



ADDRESS

OF

Shri S. C. MARAK

CHIEF MINISTER, MEGHALAYA

AT THE 38th MEETING

OF

THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

On 17th November, 1994

AT GUWAHATI

Respected Chairman, colleagues and friends,

Since we met last at Shillong in January this year, much has happened in our region and in the rest of the country which will have a significant bearing on the development process in our region. We are indeed happy that several high level meetings on the development problems of the North East have been held since our last meeting and the Home Minister, Finance Minister and other leaders have participated in these exchanges. At the official level also, discussions have been held at high levels and monitoring groups have been formed. Though tension in the region is endemic, most parts of the North Eastern Region have been relatively peaceful. Peace and tranquility are essential pre-conditions for economic development. It is even more necessary in the current climate of economic liberalisation. With the new economic policy, the main engine of growth in the coming years will be private investment, both foreign and domestic. As far as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is concerned, the whole of the North Eastern Region has so far virtually drawn a blank. States in the north western and southern region have been able to attract massive investments from NRIs and multi-nationals. Proposals for investments in power, roads, bridges and other infrastructure sectors have also been taken up by foreign entrepreneurs in those States. In fact, the future of the Indian economy depends largely on the capital, technology and management inputs brought in by the NRIs, multi-nationals and our own private investors. These new opportunities have created a new buoyancy and optimism in the north western and southern regions of the country. We welcome these positive developments which would help the whole country. What is distressing is the fact that North Eastern

