



सत्यमेव जयते

ADDRESS

OF

Shri S. C. MARAK
CHIEF MINISTER, MEGHALAYA

AT THE 40TH MEETING

OF

THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

ON 23RD NOVEMBER, 1996

AT AIZAWL

Respected Chairman, Excellencies, Chief Ministers , Ministers and friends.

It gives me great pleasure to be associated with the 40th meeting of the Council at this beautiful city of Aizawl. I must congratulate the Government of Mizoram for having made excellent arrangements for the meeting.

2. The last meeting was held in November 1995 at New Delhi, which is about a year ago. During my intervention in the 38th Council meeting I had suggested that the Council should meet more frequently. That would enable the Political leaders of the member States to remain in close contact at all times and work, in a concerted manner, to evolve solutions to the common and vexed problems of development. This would also help in undertaking mid term review of progress of annual plans and take corrective measures, where necessary. We must consider this seriously.

3. This meeting is being held at a crucial juncture. We have witnessed nearly five years of economic liberalisation and reforms being carried out by the Government of India. It is also time for preparation of the next Five Year Plan. It affords us a unique opportunity to review the impact of the economic reforms and, based on this experience, to draw up our programmes and strategies for the next five years so that we are not left behind in this race for economic development. It has been made very clear that under the new economic policy, the main engine of growth in the coming years will be private investment, both foreign and domestic. Left to itself, the private capital will have a tendency to flow to those States which are already advanced and therefore, have a better infrastructural base.

4. In the 38th meeting, I had observed that while we welcome the new developments, we are distressed at the fact that the North East had failed to attract any significant private investment. I had cautioned that as a result the regional disparities will further widen, which would have unacceptable social and political consequences.

