti)
Total	2620.00	2484.06

Further, in order to achieve the 11th Plan approved outlay of Rs. 9185.00 crores, the Annual Plan allocations for the next three years, i.e. 2009-2012 should increase at the annual rate of about 20 percent, as indicated below :-

Table 13.14 11th Plan Projected Outlay [Rs. crores]

Annual Plan	Projected Outlay
2007-2008	984.06 (Actual)
2008-2009	1400.00 - 1500.00
2009-2010	2000.00 -2050.00
2010-2011	2400.00 -2600.00
2011-2012	3000.00 -3100.00
Objective : To achieve/overachieve allocation of Rs. 9185.00 Crore	

13. 12. Leveraging funds from other sources :- The State Government also receives substantial funds from other sources like the Centrally Sponsored & Central Sector Schemes, funds under the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), North Eastern Council (NEC) and also from 10 percent Gross Budgetary support of Ministries.

The table below indicates the funds leveraged from such sources during the last few years:-

Table 13.15 Leveraging funds from other sources [Rs. crore]

Year	NEC	NLCPR	Centrally Sponsored Schemes	Central Sector Schemes
2004-05	19.59	21.70		
2005-06	26.76	27.50		
2006-07	56.41	38.58	239.12*	32.02*
2007-08	75.73	60.86	405.69*	29.94*

** Direct funds to DRDAs/ SRRDA (PMGSY), RGGVY, MNREDA and other agencies are not included here as it would require some research in the matter.*

13.13. Flagship Programmes & Bharat Nirman – The State Government is giving due importance to the implementation of the Flagship Programmes including Bharat Nirman. These programmes includes the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), etc. and Bharat Nirman Programmes.

The implementation of some programmes like the IAY, PMGSY, NRHM, Total Sanitation Programme (TSP), Minor Irrigation, JNNURM, etc. have been below par. *The implementation of the ICDS, NREGA, Mid Day Meal, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), RGGVY, etc. have been slightly better but issues of quality and better performance remains. Monitoring mechanism has been put in place which requires the rigour of analysis, proper monitoring and documentation.*

In most of these programmes the failure is largely of the delivery machinery which requires restructuring, reform and resurrection.

13.14. The Vision 2020 document of the NEC has identified five basic deficits confronting the **North Eastern Region** which includes **(i)** a basic needs deficit; **(ii)** an infrastructure deficit; **(iii)** a resource deficit; **(iv)** a two-way deficit of understanding with the rest of the country; and **(v)** a governance deficit. To overcome these deficits, the document stressed on the need for a complete change in the planning process and has suggested the following strategies – (i) **participatory development** strategy; (ii) **capacity development** strategy; (iii) **augmentation of infrastructure**, particularly connectivity and transport infrastructure including intra-region connectivity; (iv) significant increase in the Central Government’s allocation for infrastructure in the region including efficient use of funds; (v) **transforming of governance** by providing a secure, responsive and market friendly environment.

Besides the above, **the issue of ‘knowledge deficit’** which should address the aspects of information, technologies and expertise availability which would bring the Human development aspects, in particular in the service sector to enhance capabilities are also palpable.

These aspects beg for mission mode financial, technical and administrative support to ameliorate and address these deficits during the 11th Plan.

13.15. According to Dutta, S. (2001), over the years, three main features of national policy relating to the northeast have crystallized:

1. A higher allocation of resources is made to the states and union territories,
2. The infrastructural development in the region has been accorded high priority with major changes in railways, roads, power generation, and telephone services in the next two decades or so.
3. The central government, the NEC and the respective state governments are moving in the direction of expanding industry and a network of industries connected with oil refineries, petro chemicals, fertilisers, cement, pulp and paper, have been planned and are being set up in the region. But such policies, evolved at three different levels, should be integrated with each other and have a clear-cut focus to make any worthwhile impact on the society and politics in the northeast.

13.16. Various study of IFIs projects in the NER indicate following concerns (which are generic to developmental constraints as indicated/ reflected in **chapter I**):

1. little or no participation of local people; disempowerment in the process;
2. lack of accountability mechanisms, transparency and disclosure policies;
3. pathetic commitment to public participation;
4. imposition of WTO rules by IFIs as framework of development; emphasis on privatization, poverty reduction and private participation;
5. adverse impact on local and tribal people;
6. violation of IFIs internal policies;
7. environmental and social concerns not guiding the decision making;
8. compartmentalization of the development process;
9. failure to adhere with human rights and environmental legislations;
10. centrality of natural resources exploitation for development;

13.17. The 11th Plan document of the Planning Commission highlights the following critical parameters for growth of the North Eastern Region:-

- Two pronged growth strategy: creation of critical infrastructure and creation of employment opportunities;
- Improvement in the security, law & order and governance.
- Capacity building of implementing machinery (Government functionary) – Technical assistance programmes for capacity building.
- Thrust on major sectors of connectivity (Road, Rail, Air, Inland Waterways, telecommunication) and Power with major step-up in investment in these sectors;
- Thrust on major social infrastructure- Health, Education (upgradation of quality), and Tourism, clearly identifying gaps therein and Skill development.
- Emphasis on Primary Sector of economy to substantially step up productivity in food grains within a period of five years. Emphasis on agriculture extension services, irrigation.
- Farm based economic activities – Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Poultry, etc.
- Post harvest management and marketing infrastructure.
- Synergy and dovetailing of programmes/ schemes between Central Ministries and the State Governments for filling up gaps in infrastructure.
- Building capacity and bringing professionalism in NEC as Regional Planning Body.
- Active Involvement of Autonomous District Councils, Panchayati Raj and local Self Government institutions, Communities and Self Help Groups in various development welfare schemes.
- Making the region attractive destination for private sector investment and PPP.
- State-specific approach for creation of opportunities for employment generation.
- Development of the region linked to look east policy of the government and development of relationship with the neighbouring countries of the entire region
- Development of LCS to make international trade attractive through North East
- Systematic approach to infrastructure development (road/rail/power/IWT/Airports) in the Region. Resources requirement for development is huge. Many of these roads or airports cannot be justified on economic viability basis. But these are vital for opening up the region and better integration.
- Maintenance of roads is an important aspect and needs a separate financial arrangement.
- Setting up of an interdisciplinary body for overseeing the planning and timely execution of communication projects undertaken, including inter alia the absorption capabilities and their augmentation.

13.18. A participatory approach for Winds of change, hope for renewal (through Listening, learning and implementing):

A large survey by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Guwahati, which reached out to some 40,000 households in eight states as preparatory to NER Vision 2020 (Peoples Plan) indicates the concerns and priorities of people at the grass roots and reflects desire for changes.

A. *The following recommendations are across-the-board views which are relevant for a regional approach to planning and development and are generic for the region:*

1. Agriculture (including horticulture, animal husbandry etc.)

- A land use policy to enable conservation of biodiversity and adequate forest cover
- Establish Agriculture Universities where there are none and agricultural colleges in different districts to upgrade farmers' training, knowledge and livelihoods using best and most appropriate technologies
- Chains of cold storage networks in every block which could store vegetables, fruits and meats; these to be linked to processing and packaging units for value addition and then connected through good roads and a network of trucks/transportation to nearby and distant markets thus ensuring quick market access and longer shelf life for the products.
- Horticulture and floriculture to become major export earners
- Jhum farmers, who are among the most marginal of agriculturists, to receive access to micro-credit and improved seeds and other farm technologies which will strength incomes and broaden livelihood options
- Dairying to be seen as an option to on-land farming: milk products to meet local needs and also for export
- Competent and relevant extension programs
- Better veterinary facilities and training of educated rural youth as para-vets, to take knowledge and skills across the countryside
- Encourage fisheries, especially in upland areas
- Increased, better bamboo production and products for national and international competition;
- Organic farming to drive agriculture: value addition, export oriented;
- Support to traditional medicinal plant users, giving them access to technology

Education

- A fully literate society by 2020
- All children to complete primary and elementary levels
- Proper infrastructure for schools including permanent buildings, computers, libraries, desks and chairs for students
- Teacher: student ratio to be less than the recommended norm of 1:40
- Separate toilets for boys and girls
- Qualified teachers on staff and regular retraining
- Gender sensitization and Health counseling (including sex education)
- More scholarships for higher education outside of the state
- Well-staffed and equipped vocational training centres, for basic skills but also for new livelihoods such as tourism

- Privatization of primary schools where possible and under norms
- Networks of training Centres in every state to learn languages, cultures and issues of South-east Asia and China and also to teach languages of the region to scholars and visitors from other countries

Health

- Piped drinking water to all homesteads by 2020
- Management of distribution of water and effective control of its quality by local communities.
- Pit toilet and sewage pit for every household (to avoid worm infestation etc.)
- PHCs to have adequate medicine stocks (including life-saving drugs), to be staffed regularly and provide infrastructure support (e.g. adequate housing and communications facilities) for medical personnel
- Ambulances at every PHC and basic lab testing equipment
- Functional dispensary in every village
- HIV/AIDS awareness campaign and medicines to ensure public understanding, monitoring and treatment
- Traditional health system to become part of overall health process, including dais and traditional knowledge systems (forest based) strengthened as also herbal/indigenous systems of treatment
- Coverage of health care and especially reproductive health care for all
- Super specialization institutions (cardiac etc.) which would give top of the line treatment to patients
- Improved infrastructure facilities, schooling, training and health care for the physically and mentally challenged, including access to buildings and public transport

Communications

- Transformation of the North-east into a major gateway between South Asia and South-east Asia/South-west China, in pursuit of the 'Look East' policy
- Upgrade and integrate existing networks into the Asian Highway and East-West Corridor
- Good road connectivity to all villages located off highways
- Open up Inland Waterways and railway transit routes into Bangladesh, Myanmar and to West Bengal, connecting to Sitwel port on the Arakan and Chittagong as well as to Haldia
- Flood-resistant technology for roads in valley regions of Brahmaputra and Barak and skyways where possible in hill areas.
- CICs/CSCS and ICT will develop the routes for the future, e.choupals etc. to transfer information, technology etc. to farmers and rural communities on markets, products, prices and weather conditions
- Telephone connectivity and functioning post office for every village
- Air connectivity to improve local travel, tourism and business: small airports for small aircraft in as many districts as possible

Development Programs

- villagers and communities to be involved in design, review and implementation of rural development plans through SHGs and other representative groups in addition to PRIs and district council/village councils
- Tap hydro-power potential in addition to promotion of wind and solar energy
- Include Northeast in projected supply of gas from Rakhine coast (Myanmar) by ONGC and GAIL via pipeline
- Improved Bamboo technology and products to compete in international market with China and South-east Asia
- Bamboo plantations to be major employer and livelihoods generator but these also to be not mono-species but also species endemic to the region

Governance

- Downsized governments
- Better coordination between government departments and end to program duplication by different departments
- PRIs and local elected institutions to be core planning and delivery mechanisms for projects with local review committees to keep a watch for transparency
- Also the Right to Information Act, 2005 will ensure transparency, better governance and improved public participation
- Better trained panchayat members (read grassroot planning and development organization) to enable them to break free of control of political bosses; training esp. in use of funds
- Need to
- NEC, M. Doner and Planning Commission to make it mandatory to involve the public, stakeholders and beneficiaries apprised through a public process and review of projects involving them
- Strengthening Traditional Institutions (TIs) in resource management and finance
- Better co-ordination with district and block level officers
- Recognition to TIs which reflect gender representation as well as other ethnic groups
- Codification of TIs, customary laws and usages
- Key to good governance is quality of delivery

Peace

Peace is seen in the region as the key to change and progress. Development work must continue but for it to be truly effective, there must be a sustainable and stable peace in the region, which involves ethnic groups and peoples, going beyond dialogue to negotiated settlements, the cessation of bloodshed and the reduction of suspicion as well as the growth of trust.

B. *The needs expressed/ as revealed specific to Meghalaya:*

(i) Tura (Garo Hills):

Education

- Better trained Teachers
- Bigger Class Rooms

- Fundamental science studies in schools and science streams in Colleges
- Knowledge of Basic Computer Operations

Communications

- Sub-Surfaced Roads from villages to nearest market place to be surfaced
- Power towers to be installed for uninterrupted power supply
- Extensive tapping of solar and non-convention energy sources

Health

- life saving medicines to be available free of cost at PHCs/CHCs and dispensaries
- Health Camps at regular intervals with specialized doctors
- R&D to set up infrastructure for processing of medicinal plants

Agriculture, horticulture and allied activities

- Cooperatives in place to purchase Dairy Products at the Village level
- Horticulture Centers at Village level
- Incentives and funds to establish village and cottage industries, e.g. Bamboo and Pulp based Industries

Governance

- Stronger traditional forms of governance including Garo Hills Autonomous District Council
- Poverty alleviation with special focus on rural poverty

(ii) Shillong (Khasi and Jaintia Hills)

Education

- More high schools and colleges at Block level with hostel facilities
- Curriculum to be need based and to be reviewed regularly for relevance
- School management committees to be accountable and transparent and to be registered
- Appointment of teachers to be based on merit (not political, religion, gender)
- Subsidy to purchase of school books to continue
- Strengthen and promote AWCs (anganwadi centres for informal education) in interior villages
- Performance-based assessment of teachers for promotion
- Trained counselors in communities and educational institutions addressing substance abuse and sex health issues

Communications

- Community participation in identifying and preparing plans for roads, ropeways and other communication facilities with assistance of technical experts
- Continue installation of community TV and radio sets in villages
- Network of community radio stations for rural connectivity

Health

- Improved transportation links between health centres and villages
- Medical Advisory Council at District level comprising of members from Dorbar, social organizations, health activists and professionals

- Recognition of and strengthening of traditional herbal healing systems and inclusion of the same in the AYUSH system of GOI
- Rotation of tenures for doctors in rural areas
- Trained teams of rural paramedics
- Regular review of health status in every district by District Medical Advisory Board
- In-service training for medical staff
- ANMs to be trained regularly and provided with delivery kits
- Emergency services to be available at all PHC and CHCs

Agriculture etc.

- Organic farming to drive agriculture: value addition, export oriented
- Horticulture and floriculture to become major export earners
- Network of women markets as at Ima Market in Imphal (Manipur) and Iewduh in Shillong
- NEC to link funding to research institutions to adaptive research linked to peoples needs and livelihoods

Development

- Network of micro-hydel projects for cheap energy
- Completion of rural electrification
- No smoke-stack industries and energy-guzzling industries which have adverse impact on the environment
- Rural land, where possible, to be made available for investment in developmental projects
- Information about flexibility in Land Transfer Act to be disseminated to industrial centres of India e.g. Mumbai and Pune to attract investment
- NEC to supplement capital investment of the State to help Meghalaya complete the “last mile” with regard to projects implementation

Governance

- Strengthening Traditional Institutions (TIs) in resource management and finance
- Better co-ordination with district and block level officers
- Official recognition to TIs which reflect gender representation and other ethnic groups
- Direct funds to TIs with ADC as nodal agency (?)
- Codification of TIs, customary laws and usages

13.19. Challenges, Strategies and Way Forward for Development :-

The Salubrious climate with rich biodiversity and unique socio-economic and tribal culture of Meghalaya is striking. However, its geographical location with poor accessibility to major markets; hilly terrain, small geographical area and ubiquitous poverty; poor or absent rail, air connectivity and inadequate road infrastructure; weak power infrastructure; limited voice, data and video network and unregulated exploitation of natural resources sans value based action and value addition are major concerns for backwardness.

There is high dependency on Central government resources and at the same time there is limited ability or will to generate local resources. The perception of both local people and from outside perspective is that the impact on people's lives is not commensurate to the investments made with implicit concerns on proper utilization of central assistance. There is a sense of getting a raw deal from the rest the country by the local communities, while the outside perception is that there is antipathy, lethargy and cornering of benefits by vested interests within and without. Low levels of industrialization along with limited attraction to outside investors demand an innovative and enterprising means of achieving the goals. **Lack of effective decentralization begs for strategic shift in existing development planning and execution.**

In the light of descriptions above and in the previous chapters, various suggestions in reiteration or addition are flagged or detailed below:

(a) The State must focus on the '**outcome oriented' approach** and move away from the 'expenditure incurred' approach which is expected to lead to improvement in the quality of implementation of plans and programmes. The Government should support the training of the cadre of statisticians and officials of PIED for effective monitoring and building up proper statistical data base. *A task force for this has been constituted which requires meaningful carry forward.*

(b) Priority should be given to **completion of ongoing projects**. Rationalisation of existing shelf of schemes particularly in works sector must be undertaken to ensure proper and productive deployment of resources.

(c) **Development of basic Infrastructure particularly in the road and power sectors:**

- Road connectivity needs to be augmented to support development. Suggestions in the chapter are quite in detail and those should be resorted to.
- Innovative solutions like ropeways will need to be planned and executed to support traditional transportation schemes
- Power is critical infrastructure for E society based programs; environment friendly power infrastructure- (gas, nuclear and hydel) will be required to be built
- Quantum of additional funds required for this infrastructure will need to be estimated by experts and Enhanced state/national funding is highly recommended for this sector with time bound action with multi agency involvement.

(d) **Catching up with the rest of the country :-**

(i) The Shukla Commission (1997) estimated Rs. 27000 crore for immediate infrastructure development and as a measure suggested earmarking 10 % GBS by Ministries of the Government of India and the creation of the **Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources** (NLCPR) out of the failure of the different Central Ministries to achieve the same for investment in infrastructure.

(ii) The **Task Force for Accelerated Development of the North Eastern States** of the Planning Commission headed by Shri B.N. Yugandhar, Member, Planning Commission had recommended increased investment and *estimated about Rs. 42000 crore as the required additional investment during the 11th Plan for the region.*

(iii) In order to catch up with the per capita GDP of the country by the year 2020, the **Vision NER 2020** prepared by NIPFP, New Delhi estimated that the region needs to grow at an average of 10 percent in terms of its GSDP and 9 percent in terms of its per capita GSDP during the period from 2007 to 2020. In the case of Meghalaya, the State has to grow at 10.96 percent in terms of its GSDP and 9.72 percent in terms of **per capita GSDP during 2007-2020**. It has been assessed by the

NIPFP, New Delhi in the Vision document for NER that to achieve the aforesaid level of growth, **an investment of about Rs. 13.29 lakh crore over the next 12 years is required** for the purpose from both public and private sources. With the economic slow down efforts are requires fiscal, other policy and implementation level to keep the economy going ahead.

(iv) While rapid growth is essential, it needs to be ensured that it does not lead to further deepening of the divide that exists between States. Meghalaya's economy is projected to grow at 7.2 percent while its population has been increasing at a higher rate than the national average. The national target to double the real income of the average citizen in ten years is achievable for Meghalaya with proper strategies towards much higher public and private sector investment in the region and the state during the Eleventh Plan and Twelfth Plan.

(v) If the above calculation is taken in consideration and taking approximately 10-12 percent of share of above assessed investment for the growth as indicated at (iii) above, **Meghalaya would require an investment of Rs. 1.33 lakh crore to Rs. 1.60 lakh crore by 2020. The state's own resources are very limited.** The State's Own Resources excluding Central Assistance as per preliminary assessment of the State Finance Department is Rs. 1118.94 lakh for the Annual Plan 2008-09. Since the NER in general and hill States in particular have less possibility of PPP, the resources must come largely from public sources.

(vi) Presently, the State is able to achieve an annual level of investment of about Rs. 1495 to Rs. 2500 crores consisting of Rs. 1500 crore of State Plan, Rs. 65 crore under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources, Rs. 60 crore under North Eastern Council and Rs. 500 crore under Centrally Sponsored & Central Sector Schemes. At present rate of annual growth in investment from public sources will be about Rs. 25000 to Rs. 30000 crores over the next 12 years. Approximately, similar amount may be invested by private sector locally. This still leaves requirement of about Rs 70000 -1.0 lakh crore.

(vii) Possible PPP if critical policy, land tenure and investment climate is invigorated in :Power-likelihood of Rs 20000 crore (3000 MW); Health- Rs 10000 crore ; Education- Rs 15000 crore; Tourism- Rs 15000 crore; IT - Rs 10000 crore; others Rs 15000 crore. Additional Public sources required is Rs.15000 crore. **This requires to be detailed out and concerted action plans initiated by respective sectors.**

(d) Inclusive growth & intra State disparity :-The State Government would have to aim for a more broad based and inclusive growth that addresses intra State disparity in infrastructure and human development index across districts and communities. Selected data are provided as appendix. Details are also available in MHDR 2008.

(e) Agriculture & Horticulture - Meghalaya is rich in the production of certain horticulture crops like potato, ginger, pineapples, banana, oranges and turmeric besides being a substantial producer of cashew nut, arecanut, tea and rubber. Certain high-value low-volume non traditional crops such as strawberry, rose and anthurium are fast establishing themselves as revenue spinners. The State would be adopting a cluster approach to achieve the desired results and also focus on post harvest management like cold chains for perishables, marketing and fruit processing.

- Amongst other things related to improvement of farm incomes, the importance of **organic farming** in Meghalaya cannot be over emphasized. Because of lack of technological guidance, poor knowledge of and access to affordable certification facilities and effective market support, organizing organic farming also requires greater scientific and technical inputs than chemical

farming calling for a high level of multidisciplinary attention. Post harvest management and other forward linkages such as processing, value addition and marketing requires to be given emphasis. The RKVY and BRGF schemes should be focusing on these issues.

- There is need for an **integrated and intensive development of agriculture and allied activities through a cluster approach**. This will ensure the creation of jobs and employment especially in the farm sector by increased investment in irrigation, watershed development, wasteland development, land reclamation, etc. Further, there is a need to increase employment in non-agricultural sector and rural non-farm sector with development of clusters around towns/ market centres.
- Understanding the vulnerabilities of farmers a social security system for the farmer is necessary. The **Co-operative Credit structure** will have to be revived with a sense of urgency after the Vaidyanathan Committee report as applicable for the North Eastern States and other tribal areas.
- **SHG movement** needs to be given prime place in all development strategies. Micro Finance Institutions, micro insurance and other financial services needs to be expanded. A specialized and focused external support programme need to be worked upon for related aspects. (A Survey Report and Directory of SHG is now available on the website <http://megselfhelp.gov.in>)

(f) Poverty Alleviation -. A survey conducted by the State Government in 2002 and approved by the Cabinet after due process finds that 48.09 percent of the households are BPL families (The full report is available at <http://megcnrd.gov.in>)

Much more involvement for livelihoods and poverty alleviation programmes would be required with multifaceted approach in designing the plans, programmes, strategies, policy implementation shifts, and institutional arrangements.

The State Government should tackle the problem of poverty in the following ways – (i) a more focused, grass root driven, crop and altitude specific holistic cluster approach to agricultural & horticultural development with total integration of all required components and packages of practices from the primary production level to the points of sale is now being attempted; (ii) Helping small farmers increase productivity through investment, subsidy and appropriate linkages and a programme to include asset distribution and asset creation ; (iii) Stress on non –farm activity that bolster traditional as well as non-traditional and private sector activities, with special attention to micro enterprises in the rural areas; (iv) More investment and Government’s involvement for livelihoods improvement, micro-enterprise and poverty alleviation programmes; (v) Effective delivery mechanism and instrument in respect of poverty alleviation programmes like SGSY, IWEP, IWDP, etc. including National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) to ensure the benefits of such programmes reaches the intended beneficiaries in time; (vi) Empowerment of the people with capabilities to ensure adequate food, clothing, shelter so that every family gains freedom from hunger and lead a healthy life and participate productively in the growth process should be our major commitment.

To **address the multifaceted challenge of poverty and deprivation**, the State Government should **adopt a multi pronged approach** which calls for the **following ‘policy and action cluster’ considered crucial in the context of Meghalaya:**

- i.* **Pro-poor Growth** that stimulates labour intensive works through actions such as NREGA and expanding it to cover all districts; launching rural works programmes and food for works programme that focuses on locations and sectors that have the maximum impact on poverty.
- ii.* **More investment in human development** such as nutrition, health (including reproductive health), education, water and sanitation etc. which foster a productive labour force and addressing the gaps that exists in these sectors.
- iii.* **Investing in rural infrastructure** such as roads, communications, energy, with institutional arrangements for attending to the critical inter-sectoral gaps and linkages for establishing input supply infrastructure, processing, post harvest and market centres.
- iv.* **Employment generation programmes:** Employment and improved livelihoods programmes such as Livelihoods Improvement Programme (LIPH) or **proposed NERLP of ministry of DoNER should cover poor people in all areas of my state.** There is need to expand successful experiments done in the past under the North Eastern Community resources management (NERCORMP) as well as other employment generation programs to consolidate micro credit and micro enterprise efforts.
- v.* Ensuring a **better targeting of programmes** such as NREGA, IAY, SGSY, nutrition programs and subsidized access to PDS, TPDS, old age, widow pension schemes, accident and maternity benefits and mid day meal programmes.
- vi.* Rural resource centre and Skill development mission: Skills, Assets and Opportunities for Remunerative Jobs/Livelihoods can **ABOLISH Poverty and Hunger.** There is an urgent need for ICT-SHG led programme - **Rural resource centre** initiated with the help of NABARD, NEISAC, and under NEGP or BRGF. The National Alliance for Rural Knowledge Centres and the North Eastern Space Applications Centre should work out a strategy for establishing Rural Knowledge Centres. Simultaneously job-led growth strategies and for a paradigm shift from unskilled to skilled work with **Launching of Skill development Mission** is necessary for the region. A skill development mission for the rural areas and particularly for the North East may be evolved and supported. The ‘Rural Business Hubs’ approach recommended by the National Commission on Farmers should be implemented to improve livelihood opportunities in rural areas. Micro-credit programme and Self Help Groups to be made the key instrument of poverty eradication and Social Empowerment programmes for the poor.
- vii.* **Social Security programmes:** There is need to understand the vulnerabilities of farmers and a social security system for the farmer needs to be evolved. **User-friendly insurance instruments**

covering production and marketing for all crops as suggested in the 5th Report of the National Commission on farmers is important and should be launched. **There is a need to bring all kind of insurance schemes for rural areas under one umbrella scheme, where all tribals in rural areas be covered for health, life , assets and emergencies and accidents. An expert group could work out the modalities of its implementation in the NER by redesigning and scrutinizing existing programmes with additional help if required from the Government of India. A mission for this may be launched** for the tribal areas of NER and others.

- viii. Governance and institutional framework:** Creation of an appropriate governance and institutional framework for participation in poverty reduction and human development efforts has to be a significant area in which building Capacities at various levels should be focussed. ***A framework for integrated planning and development by refashioning the existing governmental set up, traditional hierarchical and non-hierarchical institutions towards making them partners in governance and delivery of development should be seriously attempted and facilitated.***
- ix. Regional and state level Consultative, Convergence and Monitoring bodies:** a. Council for ensuring Sustainable Food Security b. Council for Entitlements, Convergence for elimination of Hunger and Poverty comprising representatives of governments, civil society organizations, women’s associations, farmers’ associations, youth organizations, business and industry, academia and mass media. This would ensure proper targeting and reaching the entitlements of the poor till the door step.
- x. Foster a decentralized, pro-nature, pro-poor, pro-women and pro-livelihood pattern of enhancing human well being:** Supporting the poor to use and improve existing village institutions in ways that they make decisions and choices are critical. Capacity building of village institutions and individuals; capacity building and outcome linked assistance to traditional institutions. Gradually bringing full democratic spirit and under developmental structure and governance fold. Bringing the Village council under NREGA and block council etc. in governance fold in gradual manner And evolve effective delivery system.

Many of the Suggestions above and suggestions such as: **Improving Agriculture** (accelerated progress in enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability, and sustainability of the major farming systems is the best safety net against hunger and poverty); **Improve Rural connectivity and infrastructure** - road, energy (renewable energy) essential for enhancing livelihood security in utilizing the funds provided by Govt. of India and **more fund for Power; water and sanitation, health and education with vocationalisation** would find popping up in generic terms everywhere when we talk of development in the region and the state.

(g) NREGA - All districts of Meghalaya are now covered under NREGA. Besides the above, the entitlement of the poor under various programmes needs to be well directed and strictly monitored.

(h) An integrated approach to livelihood development in the villages in the State is essential. As such, a suitable mechanism needs to be established to integrate the activities of

various agencies, both Central and State, concerned with the development of agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, sericulture and weaving, plantation crops, forestry, medicinal herbs, etc. so that optimum utilisation of available resources can be achieved through **convergence and cluster approach**. Karki, M.(2001) mentioned that in order to reduce the poverty and underdevelopment in the Northeastern States, the goal of sustainably managing NTFPs may need to be changed to give a strategically balanced focus on both livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation. **The robust model of involvement of SHGs such as in NERCORMP and MLIPH (MRDS) projects of IFAD needs to be mainstreamed in various developmental sector programmes.**

- (i) Further, the norms under TPDS need to be liberalised and pulses should be added to the basket of commodities supplied through TPDS. The Mid-day Meal Programme should be extended to cover private schools in tribal areas and be extended up to secondary level given a very high drop-out situation.
- (j) In spite of heavy rainfall, Meghalaya still faces scarcity of water especially in dry seasons. The State had experienced a near drought situation during 2005 and 2006 which had affected power generation, agriculture, etc. Further, deforestation has also added to the problem of water scarcity. In view of the above, the State Government decision to create a **Water Harvesting Mission** and **authority** with the necessary technological support to harvest the available water through ponds, check dams and other water harvesting structures with the direct involvement of the communities on a large scale is timely. The Mission needs to work fast to cover most of the villages in the State for drinking water, irrigation and other purposes. The State Government should also seek the assistance from the Government of India in this endeavor, besides leveraging the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme.
- (k) **Forest and Environment:** In the North East, land, water and forest are the three basic productive resources which have been indiscriminately utilized to meet the increasing requirement of diverse demand. Degradation of natural resources especially land, water and forest are mutually reinforcing factor hence, it becomes necessary that the development programmes are to be designed and implemented in such a manner that can minimize the process of natural resources degradation and also help in improving their production capacity. Besides, development programme should create sufficient employment opportunities in the agriculture and allied sector for the rural masses, as it has not been able to generate adequate employment in rural areas. This will require state funding to help them shift to sedentary environmentally sustainable agro-forestry practices and strengthening existing forest department to enable it to provide adequate forest management support to ADC controlled forests.

Technology and entrepreneurship for quality application of bamboo needs to be leveraged from the National Mission on Bamboo Application (DST) and Cane & Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwahati.

Increased biotic pressure on forests and other natural resources; Ecosystem destruction by Jhum cultivation; Large chunks of forests under ADC management which are under inadequate scientific management support; unchecked, unscientific and unsafe coal mining etc. requires an **environmentally conscious mining policy** keeping the sustainability and labour safety in mind.

(l) The State should have a multi-sectoral strategy for conservation and environmental restoration in **Cherrapunjee** through soil and water conservation and developmental programmes for protection of environment. Initiation of a project under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for **preventing pollution of the Umiam Lake** may also be considered.

(m) The State is endowed with rich **natural resources** with large reserves of coal, limestone, industrial clay, kaolin, feldspar, glass and uranium. During the 11th Plan, the rapid growth of the manufacturing sector is essential to ensure that the State far exceeds the targeted growth rate of 7.2 percent. In fact, it can go up to 12 percent. **The state Industrial policy needs to be reformulated** with evaluation of past policy impact and current and future requirements.

There is considerable scope for the **development of the manufacturing sector** in Meghalaya, based on the State's mineral and horticultural resources. However, power is a crucial constraint. Large investment from Central Govt. would be required in power generation, transmission and grid connectivity to improve the prospects of manufacturing in Meghalaya.

(n) **Trade with Bangladesh**, both formal and informal, has traditionally been an important component of the State's economy. The State Government requires the assistance of the Government of India in the form of policy initiative and infrastructure building to develop trade with Bangladesh which has been stagnating for many years. With the erection of fence on the Indo-Bangla border in Meghalaya, informal trade will dry up causing distress to people living in more than 1500 villages. The Government of India will have to help the State Government relieve the anticipated distress in the border areas of the State. An integrated Border Area Development Plan is necessary from BAD Department as required by the Planning Commission and Government of India.

(o) **Generation of employment**, particularly in the rural areas is one of the State's top priorities. In Meghalaya, there is great potential for creation of jobs in the rural areas in the field of post harvest management, agro processing, industry, tourism and other services.

(p) **Educational hub of the NE Region** - One of the aims of the State is to once again make Shillong the educational hub of the N.E. Region. To this end, the State has taken various initiatives as enunciated in the Chapter VI on Infrastructure. The state has given clearances for universities and institutions also.

(q) **Skill Development & Vocational training** to make the people employable is also being given adequate importance during the 11th Plan. The trades selected would be based on the demand for such skills in the local markets. The other important factor in this regard is that adequate institutions should be built to provide training to the trainers of various trades, so that the trainers are equipped with the latest knowledge and the latest equipments should be provided to the vocational training centres. Same will apply to polytechnics also.

(r) There is a good prospect in **IT and IT enabled services** which can transform the State given its salubrious weather and the availability of English educated youths by appropriate strategies

such as inviting investment in the State, establishing of I.T. Estate and implementation of SWAN, Data Centre, Common Services Centre, etc. under NEGAP. There is land of 100 acres available in the New Shillong Township for the I.T. Estate for which suitable promoters are required.

ICT based development planning:

- The challenge of geographical isolation can be also be largely overcome by building a strong voice, data and video infrastructure in the State.
- Introduce ICT supported social development program planning, information extension and management. Focus sectors- education, health, and agriculture group, besides, the non-farm sector.
- Appoint credible/class professional institutions to develop E-society transformation plans, design networks, institutional changes and estimating costs
- E-Society social development planning will require bringing in professional management run and managed on business lines; at the same time locally based resource and technology centers would be necessary requirement.
- Content creation should be an integral part of the E-society plan
- This will require a massive re-skilling and change management of existing development institutions;
- Will require professional support from Indian technology sector, education, social sector research and management institutions ;
- Will require highest level active supervision, guidance and support.
- The E-society development planning will need special additional government funds.

ITES based industrial development

- Meghalaya is at a major location disadvantage for manufacturing based industrial development till the access to the nearest port through Bangladesh is allowed to operate;
- Current incentive regime is not giving adequate dividends and need to be innovatively built to generate local employment and revenue
- Voice, video and data network based business services are alternate good option for Meghalaya.
- Serious e-business players are facing land and space constraints in the country. If land tenure regulation is given legal sanction and single window hassle free clearances provided some pioneering groups could try Meghalaya as a production destination for their services.
- Professional marketing agencies can help run a focused campaign to attract entrepreneurs. However success will need to be backed by demonstrated government commitment
- A serious E society social development plan should help convince industry of genuineness of Meghalaya as a good place for business

- Backend Voice, video and data infrastructure built for social development can double up for industry. No additional fund package for this segment recommended.

s.) **Improving delivery** – There is a felt need to restructure and reform Government delivery system and manpower strength in development departments **for which a separate commission may be set up.**

t.) **Decentralised & Participatory Planning and Development –**

Governance conflicts between tribal self governance institutions, Autonomous District Councils and national style governance institutions at the state level need resolution taking the grassroots and the people at the core and nucleus of governance, planning and development. The implementation of development programs is largely through government departments which are hardly accountable to the grass root communities whom they are (theoretically) required to serve. Strong public perception that there has, over a period of time, emerged an unholy nexus of the powerful leading to usurpation and corruption mainly in government programs needs urgent redressal and attention.

Since the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution does not apply to Meghalaya, the State Government will evolving a model of development which will be a combination of the traditional tribal institutions and elected representatives at the village level for ensuring the participation of the people at the grassroot level in planning process. This model would address the issue of poverty and the demand side of agriculture and other sectors. A concept of Village Employment Council becoming Village planning and Development Council should be worked out.

Building political consensus to introduce institutionalized grass root governance in a defined time frame **as a framework of Decentralizing governance would be a definite pre-requisite of change.** In doing so official institutions need to be made directly accountable to grass root institutions. The options could be:

1. Institutionalize and legalize traditional Syiems / Sirdars, Rangbahshnong, Nokma and Doloi based system and strengthen these by encouraging reforms that will make them more inclusive e.g. institutionalize women's participation; documenting land and tenure rights,
2. Strengthen, empower, build administrative and development capability by assigning increased roles, responsibilities, making govt. departments accountable and channeling development assistance through DPDCs. This will call for re-aligning roles, responsibilities and mechanisms of interaction between various elected institutions including the ADCs.
3. Institutionalize and legalize the NREGA's Village Employment Council(VEC) as village planning and development councils and have a mix of higher traditional authorities and representatives of Villages and areas in the Block and District planning and development councils.
4. Segregate the customary functions and codify the same within the ambit of the ADCs; while the modern three tier of governance, planning and development structure be kept separate with democratically elected representatives at three tier basis.

Thus, the National style development planning and execution system which may be unsuited to Meghalaya's unique settings, calls for a more decentralizing grassroots governance model. In this connection, a beginning has been made with the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Similar models of decentralization will be used for other developmental programmes of the State. Further, the involvement of traditional institutions, community based organizations, self help groups in various developmental and welfare programmes would be ensured. The State Government will undertake capacity building programmes of stakeholders to achieve the above.

Two approaches as core:

1. One is, the acceptance, relevance and validation of traditional institutions in the policy framework itself in order that it becomes possible to think in terms of traditional institutions as representative bodies, able and competent to undertake various planned developmental activities. The policy goal or expectation in this approach would be a gradual move by the traditional institutions themselves, over a period of time, towards adopting modern electoral systems, under pressure generated from the forces released as the benefits of development create public awareness and demand for public accountability, democratization and participation.
2. Two, a more direct approach, insisting upon holding of elections to urban local bodies and rural analogous panchayats, and some basic reforms, as preconditions for release of funds for the various developmental programmes and schemes such as the JNNURM. This would have to rely on the ability to generate public awareness of the benefits of joining the mainstream, in the face of opposition from a traditional society that is at first likely to intensify.

A mix of two approaches may be the most preferred path if only because it would have perhaps the best chance of achieving the policy goal of attaining basis reforms without posing the "all or nothing" kind of choice upon a traditional society. The underlying theme in each of the approaches enunciated above is that Government has to Act with far more understanding and patience, in the same spirit in which it is espousing the cause of local Governments and decentralized governance. Tribal and traditional societies are in any case, likely to change gradually, in a natural evolution mode in response to the demonstrable fruits of modern social and economic systems. Attempts to impose reforms from the top may not succeed. (Excerpts from the Chief Minister's speech).

For instance, funds under JNNURM may flow on the assurance given by the Government of Meghalaya that it is committed to holding civic elections but at a time deemed appropriate by it. This may or may not coincide with the time frame set by the Government of India. The expectation in this approach would be that while the State Government would undertake all that is necessary to achieve the policy goal, it would not operate under the threat of Damocles's sword hanging over its developmental aspirations. As the benefits of major projects begin to flow, the promise of even more such projects would positively influence minds and souls and steer public opinion towards modern institutions, without threatening the existence and rationale of the traditional institutions.

The underlying theme in each of the approaches enunciated above is common viz. the Centre has to act with far more understanding and patience than has been the case *hitherto*, in the same spirit in which it is espousing the cause of local governments and decentralized governance. Tribal and traditional societies are likely to change gradually, in a natural evolution mode in response to the demonstrable fruits of modern social and economic systems. Any attempt to impose reforms from top is not likely to succeed.

With the onset of NREGA under which Village Employment Council (VEC); Block Employment Council has been formed and in Districts like West Garo Hills has matured with convergence, a window opportunity awaits the State to convert the VEC (as Gram Sabha) as village Planning & Development Council and work upon representative council at the area (Gram Sevak Circle Level) and Block Level Planning & Development Council.

The function of such representation of Block at District Level Planning & Development Council be aligned with DPO & DRDA brought under its umbrella under the executive leadership of the Deputy Commissioner and Participatory ambit of the people representative for development.

The history of this Hill State has received scholarly attention in the recent decade that it is time to take stock of what has been established, in order to discern aspects of Planning and development. To date, the main lines of planning have been dedicated to the origins, culture, growth, and topography, of Meghalaya, as well as to newer topics such as the gendered nature of the tribes in Meghalaya. At the inception of the State the new plans proposed a new perspective on the study of the new State, one which began to investigate the transformations of Meghalaya after it was established. Taking the entire era from the mid-nineteenth century through to the late twentieth century as a whole, it was proposed that investigation of these 'transitions' should be undertaken in parallel with the changes that occur in the life-cycles of the tribes that inhabit these hills.

u) Reforms in the Land tenure system: Traditional Tribal land tenure system structured largely as common property resources is misunderstood as confusing to outside planners and entrepreneurs resulting in lack of outside entrepreneur interest; but it remains an area which requires serious policy attention. Absence of legally accepted common property resource management framework and absence of community based projects are reasons of failures of grass root institutions impacting development projects needing common property land. There is an urgent need for documentation, demarcation of ownership and tenure rights coupled with land reforms. The issue of Land survey, settlement based on allocation and usage, defining stakes and entitlements; defining the common property based land management systems that empowers communities and gives them combined bargaining power and Providing legal structure and clear operating guidelines to existing land tenure system with reforms to address landlessness and to bring in uniformity in structure are a desired necessity.

v) Resource mobilization – To realise shortfall in Plan resources, the following steps are suggested :-

- The suggestion to set up Todi Committee and its recommendations given in 2006 may be quickly put in action as there is a commitment for Additional Resource Mobilisation of Rs. 20.00 crores in 2008-09 and the State Plan would require substantial improvement in resource mopping and generation.

- Emphasis on Centrally Sponsored/ Central Sector schemes/ Flagship programmes and funds from different Ministries and Agencies must be given and leveraged by development departments.
- Environment and policy facilitation for private investment safeguarding local interests and cross funding the socially important programmes are needed.
- The growth of Meghalaya's tax revenue as a percentage of the State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) is about 4.4%, which should be around 7-8%. Thereby possibility of collecting taxes much more than presently being done does exist.

In the preceding year 2008-2009, grants from the centre accounted for almost 60% of the State's receipts. The State's own sources of income include tax revenue (from sales tax, VAT and excise duties) and non-tax revenue (cess and royalty on minerals such as coal, limestone etc.). The revenue expenditure of the State is very high accounting for almost 80% while capital expenditure accounts for only 20%. Moreover, the State has not spent much on infrastructure development and this need to be corrected. Following suggestions emanated from the **Planning Board in January 2009:**

- Increasing the productivity of the State's work force, and the austerity measures already being undertaken have to be reinforced by plugging the leakages of funds which occurs in various ways
- Innovative funding process needs to be undertaken. Setting up of integrated check gates could be considered to increase revenues,
- Increase VAT revenues by plugging loopholes and leakage of funds,
- Proper screening and computerization of operating systems, and integration of various departments,
- Raising of bonds and similar funding patterns to finance projects,
- Citizens' contributions in some form could be considered to meet shortfall in revenue generation.

The deliberations in the Planning Board in January, 2009, further indicated that:

- There is need to look at plan revenue expenditure *vis-à-vis* capital revenue expenditure. The cost of delivery is extremely on the higher end where in 2006-2007 the State was spending Rs. 2.35 to implement a plan scheme of Re. 1. Measures need to be found to reduce the cost of delivery at about 50% of the scheme. As we add more and more plan schemes we need to divert existing manpower and machinery from plans which have been completed to new plans.
- The revenue expenditure of the State has grown at an alarming rate of almost 100%. The two major components of revenue expenditure are salaries and interest payments. Efforts must be made to bring down the increase in revenue expenditure. We need to take a look at our manpower and services in the field as we proliferate into new areas.

- The tempo of the 11th Plan may suffer and this shortfall in tax revenues may continue for a year or so. The State may face problems in harnessing these revenues next year when the kind of tax revenue growth experienced by the centre (which amply helps Meghalaya) may not be there. There is need to reduce revenue expenditure on the non-plan segment which is currently very high.
- Utilization of plan funds in the region and in the State is abysmally low. There were also suggestions in the Planning Board to address this concern by setting up an agency/ mechanism such as a State Development Consortium. Such an agency can overcome many of the hurdles presently faced, tap institutional funding into it and make funds available for cost effective investment insuring that investments will give greater returns. Such an initiative will enable the government to pay back the consortium and the consortium to service the loans. The stipulation is our plan efforts will be in a better position tomorrow than they are today if implemented as above. However, given the non-accountable and non-transparent systems that furthers vested interest, this would require serious examination.
- We can look at institutional funding and to other means outside the Plan for meeting the shortfall in the two sectors.

w) Based on **issues raised by the State Planning Board and Planning Commission** during the Working Group discussions and the meetings between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister while finalization of Annual Plans in recent past and Gist from the **Public Hearing vision 2020** in Shillong following **concerns and recommendation** has emanated in **reiteration or in addition:**

Agriculture

The problem of stagnation in agriculture needs urgent attention.

- The State Government needs to come up with a clear road map for increasing productivity and production. It is necessary for the State Government to work out area wise production and productivity of paddy in order to finalise the strategy by identification of areas where potential is higher.
- Attention on the production of quality seeds needs to be taken.
- Focus on enhancing the productivity of food grains
- Research work to-i)develop specialized varieties of HYV seeds and ii)develop modern farm implements
- To find out the deficiency of micro nutrients in the soil, detailed micro mapping of the soil should be adopted.
- Retention of traditional cropping system and promotion of eco-friendly regime.
- Provision for micro or field level irrigation projects.
 - Vigorous implementation of *Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojna* (RKVY)
 - Protection of indigenous crops.
 - Micro propagation facility- to allocate more funds for food processing.

- Sensitize and enlighten farmers about seed banks.
- Adopt System of Rice Intensification (SRI) especially in rice production as these systems require less water.
- The State does not have a seed certification agency. There is only one seed farm in the State which is inadequate.
- Wasteland and not fertile cultivable land should be allotted for the brick industry.
- Loss of cultivable land due to coal mining should be checked.
- Addressing food security issue is mandatory.
- Need for a systematic study on the loss of paddy due to climate change and untimely rainfall.
- Irrigation facility for winter paddy.
- Bio diversity of the area should be kept in mind for long gestation plantations.
- stress on high-value crops which can have 2 or 3 croppings based on organic farming in a year
- The traditional Jhum cultivation of the tribes should not be ignored and productivity of traditional methods of agricultural farming system be improved.
- Agricultural marketing strategy should benefit the farmers.
- The farmers needs to be made self sufficient in seeds, seedlings, nurturing and packaging.
- Development and production of citrus and other horticulture crops should be supported.
- Lab-to-land transfer by the ICAR has not been very successful and needs further development.
- There should be proper authority for certification of organic products.

Horticulture

- Floriculture is a promising area.
- Efforts of PPP will need to be intensified, especially in horticulture.
- Appropriate use of wastelands for growing horticultural crops
- Developing a robust processing, storage and marketing infrastructure
- Extensive use of ICT supported systems
- Need for additional funding for horticulture.
- Extensive use of Information Communication Technology based systems.
- Creation of adequate market especially for horticulture.
- Need for an independent audit.
- Food processing and storage facilities should be provided.
- The proposals for contract farming should be examined in the light of distributive income and employment; internalizing the technology leading to maximizing the benefits locally. Initial pilots in collaboration with SHG groups in cluster/ SHG federation etc .
- Boost cultivation of Valencia orange.
- Road networks to be made feasible for transportation of produce.
- Horticulture should be brought under Agriculture Crop Insurance.
- Creation of nursery hubs in each district to facilitate marketing and training of farmers.

Minor irrigation

- A Minor Irrigation Master Plan needs to be prepared with the aim of tapping the vast irrigation potential in the State.
- The completed MI schemes should be handed over to the WUA's.

Fisheries

- Large scale Capacity Building
- Better extension services
- Better infrastructure for fish seed production and distribution

Animal Husbandry

- Better extension services
- Capacity building and community/grassroots involvement
- Robust animal nutrition and health infrastructure
- Efforts of PPP will need to be intensified, especially in horticulture and animal husbandry.
- There is need for strengthening of veterinary aid services for training of community veterinary workers and provision of veterinary first aid kits to each worker along with a motorcycle and mobile set. The State Government may also procure a mobile veterinary dispensary van for emergency calls and attending treatment in rural market places.

Rural Development, Poverty Alleviation, Housing, Labour and Employment

- Since only 37% of the households in the State have access to electricity, there is need to concentrate on building micro hydro power projects to meet the requirement.
- The State Government needs to identify viable diverse economic activities taking into consideration the local resource base and to encourage SHGs to take up such programmes, particularly for upliftment of the economic status of women.
- Poverty alleviation strategy on creating self employment opportunities in the medicinal plant development, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and other allied activities
- Rural-urban migration should be addressed by creating opportunities for rural people such as road linkages, health care in the rural areas, and so on.
- Diversification of agriculture into horticulture
- Robust market infrastructure
- Non-farm activities
- Livelihoods based approach

Housing:

- Provision of credit, interest subsidy, etc. need to form part of construction of new houses or upgradation/ reconstruction with emphasis on EWS.LIG.

Labour, Employment & Manpower:

- Conduct of survey in all districts of the State to collect data on working and living conditions of different categories of workers as also implementation of various labour laws and child labour. Technical guidance of Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour & Employment may be taken.
- State should encourage the development of manufacturing and the services sector to generate higher rate of employment.

- Computerisation of all employment exchanges in the State with facility of net working and development of website to facilitate job seekers.
- Reorientation of schemes by merging of schemes with similar objectives for better monitoring and flexibility in expenditure, etc.
- Convergence with different central programmes to tackle problems of child labour.
- The vocational training system should be improved qualitatively by including more region specific, market driven trades in the syllabus and for multi-skilling of the candidates.

Education and culture

- Reduction of drop out rates of children in elementary schools
- Develop minimum standards of education attainment and elementary schools and regular monitoring, effectiveness of education to ensure quality.
- Increase literacy rate for persons of age 7 years or more to 85%.
- Lower gender gap in literacy to 10%.
- Increase the percentage of each cohort going to higher education from the present 10% to 15% by the end of the 11th Plan.
- During the 11th Plan, the State should strive to achieve 45% trained teachers at the primary level and 36% in the middle/ higher secondary level.
- It is recommended that there should be 3 teachers per subject in each college while striving to achieve the UGC norm of 5 teachers per subject.
- Promotion of literacy in the rural areas
- Teachers' training and infrastructure development should get due emphasis in the education system.
- Conversion of Meghalaya into an e-society
- A common schooling system as highlighted in the National Policy for Education needs to be translated into action.
- increase in opportunities for imparting professional education in the state to stop the outflow of meritorious students from the region.
- The education system should compulsorily include vocational training courses.
- Development should not deal only with materialistic development. Simultaneously, human values related to peace, etc., should be discussed. Value education to be addressed right at the school level. The issue of development of children should be addressed.
- The need for a proper development of culture and literature of the state should be addressed.
- The linguistic and cultural heritage of the tribes of the region may be documented. The Central Board of Languages may be invited to prepare a document highlighting the linguistic and cultural heritage of people of the region.
- The total number of communities and their names should be mentioned. Vernaculars should also be taught.

Health & Family Welfare

- Focus on Women and child health Women's health has not been taken into consideration at all. MMR (the Maternal Mortality Rate) is very high amongst the tribes.

- Massive and coordinated awareness programmes on sanitation and health need to be undertaken.
- As far as health is concerned data could be collected family wise.
- Greater sensitivity to be shown to women when addressing health issues.
- There is need to gather correct information on the MMR in the State.
- Recognition of the traditional system of medicine
- Physically challenged persons need to be given proper health care, support.
- Potability and availability of water used in CHCs and PHCs needs to be addressed.
- Increase the number of maternity beds in health institutions/ centres.
- Health is to be identified as the primary concern.
- The shortage of manpower especially of specialist needs to be addressed.
- The State should arrange vibrant and dynamic training of ASHAs under NRHM.
- The State has to prepare innovative and location specific Integrated District Action under NRHM.
- There is need to address the problems of under weight children and increase of anemia among children between the age of 6 to 35 months.

Water and sanitation

- There is need for formulation of a Water Policy in the State.
- GIS mapping of all water sources including catchment areas should be undertaken.
- It is need to make flood control measures like construction of embankments more comprehensive and effective.
- Ground water schemes are more cost effective as compared to surface water schemes. The State Government should undertake schemes for tapping of the ground water potential and to revive defunct schemes. However, contamination such as arsenic and others be checked before action.
- People/community based organization to be trained in water treatment and quality monitoring in the state, district and village level.
- Rational user charges to be adopted and revised for households
- Capacity building in the Department for leak detection starting for Shillong and Tura.
- Sewerage of Shillong city needs to be taken care of on warfooting and sewerage schemes for other towns of the State should be taken up with central support.
- Sustainability of water sources is a major challenge which needs to be accorded highest priority. Social agreement with the villages for protection of source, catchment and pollution control measures. Villagers should be encouraged to come forward and take over the responsibility of maintaining these schemes.
- Polluters to pay principle to be adopted particularly in coal mining and along highways where the orblem is acute.
- There is a need to construct rain water harvesting structures at both the community and individual household level. A Rain Water Harvesting Mission has been launched in the State with the Chief Secretary as the Chairman.

- Therefore, there is a need for a proper study of the geology of the State, particularly Cherrapunjee.
- Pumping water supply schemes should be discouraged and gravity feed schemes should be promoted.
- Involve local community from the initial stages of water supply scheme. In this aspect Cherrapunjee should be taken up as a challenge.
- Coverage of school buildings and anganwadis should be taken up on priority basis.
- There is need to accelerate the implementation of projects under ARWSP, Swajaldhara and Total Sanitation Campaign.

Infrastructure

- The East West Corridor and all roads programme be developed urgently and linked with other important roads of the region.
- There is a need to take up new generating units to meet the shortfall in demand for power which is estimated at about 200 MW.
- There is need to reduce T&D losses.
- Meghalaya has the capacity to develop micro hydel of about 4,000 to 5,000 MW of power but only 4 to 5 MW is generated. The NE should announce an active programme in this regard. Power so developed may be contributed to the National Grid and a National Highway for Power formed.
- Rural electrification needs priority.
- A horticultural link road may also be developed.

Industries and Border trade

- The State Government needs to take effective steps for reduction of losses in State PSEs such as the MCCL, MESEB etc.
- A self sustaining model for maintenance of existing infrastructure in the EPIP needs to be formulated so as to reduce on dependence on Plan funds.
- In view of the shortage of power, there is need to promote on setting up of units where requirement of power is lesser such as agricultural processing units.
- For promotion of handlooms, there is need to focus on product design diversification, providing credit facilities, enhancing weavers' productivity through skill upgradation, replacement/ upgradation of traditional looms, etc. The State Government may avail the benefits of central schemes.
- The State Government should make efforts to dovetail with programmes of other Departments like Rural Development, Social Welfare, Backward Classes Welfare, Minority Development, etc. and also programmes like SGRY, RSVY, etc.
- Educated youth are not getting gainful employment. A regional training institute may be established by a reputed autonomous body to equip unemployed youth. A training institute could be set up to train unemployed youth in different industrial activities till they establish their own enterprises. During the training period they would receive a stipend for sustenance. This type of institute exists in the University of Pune and youths have benefited from this.
- Since the state has substantial reserve of natural resources, relevant industries should be

set up in the state itself and instead of exporting raw materials; finished products should be exported.

- The problems of manufacturing industry and small village enterprises have not been addressed.
- The region possesses tremendous potential to earn foreign exchange – this should be harnessed.
- Border trade should be given due importance. To give a boost to trade and commerce, the Dawki LCS should be speedily implemented and more such LCSs be set up.
- For Meghalaya, the Look East should mean Look South as well.
- Meghalaya should develop SEZs to promote trade.
- Communication through Bangladesh for North East should be emphasized. International trade routes should be legalized and opened. The Chittagong port should be opened for trade.

Minerals and Mineral Based Industry

- Development of minerals on a scientific bases with minimal impact on ecology
- Emphasis on environment regulation and scientific mining
- Plan for tapping the uranium reserves
- Focus on greater interaction with the private sector players
- Environmental pollution should be addressed.

Research and Development

- Research on developing specially suited seed varieties of important crops
- Developing the capability for processing of medicine plants
- Research in animal husbandry
- Development of aquaculture and fisheries
- Downstream processing and value addition of minerals
- Development of non conventional resources of energy
- Research and development in promoting the use of Bamboo
- Research on development of bio-diesel from Jatropa.
- The research findings of Several central government research organizations in Shillong as relevant to the development of the state should be collated. Perhaps, a co-ordination committee of these research organisations should be constituted.

Planning

- The procedure of a successful planning process should incorporate lessons from the past, understand the present and plan the future.
- An overview of all approved projects should be put on the website for public knowledge.
- A Human Development Index should be developed to indicate availability of manpower in different services and categories.
- Planning is important, but follow-up of approved and implemented projects is even more so. Ideas are good but implementation of the same has to be ensured.
- Communities are the real custodians of natural resources, and hence should be the direct beneficiaries of projects. The participatory role of the common people in implementation of projects has been effectively highlighted by the NERCRMP.
- Capacity building should get adequate importance.

- Planning should be done from the grassroots level. Communities are ill prepared to take part in the developing process, and they need some platform. Traditional vibrant institutions and active organisations should be involved in the planning process. Traditional institutes existing in Meghalaya should get the status of Village Panchayats and should be involved in the developmental process. Traditional platforms like local durbars in Meghalaya can perform the task. Women do not have any role in the village durbars in Meghalaya except in a few very special cases. The rights of women have to be ensured. People need dedication. There should be a mandatory social audit of all the projects for accountability.
- There should be a policy for women in the state. Problems of women could be solved only through imparting education. NEHU can start a department in the form of a Women's Study Centre and the NEC could provide financial support towards infrastructure development.
- The participation of females in the planning process. Gender inequality should not be promoted.
- To address the problem of poverty alleviation, instead of popularizing family planning, planned family should be the focus. That is, only those who can afford may go in for expanding family size.

Tourism

- To develop tourism along circuits (say, from Cherrapunji to Tawang).
- Rural tourism to be stressed – the information and support to rural households and villages needs to be addressed. The sensibility of a community for developing rural tourism is very important and should be encouraged and developed.
- Different festivities of the state could be the nodal points for tourism promotion. Capacity development in tourism industry should be focused.
- The cluster development approach may be deployed for popularising rural tourism.
- For popularising tourism, the involvement of people's institutions is extremely important.
- Linkages and transport facilities between tourism destinations are extremely poor, and small aircrafts could help.
- While addressing eco-tourism, it is important to study mechanisms to restore eco-fragile environments to their original shape.
- Heritage sites in the state are not maintained properly, and this should be focused on.

Conclusions

- Introduce decentralized governance and decision making through political consensus amongst various interest groups of the State.
- Shift focus of government machinery from implementation of government schemes to regulation, facilitation and governance.
- Simplify administrative procedures and creating an enabling environment where industry and private sector can flourish.
- Increased focus and development funding on social sector and transport infrastructure.

- Bridge geographical remoteness by innovatively using IT based tools and techniques.
- Transform Meghalaya society by adopting ICT in an extensive manner.

x) The Indian Science Congress, 2009 has recommended (from Meghalaya State Planning Board, January 2009): Establishment of a National Indigenous (or local) Knowledge Commission (NIKC) and in line a Meghalaya Indigenous (or local) Knowledge Commission (MIKC) may be established in the State. It strongly recommended restructuring, revamping and improvement of Science Education. In the case of Meghalaya it was suggested that:

1. Meghalaya should immediately set up a State Scientific Advisory Council.
2. Capacity building programmes in Science Education should be strengthened.
3. Strengthening the foundation of students in the core disciplines of Mathematics, Science and English comprehension is to receive priority in the Education Policy of the State Government.
4. Basic guidelines based on qualification and merit for recruitment of teachers, should be framed in the Education Policy.
5. Contract basis for recruitment of best available teachers should be implemented, especially in core disciplines where there is dearth of local man power.
6. In service training for all local teachers, to strengthen proficiency in core disciplines mentioned above, to be rigorously implemented.
7. Science Education Fund can be raised from government officials and employees according to their grade. Money will be deducted from the source with missionary funding.

y) Application of space technology/NESAC inputs specific to Meghalaya state (inputs from Dr. Nageshwar Rao, Director NEISAC):

- **Land use pattern:** Based on coarse resolution satellite image interpretation, the land use pattern of Meghalaya was studied. The state has about 45.54% of its geographical area under forests, 11% under crop land, 2.5% under grass lands, 15% under wastelands and rest under various other land use practices. Further refinement of the land use pattern is in progress using high resolution satellite imagery.
- **Water budget of Meghalaya:** NESAC made an assessment of water resources supply and demand components of entire Meghalaya at sub catchments level. It is found that approximately 45.7% of total rainfall i.e. 50,02,224 Ha-m water flows as surface run-off and 6% i.e. 650341 Ha-m water loss as evapo-transpiration per year. Out of 5002423 ha-m run-off, 1632786 ha-m flows to Brahmaputra basin and 3369438 ha-m flows to Surma basin (Bangladesh). The study indicates that of the eight sub-catchments in the state of Meghalaya, two sub-catchments 3B1C (covering partially the districts of west Khasi hills and Ri-Bhoi) & 3B1A (covering partially the district of west Garo Hills) have deficiency in soil moisture storage during month of November December, January, February, March and April. The sub-catchments 3B1C and 3B1A, therefore, require using the water resources judiciously. Except sub-catchment 3B1C

(part of West Khasi Hills and part of Ri-Bhoi district), all other sub-catchments have high percentage of run-off (45% to 49%). As the topography is hilly, most of the area of the state have higher slope. So, the surface run-off attains high kinetic energy during its course of flow. In such cases soil erosion is most expected without appropriate watershed management program.

- **Prioritization of Watersheds in Meghalaya:** NESAC developed an integrated approach of remote sensing and GIS, based on the surface factors mainly responsible for soil erosion. These factors include soil type, vegetation and slope. It is found that the state of Meghalaya has 35 watersheds which are further divided into 179 sub watersheds. Satellite data were used to evaluate the soil and vegetation condition, while a GIS was used to evaluate the slope conditions. The integrated effect of all the parameters was evaluated to find different areas vulnerable to soil erosion. **The GIS analysis show that 1427.31 sq.km areas are very highly and 8891.86 sq.km area highly vulnerable to soil erosion.** The state has 10993 sq.km areas which is moderately vulnerable to soil erosion. Based on vulnerability to soil erosion, a priority rating of sub watersheds for soil conservation planning is recommended. **The study shows that 30 sub watersheds have very high priority, 29 sub watersheds have high priority for conservation measures.** The state has 77 medium priority sub watersheds. 43 number of sub watersheds deserve low or very low priority for any conservation measure. Jaintia Hills, East Khasi Hills and West Khasi Hills districts have maximum number of sub watersheds which need very high priority. These maps could be utilized for formulation of proper watershed management programmes for sustainable development so that the limited financial resources are prudentially allocated.
- **Land degradation/wastelands:** The State of Meghalaya has 15.2% of its total geographical area, i.e., 3,41,141 ha of wastelands, of which 97% can be brought under vegetative cover with reasonable effort. This estimate was based on satellite-based inventory of 2003. These lands can be converted to productive horticulture, sericulture, agro-horticulture and silviculture. Integrated Farming Systems evolved by ICAR Regional Complex for North East Hill Areas could be adopted in these lands. The database and maps are available with NESAC and can be supplied on request by any development agency.
- **Infrastructure Planning:** NESAC has carried out a pilot study for RiBhoi district of Meghalaya which covers a total geographic area of 2448 Sq.Km using IRS PAN + LISS III merged data along with other existing PWD road maps, land record maps etc. Extensive field survey with GPS has been carried out. Query based services like rural road connectivity, distance and accessibility (of various amenities from a given place), information bank based on buffering and proximity analysis, information like shortest route, alternate route etc. in a given area during emergency situation have been incorporated. Such studies can be carried out for all the districts of Meghalaya and infrastructure planning can be done.
- **Health Care:** NESAC is implementing ISRO-NEC sponsored Telemedicine Project. The Telemedicine System consists of a video conferencing facility, medical soft ware and medical diagnostic instruments connected to a very small aperture terminal (VSAT). Currently this facility is available at Civil Hospital, Shillong, and similar facilities will be available at each district headquarter.

- **Education:** Under the EDUSAT utilization programme, NESAC is facilitating installation of a state of the art, studio with a hub at SCERT, Shillong and 50 satellite interactive terminals (SIT). The SITs are located at various higher secondary schools, high schools, teachers training institutions in the state. This network is ready for operational use and can be used for imparting quality education, teachers training and distance education. This network bridges the gap between urban and rural system of education.

13.20. Road-map of Development:- During his visit to Shillong on 16-03-2007 while he was the President of India, **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam presented a road map of development** for Meghalaya to the people of the State through the MLAs in the Legislative Assembly (A full content of the address as available on the website is appended).

A seven-point mission to transform the State into an economically prosperous State before 2017 was presented by Dr. Kalam. The seven priority areas are (i) agriculture, horticulture and floriculture, (ii) education and healthcare, (iii) water management, (iv) bamboo mission, (v) tourism, (vi) establishment of Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) for rural prosperity and (vii) special economic zones. It was estimated that:

- The mission in agriculture, horticulture and floriculture can double the income of two lakh families and provide employment for 42,500 youths. It will also generate export revenue of Rs 500 crore.
- The second mission to improve education and healthcare should aim at achieving 85 per cent literacy by 2012, 100 per cent literacy by 2017, reduction of drop out rates before secondary school to less than 30 per cent and increase yearly enrolment in college to 32,000.
- To mission to improve health care should aim at providing quality healthcare to all the citizens of the State for a small fee of Rs. 10 per month per individual for people living above poverty line.
- The water management mission would provide 350 kms of waterways, irrigation for 35 lakh acres, generate 1500 megawatts of power and provide drinking water for 60 per cent people in the State. Water harvesting will ensure adequate availability of water during the non-rainy seasons for all the citizens for agriculture and drinking water.
- The bamboo mission should aim at creation of handicrafts and cottage industries to provide jobs for 40,000 youths and generate revenue of over Rs 100 crore.
- The tourism mission should aim at increasing the flow of domestic tourists from the present 3,75,000 to one million and foreign tourists from 5,000 to 50,000. This will create 2.5 lakh additional jobs for the youth.
- Creation of ten Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) clusters spread throughout the State which will bridge the rural-urban divide and increase the economic prosperity of 80 per cent of rural Meghalaya.
- The establishment of three economic zones will enable additional revenue of Rs. 2,500 crore and employment for 25,000 people. The three economic zones may include one at Shillong for herbal, aromatic, ginger varieties farming, leading to production of drugs, aromatic and ginger products for export. Another economic zone can be located in such a way that

it attracts tourists in a place surrounded by waterfalls, with an open museum of all tribal cultures, something similar to what has been done in Chhattisgarh, orchid floriculture farms and also a science and technology park. The third economic zone can be centered around mining of special materials and associated products. To cater to the three Special Economic Zones suggested for Meghalaya, it was important to establish full-fledged airports for landing of modern jet aircraft in Meghalaya.

The State Planning Board under the chairmanship of Shri P.A. Sangma, taking note of the above, reiterated the same in October 2008 and mentioned that the State Development Road Map be marked, apart from all other areas covered in these recommendations (reflected earlier in para 20 and elsewhere), by the under mentioned important milestones to be achieved over the remaining years of the Eleventh Plan and the following Twelfth Plan periods :-

1. Launching a State Mission to double the overall productivity and production of the agricultural, horticultural and floricultural sectors, and in doing so to generate avenues for accelerated employment including self-employment of the Youth, besides causing exponential growth of the State's revenue resource's.
2. Launching a State Mission to generate and sustain a holistic tourism environment, particularly eco-tourism and adventure tourism, with a view to attract at least one million domestic tourists and fifty thousand foreign tourists, per year, to the State.
3. Launching a State Mission for exponential improvement in the quality of education to ensure reduction of secondary school drop out rates total to below national levels, and to obtain total literacy of the State population and to improve and amplify vocational and professional education to cater to the employment-needs of emerging sectors.
4. Launching a State Mission to improve accessibility to quality healthcare services to the common man, particularly to the BPL families. Health services may also need to be provided through a PPP mode to supplement the State initiative.
5. Launching a State Mission to upgrade Urban Amenities & Services in Rural Area Clusters so as to bridge the rural-urban divide and increase the prosperity of rural Meghalaya.
6. Launching a State Level Bamboo Mission to facilitate sustained production of raw materials for cottage level and handicraft industries, with a view to generate employment to fifty-thousand youth, besides resulting in One Hundred Crores rupees as State Revenue.
7. Launching a State Mission for Water Management in an integrated manner, for optimum exploitation of waterways, increased irrigation facilities, generation of hydel power and provision of potable drinking water to the population of the State.
8. Launching a State Mission for establishing Economic Zones specifically aimed at creation of accelerated employment, including self employment and optimum generation of internal revenue.

13.21. Policy cluster for public action*:

Addressing the problem of equitable Development and access to opportunities remains a crucial issue in achieving the goals of inclusiveness of growth and Developmental Goals. The **policy challenge** is to facilitate access to improved livelihood opportunities closely associated with poverty eradication strategies catering to the context, needs and potentials of local communities in a sustainable manner. Breaking out of poverty traps and stagnant rural development would require **a multifaceted / Policy approach** revolving mainly upon **Nine policy clusters*** as considered crucial in the context of Meghalaya:

- i. **Investing in human development** such as nutrition, health (including reproductive health), education, water and sanitation etc. which foster a productive labour force;
- ii. In order to break out of subsistence farming and chronic hunger **Helping small farmers increase productivity** through investment, especially in rural areas and providing adequate risk mitigative & social security measures;
- iii. **Investing in infrastructure** such as roads, communications, power, etc in order to attract new investments in non-traditional areas;
- iv. **Evolving industrial development and investment policies** that bolster non-traditional private sector activities, with **special attention to small and medium-size enterprises**. Such policies might include export processing zones, tax incentives and other initiatives to promote investment and public spending on research and development;
- v. **Building and Evolving development centric, accountable people's institutions towards effective participation and empowerment** : this may involve restructuring and refashioning the Governmental set up, Traditional hierarchical and non hierarchical institutions, refashioned District councils and making them partners in governance and delivery of development with accountability. This should address role-ambiguity, overlaps, confusion and disputes in functions and aim at decentralisation with empowerment;
- vi. **Building Capacities at various levels**: This may involve organizational and institutional capacities; skills and expertise for employment, livelihoods and entrepreneurship; building capacities for newer economy with freedom of choice;
- vii. **A framework for integrated planning and development** with institutional arrangements for spatial and location specific hill area perspective for Meghalaya and attending to the critical inter-sectoral gaps and linkages;
- viii. **Emphasizing human rights and social equity** to promote the well-being of all sections of people who have the freedom and voice to influence decisions that affect their lives;
- ix. **Promoting environmental sustainability** and improving urban management. There is a need to protect the biodiversity and ecosystems that support life (clean water and air, soil nutrients, forests, fisheries, other key ecosystems) and ensure that natural resources are well managed to provide livelihoods and safe environments.

Underlying all the above recommendations **five closely interrelated general guiding principles*** with some additions, **can be followed as generic prescription:**

*Shreeranjana (2006)- Credit related Issue in Meghalaya, NEICSSR, Shillong.

- **Prioritise and reallocate public expenditures by making it pro-poor** and be more proactive to ensure that the resources are allocated to meet the diverse needs of the poor.
- **Evolve closer working among six group of institutions government [(central and state (including local/ traditional))], private sector, civil society, aid organisations and academic/ scientific institutions working for the poor to work on the demand and supply sides of asset and economy buildup.**
- **Improving the legal, regulatory and enforcement environment in general; making rule of law and governance effective and efficient.**
- **focus on building mechanisms and institutions at the local level** that can hold national/ state and local levels accountable through effective empowerment through decentralization and participation.
- **National/state level actions towards governance and Reforms**, including land reforms should be given priority.

13.22. Summary and Conclusion:

In the collapsed era of free market, the state of Meghalaya need to address, stress and assess **on the aspects which forms the basis of social, economic and human development**. Social development or real development encompasses the sum total of economic growth, human development and other aspects of social life which increase the welfare and happiness of people. This would also mean realization of full potential of its resources such as human and natural leading to capital formation.

The task of bridging the socio economic infrastructure gap in the North East in general and Meghalaya in particular is awesome. It is imperative that the following steps be taken into account to achieve this task:-

- (i) Promotional policies in various sectors to create enabling environment for investment.
- (ii) State and location specific Action Plan both by Central Ministries and State Government.
- (iii) A road map and action plan frame work for PPP in select sectors such as Power, Health, Education, Tourism, IT, etc. is required.
- (iv) Political will, supplemented by proactive delivery set up made accountable by people and their institutions.
- (v) Grass root institution building and accommodating traditional systems in governance and participatory development through restructuring the VIth Schedule.
- (vi) building capacities across sectors in government and local institutions.
- (vii) A large investment by central government with mission and task force/ dedicated **agencies based action and implementation frame work.**

The above should take on board*:

- **More proactive actions to address inequalities** of assets, across gender, rural urban and ethnic groups, intrastate disparities etc. that impede poverty reduction and growth.
- Human Development with a focus on social equity and particularly gender Equity, Capacity & Institution Building and Research & Development.
- Poverty reduction and employment generation along with a focus on the goal of maximum social and economic growth by adopting strategies which are harmonious with ground situation and which are sensitive to the social requirements.
- Focus upon an all inclusive, participative and de-segregated gender approach.
- Holistic approach to development by converging efforts of various agencies and departments of the Government and efforts of voluntary agencies where existing.
- Realistic and implementable land reform programs.
- Removing gender bias in legislation and actions.
- Improving and Operationalisation of rule of law and legal systems.
- Accelerating skill acquisition process by the poor and unemployed youth with demand- and supply-side interventions.
- Support for making institutions of /in the state (both local and national) pro-poor and accountable to the poor.
- Support for capacity building of pro-poor membership-based organizations; scaling up CBO; building alliances/cooperative federations/ SHG federations; Promoting SHGs with the help of NGOs; strengthening SHG movement etc
- Taking risk and vulnerability of the poor for further detailed analysis for its impact on poverty, efficiency, and growth. Initiating creation of qualitative and quantitative information base detailing local- and household-level knowledge on the nature and coping mechanism of risks in the life cycle of people particularly the poorer section.
- Working on multi-pronged/-dimensional programmatic approach in development and credit interventions to cushion the poor/people against shocks/ different risks.
- Recognition of strong cross-sectoral linkages; of cross-cutting impacts on empowerment, security, and opportunity; and of the importance of holding service delivery accountable to the poor.
- Formulation of Perspective Block/District Plan and Annual Action Plan for infrastructure development and promotion of core activities; Linkage of the Perspective/Annual Plan with Programmes, schemes that facilitate creation of infrastructure and Capacity to improve efficiency of extension and delivery systems.
- Taking local realities that matter and catering to the contingent institution building. Strengthening and evolving decentralised village or cluster level institutions in the state for better participation, delivery and impact.
- Support for the provision of public goods from all over. Innovation and Proactive actions in development assistance, increasing the role of civil society and the private sector in implementations, and turning leadership more responsible and responsive, enhancing ownerships.

*Party form Shreerajan (2006) - Credit related Issue in Meghalaya, NEICSSR, Shillong.

- Intensive training of the Government Officials (DRDA, Block and Line Departments), Bank Officials and NGOs as well as capacity building of the functionaries of Grass root organizations / traditional organizations /Local Bodies and Community Based Organization etc are desirable; and
- There is a need for developing a strong net-work for effective monitoring of the development programmes in general and the Self-employment programmes, in particular. Use of and setting up of MIS-aided mechanisms to review and monitor implementation of schemes. In this process, social auditing by the grass root organisations would become necessary. Periodical auditing of the performance under major plan programmes preferably by neutral agencies, to enable timely mid-course correction, if necessary.
- Proper deployment and re-deployment of manpower, cost effective control of maintenance expenditure, management of the State's Plan loan portfolios and consequential debt service burden.
- Implementation of suitable innovative measures for adequate Additional Resource Mobilisation through power generation, optimum harnessing of minerals & other natural resources, holistic tourism programmes under PPP mode, Government and private sector and appropriate projects for Carbon Trading benefits.
- Comprehensive measures for human resource development through diversified institutions of higher, technical and professional education, with emphasis on the teaching of science and mathematics at the secondary and higher levels.
- Focused intensification of programmes for strengthening the agriculture sector and improving the overall sown area and productivity;
- Programmes for fullest exploitation of the horticultural potential of the State, particularly High-Value Horticulture;
- **Intensified macro and micro water-shed management programmes** to ensure the sustainability of tapped as well as untapped water-sheds. These measures will include afforestation of barren waste lands on the southern slopes of the State which are reported to be continuously losing over 22000 metric tonnes of surface soil, per square kilometer, per year;
- **Optimum exploitation of Hydel and Thermal Power potential**, inclusive of required level of transmission and distribution network with linkage to the Regional Grid, and their efficient utilization. In addition, intensified programmes for optimum harnessing of renewable energy sources to be taken.;
- Comprehensive Tourism (Eco-Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Ancillary Tourism based Activities);
- Optimum Utilization of Mineral Resources, particularly coal and limestone, including realistic assessment of the mineable reserves of the State as of now;
- Fullest exploitation of the potential of Information Technology in all areas of development activity and delivery of public services;
- Intensified programs for Empowerment of Women in all spheres of development activity;
- Proactive measures for harnessing and channelizing youth-energy for accelerated

- development, inclusive of qualitative and quantitative promotion of games and sports;
- Measures for addressing global warming and climate change concerns.
- Measures to facilitate execution of all programmes of the government in an open, informative, qualitative, accountable, time-bound and transparent manner.
- Promotion of the State's potential for indigenous and traditional knowledge.
- A well focused Vision with a clear Mission to enable Meghalaya to develop, progress and compete on an even footing with the rest of the country, and to imbibe the spirit of competition, an improved work culture (for there is no substitute to hard work), so as to confidently surge on the path of self-reliance.
- Launching of coordinated and institutionalized efforts by setting up missions where needed to* – (i) double the overall productivity and production of the agricultural, horticultural and floricultural sectors, and in doing so to generate avenues for accelerated employment including self-employment of the Youth, besides causing exponential growth of the State's revenue resources; (ii) generate and sustain a holistic tourism environment, particularly eco-tourism and adventure tourism, with a view to attract at least one million domestic tourists and fifty thousand foreign tourists, per year, to the State; (iii) improve the quality of education to ensure reduction of secondary school drop out rates total to below national levels, and to obtain total literacy of the State population and to improve and amplify vocational and professional education to cater to the employment-needs of emerging sectors; (iv) improve accessibility to quality healthcare services to the common man, particularly to the BPL families. Health services may also need to be provided through a PPP mode to supplement the State initiative; (v) upgrade Urban Amenities & Services in Rural Area Clusters so as to bridge the rural-urban divide and increase the prosperity of rural Meghalaya; (vi) facilitate sustained production of raw materials for cottage level and handicraft industries, with a view to generate employment and improve State Revenues; (vii) bring about Water Management in an integrated manner, for optimum exploitation of waterways, increased irrigation facilities, generation of hydel power and provision of potable drinking water to the population of the State; (viii) establish Economic Zones specifically aimed at creation of accelerated employment, including self employment and optimum generation of internal revenue.

To overcome the constraints to development, the state must adopt the following strategies - (i) participatory development strategy; (ii) capacity development strategy; (iii) augmentation of infrastructure, particularly connectivity and transport infrastructure including intra-State connectivity; (iv) significant and increased leveraging of the Central Government's allocation for infrastructure in the region including efficient use of funds; (v) transforming of governance by providing a secure, responsive and market friendly environment; (vi) improving living conditions of the large concentration of people living in rural areas through increased agricultural productivity

*State Planning Board 2009 – Minutes

and diversified non-farm employment opportunities in the rural areas; (vii) focusing on sectors with comparative advantage based on value chain analysis and creating enabling conditions for investment promotion in these sectors.

The focus should be on agro-processing industries; modernization and development of sericulture; investments in manufacturing units based on the resources available in the State; harnessing the large hydroelectric power generation potential; developing services such as tourism; extensive use of ICT and on augmenting infrastructure, including rail and road. There is a need to increase employment in non-agricultural sector and rural non-farm sector with development of clusters round towns/ market centres. There is a great potential in Meghalaya for creation of jobs in the rural areas in the fields of post harvest management, agro processing and tourism.

Learning from the experiences gained from the implementation of the watershed based and Self Help Group (SHG) based approach on livelihoods under North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Programme and Livelihoods Improvement Programme assisted by International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), the State Government should focus on integrated and convergence based programmatic implementation in Mission mode. Effective implementation of these missions as per former president, Dr. Kalam, will lead to the following societal transformation leading to: (a) increase the per-capita income of the State; (b) Improvement in the Human Development Index ranking of Meghalaya; (c) Realize the goal of total literacy before 2020 by giving highest thrust to women's education, particularly in the tribal population; (d) Progressively reduce the number of people living below the poverty line.

The state must think differently and innovatively towards such policy and action measures which remove the pain and sufferings and are seen as bold and imaginative measures to reach the un-reached. It must take recourse to courageous steps to combat the problems and overcome constraints in order to succeed with committed deeds of development so that its entire populace can have fullest joy of fruits of development and governance. Meghalaya would realize its full potential, marching as a confident member and a shining example of this great Nation by addressing issues flagged and suggested and taking actions for removing disparities, enhancing outreach and improving services and delivery.

APPENDIX

Table 13.16 SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Sl. No.	Items	Meghalaya	NER	India
1.	Area (Sq. Km)	22429	262179	3287263
2.	No. of Districts (2001)	7	80	595
3.	No. of C&RD Blocks (2001)	39	503	5537
4.	No. of Sub Divisions (2001)	8		
5.	No. of villages (2001)	5782	42462	638588
6.	No. of towns (2001)	16	254	5161
7.	Population (in lakhs) (2001)	23.18	389.85	10287.37
8.	Population Density (per Sq.Km) (2001)	103	134	313
9.	Sex Ratio (per '000) (2001)	972	936	933
10.	Sex Ratio (0-6 yrs) (2001)	973		
11.	Literacy rate – Total (2001)	62.6		64.8
(i)	Male	65.4		75.3
(ii)	Female	59.6		53.7
	Gender gap in literacy rate (2001)	5.8		21.6
12.	P.C of Forest cover (2003-04)	75.08	66.10	20.64
13.	a) Production of Rice (Lakh Tonnes) (2006-07)	1.89	51.67 (2004-05)	831.32 (2004-05)
14.	b) Production of Food grain (Lakh Tonnes) (2006-07)	2.70	57.07 (2004-05)	1986.63 (2004-05)
15.	Installed Power Generating Capacity (MW) (2006-07)	185.20	11,41,000 (2004-05)	11,75,94,000 (2004-05)
16.	Percentage of Villages electrified (2005-06)	73	71	74.1
17.	Households electrified	37 %		
18.	Percentage of habitations provided with drinking water	97 %		
19.	C.D. Ratio (Commercial Banks) – March 2007	38.22	41.22	75.02
20.	C.D. Ratio (Regional Rural Banks) – March 2007	29.46	49.40	58.70
21.	Birth Rate (per '000) (2006)	24.7		23.5
22.	Death Rate (per '000) (2006)	8.0		7.5
23.	Infant Mortality rate (per '000) (2006)	53		57
24.	Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)			
25.	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)			
26.	Malnutrition amongst children (0-3 yrs).			
27.	Anaemia among women (15-49 yrs)			
28.	Drop out rates in Elementary Education			
29.	Road Density (per'00 Sq.Km) [(2006-07)PWD Roads only]	36.66	66.09 (2002)	75.54 (2002)

SELECTED INDICES IN RESPECT OF HDI

(Source : Draft Meghalaya Human Development Report)

Table 13.17: Human Development Index of Districts of Meghalaya

District	Infant Mortality Rate	Literacy	Combined Gross Enrolment Ratio	NSDP Per Capita at current prices (Rs.)	HDI	HDI Rank
East Khasi Hills	34.51	76.98	63.10	17264	0.684	1
West Garo Hills	18.13	51.03	65.99	10654	0.597	2
Ri Bhoi	60.63	66.07	50.47	9798	0.499	3
South Garo Hills	102.01	55.82	85.52	16847	0.498	4
Jaintia Hills	77.34	53.00	43.31	15095	0.487	5
West Khasi Hills	86.17	65.64	79.13	9345	0.462	6
East Garo Hills	90.60	61.70	60.91	9928	0.432	7
Meghalaya	52.28	63.31	62.87	13082	0.570	

Table 13.18: Sectoral Growth Rate of the Economy in Different Districts of Meghalaya for the Period 1993-94 to 1999-00 at Constant 1993-94 Prices

(in percent)

Industry	Jaintia Hills	East Khasi Hills	West Khasi Hills	Ri Bhoi	East Garo Hills	West Garo Hills	South Garo Hills	Meghalaya
Agriculture	7.12	5.79	6.25	12.47	10.32	7.82	9.32	7.80
Forestry & Logging	1.19	0.96	1.22	1.14	1.15	1.26	1.19	1.17
Fishing	32.95	-4.94	3.48	-1.56	3.55	3.46	3.58	3.45
Mining & Quarrying	11.32	-1.78	37.76	23.34	18.05	20.59	26.50	12.64
Primary	8.73	4.87	7.47	10.43	9.41	7.42	13.32	7.92
Manufacturing	5.04	3.80	4.75	10.03	8.24	4.01	4.69	4.42
Construction	10.33	13.65	12.09	8.73	10.40	10.73	10.05	11.65
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	2.22	2.08	2.29	2.02	2.04	2.24	2.62	2.04
Secondary	7.48	7.39	10.00	4.87	6.32	7.25	8.18	7.23
Transport, Storage & Communication	7.08	3.86	11.31	24.97	15.98	12.72	48.37	6.84
Trade, Hotel & Restaurant	7.83	7.83	7.83	7.87	7.81	7.83	7.84	7.83
Banking & Insurance	12.27	13.30	12.16	11.49	11.61	12.64	4.70	12.52
Real Estate, Ownership of dwelling & Business Services	2.58	3.08	2.64	2.53	2.71	2.64	2.59	2.80
Public Administration	5.87	6.03	5.75	5.59	5.79	5.95	9.91	5.98
Other Services	9.09	8.78	8.28	8.40	8.42	8.73	8.39	8.71
Tertiary	6.57	6.24	6.23	7.03	6.31	6.45	6.69	6.37
NSDP of District	9.27	6.46	7.20	7.78	7.61	6.94	10.70	7.37

Table 13.19: Road infrastructure in the district of Meghalaya

State	Total length (in Kms) 1987*	Percentage of surfaced roads	Road density Per 100 sq km	Percentage of village connected by pucca road**	
				1981	1991
East Khasi hills	1811	46.71	35.5	19.0	26.2
West Khasi hills	728	36.26	13.9	7.61	11.90
East Garo hills	557	55.30	21.4	7.62	12.71
West Garo hills	1237	38.80	22.2	10.8	12.7
Ri Bhoi*	NA	NA	NA	10.5	19.3
South Garo hills*	NA	NA	NA	9.1	10.1
Jaintia hills	1066	42.87	28.0	11.88	27.11
Meghalaya	5399	42.50	24.1	11.1	16.4

Table 13.20: Percentage of villages electrified in District of Meghalaya

Districts	1981	1991	2001
East Khasi hills	20.0	60.8	74.13
West Khasi hills	4.2	21.7	35.28
East Garo hills	7.2	18.0	33.22
West Garo hills	1.7	18.3	36.49
Ri bhoi	18.7	53.00	66.11
South Garo hills	0.2	9.6	19.66
Jaintia hills	17.1	58.9	62.31
Meghalaya	8.1	30.9	44.93

Table 13.21 Socio Economic Indicators (NER)

Sl. No.	Items	Reference Year	Meghalaya	Assam	Arunachal Pradesh	Manipur	Mizoram	Nagaland	Tripura	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
1.	Area (Sq. Km)	2001	22429	78438	83743	22327	21081	16579	10486	3287240
2.	No. of Districts	2004	7	23	13	9	8	8	4	593
3.	No. of C&RD Blocks	2004	39	214	54	34	30	52	38	5537
4.	No. of villages	2001	5782	25,124	4,065	2,391	817	1,317	858	6,34,321
5.	Population (in lakhs)	2001	23.18	266.55	10.97	23.89	8.88	19.88	31.99	10288.31
6.	Population Density (per Sq.Km)	2001	103.38	339.83	13.11	97.05	42.15	236.37	305.07	324.85
7.	Sex Ratio (per '000)	2001	972	935	893	978	935	909	948	933

MEGHALAYA STATE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

8.	Literacy rate	2001	62.6	63.3	54.3	70.5	88.8	66.6	73.2	64.8
9.	Gross enrolment ratio (Class I-VIII) 6-14 yrs	2001-02	94.26	99.54	98.82	91.65	105.21	89.72	89.83	82.35
10.	Drop-out ratio(LP)	2007-08	30.50	69.21	60.02	37.75	59.89	53.36	69.02	54.65
11.	Drop-out ratio (UP)		9.54							
12.	P.C of Forest cover	2001	75.74 (2005)	35.33	82.33 (2001-05)	75.81	82.98	80.49	67.38	20.55
13.	a) Production of Rice (Lakh Tonnes)	2002-03	2.45 (2007-08)	37.38	1.34 (2004-05)	3.78	1.09	2.25	5.43	726.53
	b) Production of Food grain (Lakh Tonnes)	2002 -03	2.70 (2006-07)	38.95	2.27 (2004-05)	3.92	1.29	3.89	5.58	1741.88
14.	Installed Power Generating Capacity (MW)	2002-03	185.20 (2007-08)	621.81	49.47(MU)	48.61	60.15	30.20	127.30	107877
15.	Percentage of Villages electrified	2002-2003	60 (2008)	(2008)	64	92	99	96	96	83.8
16.	Households electrified	Dec, 08	51 %							
17.	C.D. Ratio (Commercial Banks)	30.09.2008	43.17	42.80	29.08	54.98	55.89	27.06	31.40	70.89
18.	C.D. Ratio (Regional Rural Banks)	30.09.2008	33.31	46.47	56.36	87.18	62.67	42.86	39.80	57.87
19.	Birth Rate (per '000)	2004	25.1	25.0	23.3	14.7	18.8	16.4	16.0	23.0
20.	Death Rate (per '000)	2004	7.5	8.7	5.0	4.1	5.1	3.8	5.7	7.6
21.	Infant Mortality rate (per '000)	2004	49	68	37	13	20	18	31	58
22.	Road Density (per'00 Sq.Km)	1999	36.98 (2007-08) PWD Roads only	109.36 All categories of roads	21.82 All categories of roads	51.21 All categories of roads	51.21 All categories of roads	122.67 All categories of roads	148.36 All categories of roads	76.84 All categories of roads

National Eleventh Five Year Plan: Box 13.1:

A Thirteen Point Action Plan suggested by the NCEUS for Employment in the Unorganised Sector:

A. Protective Measures for Workers

1. Ensuring Minimum Conditions of Work in the Non-agricultural and Agricultural Sectors;

Two bills, for agricultural workers and non-agricultural workers, that specify minimum conditions of work, including a statutory national minimum wage for all workers.

2. Minimum Level of Social Security:

A universal national minimum social security scheme, as a part of a comprehensive legislation, covering life, health and disability, maternity and old age pension to protect the workers in the unorganized sectors.

B. Package of Measures for the Marginal and Small Farmers;

3. Special Programme for Marginal and Small Farmer;

Revival of the targeted programme focusing on small and minor farmers, with an initial thrust in the areas wherein the existing yield gap is also considered high. A special agency or a coordinating

mechanism should be set up if required.

4. Emphasis on Accelerated Land and Water Management;

Immediate priority to, and significant upscaling of programmes for land and water management. Revision of the priority sector landing policy to provide a quota for the micro and small enterprises.

5. Credit for Marginal-Small Farmers;

RBI to monitor, separately, credit to this segment, expansion in outreach of credit institutions in rural areas and a credit guarantee fund to obviate the need for collateral by the marginal-small farmers in accessing the institutional credits. A 10% share for small and marginal farmers in the priority sector credit

6. Farmers' Debt Relief Commission:

Central government to lay guidelines and provide 75:25 assistance for setting up State level Farmers' Debt Relief Commissions, in the states experiencing agrarian distress, natural or market related.

C. Measures to Improve Growth of the Non-agricultural Sector

7. Improve Credit Flow to the Non-agricultural Sector

Percent	Sector & Sub-Sector/Purpose
18	10% Small & marginal farmers & 8% Other farmers
10	4% for micro enterprises with capital investment (other than land and building) upto Rs.5 lakh & 6% other micro and small Enterprises
12	12% Loans upto Rs. 5 lakh to the socio-economically weaker sections for housing, education, professions etc.
40	Total priority sectors lending

8. Encouraging SHGs and MFIs for Livelihood Promotion;

Measures to encourage growth of micro finance and SHGs in poor states and in the backward areas

9. Creation of a National Fund (NAFUS);

Rs. 5000 crore initial corpus for an exclusive statutory agency to take care of requirements of micro and small enterprises in agriculture and non-agriculture sector that are presently not reach by SIDBI and NABARD.

10. Up scaling Cluster Development through Growth Poles;

Twenty five growth poles in the traditional industries clusters with incentives at par with SEZs

D. Measures to Expand Employment and Improve Employability

11. Expand Employment through Strengthening Self-employment Programmes;

Rationalization and strengthening of the four major self employment generation programmes with 50 lakh annual employment generation target

12. Universalise and Strengthen NREGA;

Extension of NREG Programme to all districts

13. Increasing the Employability through Skill Development;

On-job-training cum employment-assurance programme to provide Rs.5000 per person incentive to any employer willing to provide one year on-job skill enhancement training.