



TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING
OF THE
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

SHILLONG
29th September, 1984

SPEECH

BY

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*Mr. Chairman, Governor of Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland,
Lt. Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers and Friends,*

It is my pleasure to welcome you all once again to Shillong. Today's discussion is of special significance as our recommendations will form the basis for the Seventh Plan at the regional level. The North Eastern Council has grown substantially since its inception more than a decade ago and has contributed significantly to speed up the development of this region. From a small outlay of Rs. 50 crores for the Fourth Plan, the Sixth Plan of the Council would be about Rs. 400 crores. An investment of about Rs.980 crores has been proposed for the Seventh Plan. This will be over two and a half times the Sixth Plan expenditure. Apparently, this is a substantial increase but considering the escalation in prices and the needs of the area, the proposed outlay for the next plan period is very moderate. When we keep in view the magnitude of the problems of this region and the enormous back-log of development, I feel that the outlay needs to be stepped up further. It is also noticed that out of the total outlay proposed for Seventh Plan, Rs. 604 crores is for schemes that would spill-over to the Seventh Plan which implies that only a limited number of new schemes would be taken up in course of the next plan period unless a substantial step up in the outlay is made.

Some of the problems which we have to face particularly on account of paucity of trained manpower have to be tackled more effectively during the 7th Plan. It is also felt that greater emphasis has to be given on the tapping of various local resources. Further, it is essential that the North Eastern Council is not called upon to shoulder the financial burden in those areas which fall within the jurisdiction of the Central Ministries. I have in

