



Speech of

Dr. D. D. LAPANG
Chief Minister, Meghalaya

at the

52nd Meeting

of the

North Eastern Council

at

New Delhi

on

17th February, 2006.

***Respected Chairman, Hon'ble Governors,
Distinguished Chief Ministers, Nominated Members of the
N.E.C. and friends,***

It has been nearly eight months since we last met at Shillong and it gives me great pleasure to avail this opportunity attend and participate once again at this august Council Meeting of the N.E.C. Firstly, I would like to flag some of the very important issues which this august Council may decide on. These are -

I. NON-RELEASE OF 10% LOAN COMPONENT IN RESPECT OF N. E. C. SCHEMES/PROJECTS:

From the current year (2005-06) the North Eastern Council (on the decision of the Government of India) released 90% grant only as assistance for funding of NEC Schemes/Projects. For the 10% loan component which the NEC used to release to the States up to 2004-05, the NEC has shifted the burden to the States to raise the Loans. Since the member States of the NEC have a very narrow resource base and since their loan raising power is weak, they will not be in a position to fund the 10% Loan component of the NEC Schemes/Projects. This would lead to a situation in which the Schemes/Projects taken up under the NEC Regional Schemes/Programmes remain incomplete. Hence, to ensure smooth funding of NEC Schemes/Projects to ensure their 100% completion, it is suggested that the NEC pass a resolution urging upon the Govt. of India to continue funding of the NEC Schemes/Projects on 100% basis, i.e. inclusive of 90% grant and 10% Loan as practices from the beginning of the NEC till the year 2004-2005.

