

CHAPTER – III

SPECIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

3.1. BORDER AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

3.1.1. The Border Areas Development Department was created in 1973 with a view to exclusively look after the implementation of various integrated schemes and developmental activities under the Border Areas Development Programme and also for coordinating with the different Developmental Departments for up-liftment of the people living in the border villages.

There are 1566 villages falling in the Border areas which cover an area of 4430 Square Kilometers, running laterally about 443 Kms from Dona-Malidor areas in Jaintia Hills District to Mahendraganj in the West Garo Hills District and thence for some distance towards Monkachar of West Garo Hills District.

3.1.2. Achievement of the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) :-

Border Areas Development Department is implementing the State Plan schemes and also schemes of the Special Central Assistance under Border Areas Development Programme which is 100 % funded by the Central government. Schemes of the Special Central Assistance under Border Areas development Programme are being implemented by the Local Committees formed by the concerned villages with the technical supervision from the Department for (1) Generating Employment opportunity amongst the local people of the area (2) better quality and early completion of the schemes which are highly technical in nature where implementation has to be done through the Technical wing of this Department only.

Border Areas Development Programme (BADP) under SCA:- The type of projects taken up under BADP are on the need-base requirements of the Village Committee which are based on various indicators like topography, inaccessibility, agriculture, etc. The schemes are being implemented by the concerned Local Committees.

About 38 % of the border villages are inaccessible by roads and the villagers commute to the nearest accessible village on foot. It may be pointed out that due to the nature of terrain with deep gorges and dense forest many ropeways, suspension footbridge and RCC footbridge at strategic points have been constructed to ease the villagers from traveling for more than 5-8 hrs on foot.

During the year 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 and 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 1029.00 lakh, Rs. 1267 lakh, Rs. 1647 Lakhs, Rs. 2202 lakh and Rs.2000 Lakhs respectively have been approved under Special Central Assistance (BADP) by the Government of India for implementation of various developmental schemes duly approved by the State Level Screening Committee in the border areas of the State.

The number of Schemes/ projects that have been taken up under Border Areas Development Programme(BADP) under SCA during the Eleventh Plan (2012-17) are shown below :-

Sl. No.	Name of scheme/ project	2007- 08	2008- 09	2009-10	2010-11	2010-12
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1	Link Roads	21	34	29	33	31
2	Suspension foot bridges	8	5	9	14	5
3	RCC foot bridges	41	32	40	23	42
4	Ropeways	5	1			6
5	Community Halls	18	11	21	16	17
6	Others	346	179	223	220	250

Rural Roads:- Road communication is the main contributing factor for accelerating the pace of all round development activities particularly in the border areas of the State. During the year 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs, Rs 300.00 lakhs, Rs 272.00 lakhs, Rs 75.00 lakhs, and Rs 125.00 lakhs respectively has been allocated under State Plan for construction of rural roads in the border areas and the same has been fully utilized for construction of 30.00 Kms.

Education :- During the year 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 an amount of Rs. 42.00 lakhs, Rs 32.93 lakhs, Rs 32.93 lakhs, Rs 32.93 lakhs, and Rs 40.14 lakhs respectively has been sanctioned for providing stipend/scholarship to 2891, 2363, 2363, 2363 and 2880 students hailing from the notified border villages of the State studying in different Secondary Schools, Higher secondary Schools, Colleges and University in the country. For scholarship/stipend scheme is being implemented through the Education Department.

Land Acquisition& Construction of Office Buildings of Border Areas Development Officers:- During the year 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 an amount of Rs. 66,63,360/-, Rs 62,12,500/-, Rs 44,41,400/-, Rs 29,86,218/-, and Rs 18,35,402/- respectively has been sanctioned for the Construction/Improvement/ Renovation/ Painting/ Electrification/Water Supply of Departmental buildings of Border Areas Development Officers.

Special Plan Assistance – Multi Facility Centres (MFC) in Rural Meghalaya :-

There are about 6000 villages in Meghalaya of which 1523 villages are located in the border areas. As Meghalaya is a Sixth Schedule area, there is no Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI) in the State. The traditional institutions of village durbar, nokma, syiem and dolloi have a key role in decision making on issues concerning the community and on land matters. There are also institutions like the Seng Kynthei (women association), Seng Samla (youth association), mother's union etc., which concern themselves with the well being and interests of particular sections of the community. New structures such as the Village Employment Council (VEC), Area Employment Council (AEC), Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) etc., have been created to implement various flagship development programmes of the government. There is a strong need to nurture and support these grass root institutions and to effectively partner with them to strengthen governance and to achieve overall well being of the people.

Due to the absence of a legacy of PRIs, little investment has been made in basic infrastructure necessary for grassroots governance institutions. The house of the traditional headman would be the usual meeting place. With generational shifts and greater public awareness, there is an increasing articulation for more neutral public spaces. This is a demand which is strongly articulated by youth and women's groups who have argued that decision making bodies at the village level cannot be expected to be platforms for genuine debate unless this is done in appropriate settings. Nurturing and partnering with traditional as

well as newer structures should therefore involve, creation of basic infrastructure at the village and cluster levels and secondly, capacity building of the various sections of the community- traditional elders, women and the youth. The village communities attach high priority to the creation of infrastructure in the form of community halls and meeting halls as most villages do not have any place where the community can meet and deliberate on common issues.

A Multi- Facility Centre (MFC) is therefore visualized as a means to bridge one of the basic infrastructure gaps in the villages. The centre is envisaged as the hub of community life and not simply a community hall / meeting hall.. It is therefore meant to meet multiple objectives. During the year 2010-2011, an amount of Rs. 7.68 crores has been sanctioned under Special Plan Assistance for implementation of 24 Multi Facility Centres @ Rs. 32 lakh each.

3.1.3. Proposed Outlay for the 12th Plan (2012- 17) and Annual Plan (2012-13) :-

The areas bordering the Indo-Bangladesh boundary continues to lack infrastructural facilities. The approach in the 12th plan will consist of the following :-

1. In view of the fact that connectivity plays an important role in development and 38% of border villages are still inaccessible by road, due to the nature of terrain, construction of RCC and suspension footbridges, ropeways, internal link roads to ease the problem of the border villages at strategic location will be the main focus during the 12th Plan.

2. About 5% of funds under BADP under SCA w.e.f. 2012-13 has been earmarked for skill development with a focus on skill enhancement by way of training in various activities in tourism related activities, weaving, handicraft, etc. which are feasible and viable for the border villages.

3. The scheme for awarding scholarship to the students hailing from the notified border villages will continue during the 12th Five Year Plan.

The proposed outlay for Border Area Development Sector during the 12th Plan(2012-17)is Rs.14000.00 lakh which includes Rs.11000.00 lakh under SCA for Border Areas Dev. Programme(BADP), Rs.520.00 lakh under Art.275(1), Rs.262.00 lakh under SPA and Rs.2218.00 lakh for other Border Area Dev. Programmes. The proposed outlay for the Annual Plan 2012-13 is Rs.2940.00 lakh which includes Rs.2300.00 lakh under SCA for BADP, Rs.115.00 lakh under Art.275(1), Rs.60.00 lakh under SPA and Rs.465.00 lakh for other Border Areas Dev. Programmes.

The broad break up for implementation of the schemes/ programmes of the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012), Annual Plan (2011-12), 12th Plan (2012-17) and Annual Plan (2012-13) are indicated in the table below :

Sl. No	Name of schemes	11 th Plan (2007-12) Projected Outlay	Actual Expdr. of 1 st Four years of the	Annual Plan 2011-12		12 th Plan (2012-17) Tentative Projected Outlay	Tentative Budget Provision (2012-13)
				Approved Outlay	Anticpd. Expdr.		
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			Eleventh Plan				
1.	Education: Scholarship and stipend.	210.00	140.79	42.00	42.00	225.00	50.00
2.	Road programme PWD(R) : Border Areas under PWD-Rural Roads.	2300.00	747.62	125.00	125.00	637.50	143.00
3.	Border Areas Dev.(Directorate) : Direction & Administration.	253.50	234.46	65.00	65.00	357.50	50.00
4.	Agro-Custum-Hiring in the Border Areas.	16.50	14.89	6.00	6.00	33.00	7.00
5.	Land Acqisition & Construction of officeBuilding of BADOs.	220.00	202.23	90.00	90.00	445.00	100.00
6.	Special Central Assistance under Border Areas Programme.	14409.00	6145.19	2000.00	2000.00	11000.00	2300.00
7.	Central Assistance under Art.275(1).	1500.00	34.83	100.00	100.00	520.00	115.00
8.	One time ACA for Const. of Dawki-Bholaganj Road.		300.00				
9.	Ideal Fish production Farm & Multipurpose Dev. Project .		5.02				
10.	Construction of Ropeways.			100.00	100.00	520.00	115.00
11.	SPA under Border Areas Dev. Programme : i) Multifacility Centre. ii) Roads in Border Areas.		768.00 300.00				
12.	SPA under Border Areas Dev. Programme : Inter-State Border Areas Dev. Programme.			53.00	53.00	262.00	60.00
13.	BAD Roads (SPA of 2010-11)				147.00		
	Total	18909.00	8893.03	2581.00	2728.00	14000.00	2940.00