



***Address***

of

***Shri S. C. MARAK***  
**CHIEF MINISTER**  
**MEGHALAYA**

at the

***39th Meeting of the***  
***North Eastern Council***

at

***New Delhi***

**16th November, 1995**

*Respected Chairman, Honourable Governors,  
Colleagues and friends,*

I am indeed very happy to participate in the 39th meeting of the North Eastern Council being held in New Delhi.

The North Eastern Council continues to serve a useful purpose in raising the level of public investment in this region and in strengthening the common economic and technical infrastructure. It is indeed heartening to note that the Council has by now invested nearly Rs. 2500 crores and nearly a third of it has been utilised through State Government departments and agencies. A very significant proportion of the resources of the NEC is utilised in expanding and strengthening the road and transport network on the one hand and in setting up power generation and transmission capabilities on the other. These are very vital areas and the work done by the NEC in the last two decades and a half has made a big impact on the North Eastern Region. While we appreciate this enterprise, it may sound somewhat ironic to add that the North East still remains relatively less developed and the gap between our region and the rest of the country still remains unacceptably large. This recognition must strengthen the resolve of the Central Government, especially in the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission, to utilise the instrument of the North Eastern Council to further expand public investment in priority sectors. Considering the historical and locational disadvantages of this region and its strategic significance, the State and the State alone can strengthen the infrastructure in this region and any curtailing of resources for such investment would be most regrettable. I wish to urge

