



**Address of**  
**Shri S. C. MARAK**  
**Chief Minister, Meghalaya.**

**At the**  
**36th Meeting of the**  
**North Eastern Council**

**on**

**7th May, 1993**  
**at Itanagar.**

***Respected Chairman, Hon'ble Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers and Friends***

1. I deem it a great privilege to associate with you all and to participate in the deliberations in this meeting of the Council today. We all know that though the people of N. E. States belong to different ethnic groups, language and culture, we are all bound by common ties, because of our geographical location, topography of the area, agro climatic conditions and environment of the region. We therefore have common and similar development problems, which need a common approach towards their solution. N.E.C has provided us the forum for our meetings and interactions on these common problems and to find out their remedy with the objective of overall development for the region.

2. N.E.C has already completed 20 years of its existence. During this period, inspite of the initial teething problems, the Council has achieved commendable success in the creation of basic development infrastructure in the region which has generated a conducive environment for overall development. It is now necessary to maintain this environment of development.

It appears that in the 8th Five Year Plan, the Council is facing serious resource constraint due to low allocation of plan outlay by the Planning Commission and because of which the Council is not in a position to finance even all the continuing schemes, not to speak of taking up new schemes. If this state of affairs continues, it would put a break in the development process already generated in the area.

3. We agree with the view of the Planning Commission that the Council should finance only those schemes which are regional in nature and become productive in short gestation period. But the economy of the constituent States are so tight that they cannot finance each and every scheme though they are found essential for improving

