



ADDRESS

OF

Shri E. K. MAWLONG

CHIEF MINISTER, MEGHALAYA

AT THE 45TH MEETING

OF

THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
on Monday the 3rd September, 2001

Respected Chairman, Distinguished members of the North Eastern Council, Friends.

I am happy to participate in the 45th Meeting of the North Eastern Council being held today at New Delhi. Today's discussion is of special significance as our recommendations will form the basis for the Council's Tenth Plan proposals. I hope that our deliberations will be of significance to the region.

2. While appreciating the efforts of the NEC in supplementing the attempts of the State Govts. to build up basic infrastructure for economic development, a lot more remains to be done. The North East still remains relatively much less developed and the gap between our region and the rest of the country is increasing. It is expected that the Central Government will attach greater importance to the Plan proposals of the NEC and the States of the Region. I feel that the Plan proposals from the region deserved better and more considerate weightage by the Central Govt. During the 8th and 9th Five Year Plans, practically no new schemes could be taken up by the NEC, since the funds allotted to the NEC were inadequate for its critical requirements. For example, the Council had proposed Rs. 5114.00 crores for the 9th Plan but only Rs. 2450.00 crores was approved as the Plan size. The investment of the NEC during the first four years of the Ninth Plan is Rs. 1518.22 crores, with an investment of about Rs. 378.28 crores for State Specific Schemes and Projects of a regional character. The balance amount of Rs. 1139.94 crores is for Schemes implemented by BRO and other Central agencies including Institutes run by the NEC etc.

3. The Hon'ble members will perhaps, agree with me, that, the proposals of the members of the Council are not being given due weightage. Without questioning the benefits that the member States have derived from the NEC Regional Plan or the Council's usefulness for the Region, the fact remains that the Council needs to be made a more effective and pragmatic

