



ADDRESS

of

Shri E.K.MAWLONG
CHIEF MINISTER, MEGHALAYA

at the

**FORTY-THIRD MEETING OF
THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**

held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
on Friday the 14th.July,2000

*Respected Chairman,
Distinguished Union Ministers,
Hon'ble Governors,
My Esteemed Colleagues – The Chief Ministers and Ministers,
Members of the Council,
Officials of the Planning Commission, the Central Government,
the State Governments and the North Eastern Council,
Ladies & Gentlemen.*

I am happy to have this opportunity to associate myself with the Forty-third Meeting of the North Eastern Council being held today, at New Delhi. Since this is the first time for me to participate in the Council's Meeting, may I convey my warm and cordial greetings to the Chairman, the Union Ministers present, the Members of this Council and to all participants.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate the mandate of this Council which expects it to formulate unified and co-ordinate plans for the accelerated development of the North Eastern Region, cause survey and investigation of projects, evaluate progress of implementation of sanctioned programmes and on such basis to decide further programmes for accelerating the socio-economic progress of the region. The Council is also expected to periodically review the security situation of the region and to recommend such steps as may be considered appropriate for maintenance of security and public order.

In the light thereof, may I highlight a few important issues for consideration of this Council in addition to the listed agenda –

1. REGULAR PERIODIC MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

The last meeting of this Council, that is the Forty-second

meeting was held on 17th October, 1998. While we appreciate the reasons which rendered it difficult to hold the Forty-third Meeting of the Council earlier, *I urge that in future, this Council should meet periodically and regularly.* It is desirable for the Council to meet twice a year to plan, formulate, review and evaluate its programmes in order to more effectively discharge its functions and ensure progress and development, for ushering in a new era of balanced growth in the entire North Eastern region.

2. MACRO PLANNING AND REVIEW

I have perused the Agenda for the present Meeting of the Council. I have also perused the Agenda of the Council's Meeting held during the last few years. The Agenda does not include detailed review of programmes under implementation or review of the regional security scenario and its overall impact on progress and development.

I suggest that these aspects be included in the Agenda of all future meetings of the Council.

3. REORGANISATION OF THE COUNCIL.

The proposal for reorganisation of the North Eastern Council with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission as the Chairman of the Council, and the Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States and concerned Central Government representatives as Members has been pending for long. The resultant uncertainty has in itself become a bottle-neck for smooth functioning of the Council and proper implementation of projects.

I suggest that the proposal to reorganise the Council be implemented most urgently.

