

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE MEGHALAYA RESOURCE &
EMPLOYMENT GENERATION COUNCIL HELD IN THE CHAMBER OF
THE CHIEF MINISTER, MEGHALAYA,
ON THE 27TH NOVEMBER 2003**

Members present:-

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| 1. Shri D.D. Lapang | - | Chief Minister & Chairman, MREGC |
| 2. Shri Charles Pyngrope | - | Minister, Cooperation |
| 3. Shri J. Tayeng, IAS | - | Chief Secretary, Meghalaya |
| 4. Shri P.J. Bazeley, IAS | - | Addl. Chief Secretary, i/c Finance etc. |
| 5. Shri S.K. Tiwari, IAS | - | Addl. Chief Secretary i/c Industries |
| 6. Shri J.P. Saikia | - | Chairman & Managing Director, NEDFI |
| 7. Shri U.N. Majhi | - | Financial Adviser, NEC |
| 8. Dr. S. Ahamed, IAS | - | Director of Tourism |
| 9. Shri K. Lartang, MCS | - | Director, Employment & Craftsmen
Training |
| 10. Shri H.M. Shangpliang, MCS | - | Director, Higher & Technical Education
& Secretary, MREGC |

The meeting was presided over by Shri D.D. Lapang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, who welcomed all the members present.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted the purpose and objective of Meghalaya Resource and Employment Council to assess the prospects for generation of employment in the state in all Sectors and identify the activities which may have high employment potential.

During the discussion, Shri J. Tayeng, IAS, Chief Secretary, stated that the situation of unemployment among the educated youths in the state is serious. The Government has always been considering ways and means to provide avenues for self-employment. He stated that although the Industrial Policy was introduced in the state, the Industrial Sector could not provide much scope for employment of the local people.

Shri P.J. Bazeley, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, stated that although a number of programmes have been launched to provide employment to the people, the unemployment problem of the state continues to remain acute due to lack of professionalism in the approach. He suggested that the Council may explore the possibility of engaging a suitable professional organization to make an indepth study in the area in a professional manner and to identify the avenues for providing employment with definite milestones.

Shri S.K. Tiwari, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, stated that the Council should draw an action plan in order to achieve its target.

Shri J.P.Saikia, Chairman, NEDFI, stated that the new Industrial Policy of Meghalaya, introduced in 1997, has been able to create substantial amount of infrastructure in the state, which is quite encouraging in comparison to the other North-Eastern States. Thus, providing sufficient scope for employment in the state. He stated that sectors like Dairy Farming, Tourism etc. can be encouraged to benefit the unemployed youths. Handloom & Handicrafts Schemes are provided by the NEDFI amounting to Rs.25 Lakhs and Women entrepreneurs are provided with an assistance of Rs.5.00 Lakhs per project for setting up small scale industries.

Shri U.N.Majhi, a representative of the Secretary, NEC, stated that the NEC would be implementing the Bamboo Mission, which will provide an area for generation of employment. He also stated that the NEC has abolished the issue of Stipend and taken up projects of providing Training through Institutes that can support opportunities for employment.

Shri J.B.Dutta, Managing Director, MCAB, stated that keeping in view of the low C.D. ratio in the state, financial institutions should provide adequate assistance for self-employment to the youths. He suggested that the Council should have a Planning for providing assistance in the form of Short Term, Middle Term and Long Term. He also stated that Entrepreneurship and Networking are very important to support any assistance to be provided by the Financial Institutions. He also suggested that in order to create employment opportunities, Shopping Complexes, Marketing Complexes, may be constructed and Stalls be provided to the unemployed youths. Tourism sector could be encouraged by introducing Mobile Restaurants, Paying Guests, Tourist Lodge etc.

Dr.S.Ahamed, IAS, Director of Tourism, stated that projection of employment avenues by Government and Central Government Departments should be made to provide employment, for instance like the NEIGRIMS, where more than 300 people can obtain employment when it becomes functional. He also stated that the Bank-linked Paryatan Scheme under the Tourism Ministry, which provides Tourist-Cabs, PCOs etc. to facilitate Tourism in the state could be made available to the unemployed youths.

Shri Charles Pyngrope, Minister, stated that avenues for employment should be categorised between the Rural and the Urban. Employment avenues in both the sectors may be earmarked to suit the youths accordingly. He also stated that Poultry and Dairy Farming can be encouraged in a larger scale but should be supported with good Marketing facilities. He also stated that Cash Crop products like Potatoes and Tomatoes could provide good opportunities for Marketing but due to inadequate Storage facilities in the areas of production, the produces do not reach the Market in time.

Shri D.D.Lapang, Chief Minister, suggested that a Sub-Committee of the Council be constituted under Shri Charles Pyngrope, Minister, to be assisted by the Secretary of the Council, in coordination with different members of the Council and any other relevant Departments. The Sub-Committee would submit an Action Plan to the Council for its approval.

Shri H.M.Shangpliang, Director, Higher & Technical Education and Secretary of the Council, stated that 50 youths from the state have been deputed to the Institute of Tourism and Future Management Trends, Chandigarh, duly sponsored by the

N.E.C and another 15 youths have been deputed to the Oberoi Grand at Kolkata for training in Housekeeping and Food & Beverage services. He also stated that the Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, requires another 20 to 30 more youths to be recruited as Operation Trainees in Food & Beverage services and Housekeeping.

The Council decided that such recruitments for undergoing Training in any Service industry or other related industry may be taken up by the Council in future.

The Council had also decided to call for open offers from reputed and accredited institutions for undertaking a professional analysis and assessment of the state's resource potential and avenues for employment generation with a view to commission a suitable organization to cause an indepth study and to report in the above regard within a given time frame.

The Council also decided to approach the concerned authorities for allotment rooms for establishing the Office of the Council in the Yojana Bhavan (Annexe of the Secretariat Main Building).

The Council also decided to prepare the Budget for meeting the expenditures of the Council and submit the same to the Planning Department for necessary allocation.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

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(D.D.Lapang)

Chief Minister

&

Chairman

**Meghalaya Resource & Employment
Generation Council**