

CHAPTER – VII

TRANSPORT

7.1 ROADS & BRIDGES

7.1.1 Inheriting a road length of 2786.68 Kms with a road density of 12.42 Km./100 Sq. Km. from Assam, the State of Meghalaya has made a considerable achievement since then and upto the end of the 1st year of the 11th Five year Plan (2007-12) i.e. upto 31-03-2008, the total road length of 8293.686 Kms has been achieved, out of which 5301.648 Kms is blacktopped and 2992.038 Kms remain gravelled with a road density of 36.98 Kms/100 Sq. Km. During the current year 2008-09, 76 Km of road is targeted to be constructed. Thus the total road length at the end of the 2nd year of the 11th plan(2007-12) i.e. upto 31-03-2009 is anticipated to be 8369.686 Kms out of which 5548.648 Kms will be blacktopped and the remaining 2821.038 Km gravelled, resulting in a road density of 37.32 Km /100 sq Km.

7.1.2. **During the Eleventh Plan period, an outlay of Rs. 1586.62 crores had been projected under the State Plan for ‘Roads & Bridges’ sector which includes of Rs. 12.00 crores for Construction of Rural Roads Programme (CRRP). During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, priority will be accorded to completion of the spill over schemes, village connectivity, upgradation of the Road Research Laboratory, Computerisation, E-governance and capacity building.**

7.1.3 **Annual Plan 2007-08 :-** As against the Revised Outlay of Rs. 138.53 crore for ‘Roads & Bridges’ sector, the actual expenditure incurred is Rs. 138.53 crore. With this investment, 72 km of new roads were constructed and 312 Rms of bridges constructed.

7.1.4. **Annual Plan 2008-09 :-** The approved outlay for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs. 162.32 crore which includes Rs. 2.80 crore for Community Rural Roads Programme and Rs. 25.00 crore for NABARD Loan. The expenditure is expected to be Rs. 162.32 crore. It is anticipated that 76 km of new roads and 536 Rms bridges will be constructed

7.1.5 **Annual Plan 2009-10 :-** The proposed outlay for Annual Plan 2009-10 is Rs. 54040.00 lakhs which includes Rs. 280.00 lakhs for Channelisation to C & RD and Rs. 35630.00 lakhs of One Time ACA/SPA for completion of critical ongoing schemes, important new road schemes and important new bridge schemes.

The broad break-up of the proposed outlay of Rs. 56665.00 lakhs under Roads & Bridges Sector during 2009-2010 are as indicated below :-

		(Rs. in lakhs)	
Sl. No.	Items	2009-10 Proposed Outlay	
A.	Common Outlay		
1	Establishment		
		Roads	3000.00
		Buildings	1500.00
Total : 1			4500.00

Sl. No.	Items	2009-10 Proposed Outlay
2	Machinery (Roads)	100.00
3	Road Research Lab	10.00
4	Computerisation	10.00
5	E-Governance	10.00
6	Training	10.00
7	Institutional Dev	50.00
Total : A - Common Outlay		4690.00
B.	Channelised to C&RD	280.00
C.	NABARD	3000.00
D.	HUDCO	500.00
E.	One Time ACA/ SPA	35630.00
F.	CA for Roads & Bridges	804.00
G.	NESRP under EAP(ADB)	1852.00
H.	General schemes	7284.00
Grand Total		54040.00

There is a huge bank of sanctioned road schemes amounting to Rs. 500.67 crores and it is difficult for the State Government to provide the required resources to complete these schemes. Delay in implementation of these schemes will lead to further escalation in costs. For a hilly State like Meghalaya, road communication is the only viable means of transportation. It is observed that the overall economic development of a village improves substantially when it is connected by road. Thus, the completion of these ongoing sanctioned schemes is vital for the overall development of the State. The State Government, therefore, proposes to utilize the One Time ACA/SPA of Rs. 361.30 crores during 2009-10 for completion of these sanctioned schemes on the basis of the following priorities – (i) ongoing bridge projects (missing links) nearing completion; (ii) conversion of Semi-Permanent Timber (SPT) bridges to Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) bridges; (iii) construction/restoration of important links along Indo – Bangladesh Border and (iv) completion of crucial & important roads.

The physical targets during 2009-10 are as indicated belows:-

1.	New Construction	223 Kms.
2.	Metalling and Blacktopping	761 Kms
3.	Upgradation	.
4.	Bridges	1002 Rm
5.	Village connectivity	15 Nos.

7.1.6. **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** :- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched on 25th December 2000 as a fully funded Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development which aim to provide road connectivity in rural areas of the country. The programme envisages connecting all habitations with a

population of 1000 persons and above (500 persons and above in respect of Hill States, Tribal and Desert Areas).

As per 2001 census, there are 5782 Nos. of villages in Meghalaya, out of which 2788 Nos. have been connected by road as on 31-03-08 and 10 Nos. of villages are proposed to be connected during 2008-09. Hence, at the end of the 2nd year of the 11th Plan (2007-12) i.e 31-03-2009, the total no. of villages anticipated to be connected will be 2798. The remaining villages that are yet to be connected comprise of small, isolated and remotely situated villages with a population of less than 200. Due to the terrain and remoteness of these villages, the per capita cost of connecting these villages by road is very high.

Position of fund Utilised under different phase of PMGSY as on March 2008

(Rs. crore)

Phase	Funds Released	Expenditure
I	34.95	34.95
II	80.72	66.30
III	7.50	18.23
IV	-	6.26
Total	123.17	125.74

Status of Village Connectivity under PMGSY as on 31-03- 2008

Population group	No. of habitations as per 2001 census	Villages connected	Balance
1000 – 1500	212	209	3
500-999	713	649	64
250-499	1450	911	539
Below 250	2987	1019	1968
Other villages not accounted for by PWD	420		
Total	5782	2788	2574

Note : *The remaining unconnected villages are small isolated villages having a population of 200 and below.*

7.1.7. **NABARD Loan** :- The State Government is funding important road projects with loans from NABARD under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) so as to leverage fund available under State Plan. A summary of the loan availed from 2006-07 to 2008-09 are indicated below :-

Tranche	No. of road/bridges schemes sanctioned	Estimated Amount [Rs. crores]	Remarks
RIDF – VIII	21	18.39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 completed. • 7 in progress. • 2 A/A has not been accorded

RIDF – IX	4	9.27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 completed. • 2 in progress
RIDF – XI	28	25.58	Under implementation
RIDF – XII	12	19.76	Under implementation
RIDF – XIII	80	59.07	On-going rural road projects. 13 had been completed and physical achievement in respect of remaining projects varies from 70 % to 91 %.
Total	145	132.07	

7.1.8. Roads Projects Under Non Lapsable Central Pool Of Resources (NLCPR):-

A number of road projects have been taken up with funds received from the Ministry of DONER, Government of India under the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). Four projects at a cost of Rs. 18.64 crore have been completed till date and another 18 projects are under implementation. As against the total estimated cost of Rs. 129.84 crore for these 18 ongoing projects, the Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 59.33 crore.

Besides the above, a number of road projects have been retained by the Ministry of DONER. A summary of the retained road projects is indicated below :-

Year	No. of road projects retained by Ministry of DONER as on 01-01-2008	Project Cost (Rs. crore)
2003-04	2	12.80
2004-05	1	4.96
2005-06	5	31.86
2006-07	-	-
2007-08	4	55.36
2008-09	4	50.40
Total	16	155.38

7.1.9 Some important issues relating to Roads & Bridges sector are highlighted below :-

(i) **Bank of Sanction :-** At the beginning of the Financial Year 2009-10, the Bank of Sanction will be Rs.50066.768 and the number of on-going schemes will be 1310 Nos. as on 01-04-2009. Completion of these on-going schemes is the main priority during the next few years. However, important new schemes will be taken up under different programmes of the Central Government namely Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), North Eastern Council (NEC), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Central Road Fund (CRF), Interstate Connectivity (ISC), Economic Importance (E&I) and Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development of Exports (ASIDE).

(ii) **Upgradation of Existing Structures:** - Due to increased commercial vehicular traffic, the existing pavement structure cannot cater to the increasing load and intensity of the present day traffic. In view thereof, it has become necessary to strengthen the pavement of important roads and reconstruction of Semi Permanent Timber (SPT) bridges with Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC). Efforts are also being made to upgrade the existing roads by way of improvement, widening, strengthening, metalling and blacktopping.

(iii) **Mechanisation:** High specifications of works for bituminous pavement, such as bituminous macadam, mastic-asphalt, and semi dense bituminous concrete as well as modern types of bridge construction which have been adopted in the National Highways and other Central schemes requires mechanization of road construction. Such as hot mix plant, paver finisher with electronic sensor and vibratory rollers for achieving better quality of work and faster implementation.

7.2 ROAD TRANSPORT

7.2.1 The Road Transport sector in the State of Meghalaya is very essential in view of the fact, that, the State has neither the railway line nor the water-ways transport facilities. The only airport at Umroi near Shillong is not feasible for the landing of big aircrafts and as such, it is not serving the State and its people as desired. The State has, therefore, to depend solely on Road Transport system. The State Road Transport plays a pivotal role in linking the rural areas with the main trade centres and administrative Headquarters of the State and thus helps to improve the economic condition and quality of life of the people of the State. The private transport operators in the state are by and large guided by consideration of profit and hence do not operate in those routes where the returns is likely to be uneconomical. Hence, it is left to the Meghalaya Transport Corporation to operate on such routes to meet the public demands on social consideration.

Meghalaya Transport Corporation is the only organized road transport body in the State of Meghalaya. Now all the Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been connected to the District Headquarters and the District Headquarters to the State capital by bus services of the Corporation. The Corporation has also extended its services to the interior village, administrative units and border areas. The Corporation also plans to go in for computerization of its ticketing system and other areas of operation to improve its efficiency of performance.

7.2.2 The projected outlay for the Eleventh Plan period (2007-2012) is Rs. 3200.00 lakhs which is proposed to release to the Meghalaya Transport Corporation as Capital Contribution. The expenditure during the year 2007-2008 was Rs. 300.00 lakhs. The approved outlay for the year 2008-2009 is Rs. 375.00 lakhs which is being given to the Meghalaya Transport Corporation for purchase of 20 (twenty) new buses. **The proposed outlay for the Annual Plan 2009-2010 is Rs.500.00 lakhs.**

7.2.3 Fleet strength of the Meghalaya Transport Corporation:- As at present the MTC is having a fleet of 62 (sixty-two) buses. The Corporation is therefore planning to buy about 20 (twenty) new buses during the current year 2008-2009 for augmenting its fleet position. The Corporation had carried **4.12 lakhs passengers** covering a total of **26.53 lakhs effective kilometers** and earned total **traffic revenue of Rs. 360.00 lakhs** during the preceding year 2007-2008. With induction of more new buses, which are proposed to be acquired, the Corporation expects to improve its performance on these parameters during the current year (2008-2009). The broad break-up of the proposed outlay for 2009-2010 is indicated in the table below:-

(Rs. lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Actual Expenditure 2007-2008	Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) Projected Outlay	Anticipated Expenditure 2008-2009	Annual Plan 2009-2010 Proposed Outlay
1. Rationalisation of Operation (Acquisition of Fleet)	300.00		340.00	450.00
2. Workshop Facilities			-	-
3. Additional Facilities and Amenities to Existing Depots, Workshop and Store		3200.00	5.00	10.00
4. Bus Body Renovation			-	10.00
5. Replacement of Engines			-	5.00
6. Depot at Jowai			10.00	10.00
7. Computerisation			15.00	10.00
8. Depot cum Maintenance Centre at Nongstoin			5.00	5.00
9. Depot at Baghmara				-
Total	300.00	3200.00	375.00	500.00

7.3 OTHER TRANSPORT SERVICES

7.3.1 The projected outlay for the Eleventh Plan period (2007-2012) on Other Transport Services is Rs. 500.00 lakhs. The approved outlay for 2007-2008 is Rs. 2088.00 lakhs and expenditure is Rs. 2084.36 lakhs which includes Rs. 2038.00 lakhs for the purpose of land acquisition for upgradation of Umroi Airport under Special Plan Assistance (SPA). The approved outlay for the current year is Rs. 65.00 lakhs which is expected to be utilized in full. **The proposed outlay for 2009-2010 is Rs.8795.00 lakhs** which includes Rs.8730.00 lakhs of proposed Special Plan Assistance (SPA) for the purpose of land acquisition for upgradation of Umroi Airport.

7.3.2 The important projects taken up by the Department are Upgradation of Umroi Airport, Construction of Baljek Airport, Construction of Helipads, Motor Driving School, Financial Assistance to the Educated Un-Employed Youth, Computerisation, Construction of Checkgates, Construction of Retaining Walls and Renovation for District Offices and Head quarter and Pollution Testing Control. Highlights of the sector are as given in the following:-

A. Upgradation of Umroi Airport:- It is felt necessary that the existing Umroi Airport be upgraded and facilities for landing of bigger aircrafts be provided. Accordingly, in March 1991, Airport Authority of India inspected the site and recommended upgradation and advised that sufficient land be made available for expansion of runway and other infrastructure. The Airport Authority of India has therefore requested the State Government to acquire the additional land of 240 acres @ Rs. 40/- p.sq.m/ Building Trees for the purpose.

The matter has been taken up with Meghalaya Survey for Survey of the land to be acquired. An amount of Rs. 2038.00lakhs has been released as Special Plan Assistance for Land Acquisition during the year 2007-2008. **An amount of Rs.8730.00 lakhs have been proposed under Special Plan Assistance for the year 2009-2010.**

B. Construction / Upgradation of Baljek Airport:- The Baljek Airport was initially planned and designed for operating flight of smaller Aircraft, it is necessary to upgrade the airport by extension of the runway by another 700 metres at least. Renovation works and other necessary infrastructure is almost completed. **Hence, sum of Rs. 8.00 lakhs have been proposed for the year 2009-2010.**

C. Construction of Helipads:-The Department has introduced the helicopter service during the end of 10th Five Year Plan period which is being looked after by Meghalaya Transport Corporation. Till date the Department has got no Helipad of its own. However, there is a need for the construction of a permanent helipad under the direct control of the Govt. in co-ordination with the Air Traffic Control of the Eastern Air Command. Hence, **an amount of Rs. 18.00 lakhs is proposed for the year 2009-2010.**

D. Motor Driving School:- It is proposed to continue the scheme of assistance to the existing 3 (three) Driving Schools. The Bosco Pnar driving school, Jowai, Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre, Motor Driving School, Mendal in East Garo Hills District and the Don Bosco Motor Driving School in West Garo Hills District, Tura. The necessity of continuing the scheme is that the State of Meghalaya is a hilly terrain and special skills are required to save driving in order to minimized the occurrence of accident. Hence **a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs have been proposed.**

E. Financial Assistance to the Educated Un-Employed Youth:- The proposal is also a continuing scheme. In the wake of growing unemployment among the Educated Youth of the State. It is felt that the scheme would partly provide a kind of sustenance to educated un-employed youths to earn their lively hood by way of running Transport Services. Hence **a sum of Rs. 6.00 lakhs have been proposed for the year 2009-2010.**

F. Computerisation:- The Department proposes to upgrade the process of computerisation which have already started. This is required in order to achieve the optimum utility in e-governance so that the implementation of smart card in Driving Licence, High Security Registration Plate, issues of permits etc can be achieved. The Department will seek the assistance of National Informatic Centre to prepare plan and estimate for the scheme. Hence, **a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs have been proposed.**

G. Construction of Checkgates:- In order to check vehicles, services as well as good transport plying without valid permits and without compulsory weighment, it is proposed that several Departments including Police, Forest, Mining and Geology, Excise etc put up joint check gates at strategic localities particularly on National Highways and State Highways. The proposal will control movement of goods revenue. Hence **a sum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs have been proposed for 2009-2010.**

H. Construction of Retaining Walls and Renovation for District Offices and Head quarter:- The scheme is essential for the safety of the Government property to prevent encroachment of the existing land by the public and also for maintenance of the office. Hence **a sum of Rs. 4.00 lakhs have been proposed for 2009-2010.**

I. Pollution Testing Control:- There has been a steady increase in the number of Motor vehicles in the State, both Transport and Non-Transport. This has subsequently led to a higher level of air pollution due to vehicular smoke emission. The Government has initiated Public Private Partnership by setting up the Private Vehicular Emission Testing Stations in the various parts of the District of the State. This however, is an experimental measure and the State Government is keen to have Central Financial support for its upgradation. Though the work for pollution testing and control has been entrusted to the private parties, it is necessary that the personnel of the Department are trained and acquire skill to handle the machines, so that they can counter check the vehicles certified pollution free by the Private Pollution Testing Station. Hence, there is a need for the Department to procure new machine. **Hence a sum of Rs.4.00 lakhs have been proposed.**

J. (a) Mass Transport System:- In order to ease the traffic problems and innovative scheme is mooted out for **subsidized school bus** under the Mass Transport System under this scheme a subsidy at 50% of the cost of chassis will be extended to the selected schools per year. **Hence a sum of Rs.4.00 lakhs have been proposed.**

(b) Subsidy to Private Airlines:- The State Government is also approaching for assistance from Private air lines such as Jet Air Ways / Sahara / Spice Jet for the trial flight / landing and full times operators at Baljek Air Port. **Hence a sum of Rs.6.00 lakhs have been proposed.**

7.3.4 Outlays during the 11th Plan, Annual Plan 2008-2009 and Annual Plan 2009-2010.

The projected schematic outlays for the 11th Plan (2007-2012), the approved outlays during Annual Plan 2008-2009 and the proposed outlay for Annual Plan 2009-2010 are indicated below:-

Name of the Scheme	Actual Expenditure 2007-08	Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) Projected Outlay	Rs. In lakhs.		Annual Plan 2009-10 Proposed Outlay
			Annual Plan 2008-2009 Approved Outlay	Anticipated Expenditure 2008-09	
1. Mass Transport System	2084.36*	20.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
2. Motor Driving School		30.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
3. Computerisation of Office of the Commissioner of Transport and All District Offices of the Department		30.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
4. Financial Assistance to Un-Employed Educated Youth to run Transport Services		40.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
5. Construction of Checkgates		30.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

6. RC Construction of retaining walls and renovation for District Offices and Head Quarters		20.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
7. Purchase of Testing Equipments		30.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
8. Construction of Baljek Airport, Tura		50.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
9. Subsidy to Private Airlines		50.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
10. Upgradation of Umroi Airport		150.00	10.00	10.00	8730.00**
11. Construction of Helipad at Shillong		50.00	8.00	8.00	18.00
Total		500.00	65.00	65.00	8795.00

** Includes Rs. 2038.00 lakhs Special Plan Assistance (SPA) for acquiring additional land for upgradation of Umroi Airport. Amount placed with the Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District.*

*** Proposed Special Plan Assistance (SPA) for Land Acquisition for Umroi Airport.*