

Hon'ble Chairman, Distinguished Members of the N.E.C. and Friends,

I offer my best wishes to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji on his assumption of the charge of Minister in-charge, DONER and Chairman of the North Eastern Council. Sir, I hope that under your able leadership, the North Eastern Region will witness rapid development in the near future.

State Profile:

2. Meghalaya became a full-fledged State on January 21, 1972. The total area of the State is 22,429 square kilometers which is about 8.5 percent of the total geographical area of the NE States and Sikkim. The state has a population of 23.19 lakhs of which, 18.53 lakh live in rural areas and the population density is 103.4 per Sq.Km as against 15 per sq km in 1901. Principal communities are Khasi, Jaintia, and Garos, English is the official language in the State. With originally two districts and three Subdivisions, in 1972, the state now has 7 administrative districts, 15 subdivisions and 39 Community Development Blocks .

3. Meghalaya is a land locked hilly state. It has 423 kms of international border with Bangladesh along the south and 696 Kms of interstate border with Assam.

4. Of the total of 5782 villages in Meghalaya, 2762 villages, comprising 48 per cent of the total villages, have a population of less than 200. **These small sized villages scattered through out the State.** As such, the cost of providing physical and social infrastructure like roads, electricity, health care, primary education, potable drinking water, to these small and scattered villages is very high as compared to other States in the country. **This calls for high allocation of resources including manpower to improve the social and physical infrastructure.**

5. The State is endowed with rich mineral resources, flora and fauna. It has a coal reserve of about 560 million tonnes and lime stone reserve of about 12,000 million tonnes. We also have substantial deposits of industrial clay, kaolin, feldspar, glass and uranium. The forest cover is 69.4% percent of the total area of the State.

Socio-Economic status

6. According to a record of Planning Department, among the States and UTs in the country, Meghalaya ranked **24th** in Human Development Index (**HDI**), **21st** in **Index of social and economic infrastructure**, **16th** in per capita consumption of electricity, **25th** in road density, **30th** in per capita utilisation of credit, **19th** in per capita income, **13th** in Infant Mortality Rate and **24th** in Literacy Rate. The State Development Report and the HDI is yet to be prepared and the data appearing at various places may not be fully authentic.

7. As per 1999-2000 survey, 33.8% of the people live below the poverty line. There is substantial gap in the infrastructure requirements compared to the national average and we propose to bridge some of the critical gaps by a moderate level during the 11th five year plan to improve the quality of life of the people of the state. Some of the gaps in critical infrastructure are :

TABLE-I

| Sl. No. | Development Sectors | Unit of Development | Infrastructure Development Required | Present Status | Infra- structure Gap |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) |
| 1. | Power | Total demand of power (MW) | 610 | 185.20(30%) | 424.80(70%) |
| | -Do- | Villages electrified(Nos.) | 5782 | 4217(73%) | 1565(27%) |
| | -Do- | Households electrified(Nos.) | 365989 | 135416(37%) | 230573(63%) |
| 2. | Roads Communication | Road density (Kms./Sq.Kms.) | 75/100 (All India) | 36/100(48%) | 39/100(52%) |
| | -Do- | Village connectivity(Nos.) | 5782 | 2857(49%) | 2925(51%) |
| 3. | Health & Family Welfare | Sub-Centres (Nos. as per G.O.I. norm) | 773 | 401(52%) | 372(48%) |
| | -Do- | P.H.Cs (Nos. as per G.O.I. norm) | 116 | 102(88%) | 14(12%) |
| | -Do- | C.H.Cs (Nos. as per G.O.I. norm) | 29 | 24(83%) | 5(17%) |
| 4. | Education | Training of teachers (Nos.) | 21152 | 9294(45%) | 11558(55%) |
| | -Do- | Literacy rate(%) | 100% | 62.6% | 37.4% |
| 5. | Irrigation | Potential (Lakh hectares) | 2.18 | 0.26(12%) | 1.92(88%) |
| 7. | Water Supply | Number of habitations | 8636 | 8389(97%) | 247(3%) + Slipped-back habitations |

8. We have made an analysis of the requirements of the State for rapid economic growth. Some of the priority areas we have laid down are – Power, Road, Agriculture and allied services with emphasis on horticulture production including post harvest management and processing, border trade. I will now dwell on these aspects.

Power:

9. Meghalaya earlier was not industrialized and we were a power surplus State. We are thankful to the Government of India for the North East Industrial Policy,1997. As a result of this policy, a large number of industries based on local raw materials have been established in the State, creating employment directly and indirectly. Most of these industries like Ferro Alloy Plants , Rolling Mills, Cement Plants are power intensive. As a result of these industries, we are now suffering from acute shortage of power. Power has been identified as one of the critical areas in the State and our effort is to improve the availability of power in the State through increase in generation and also obtaining power from the National Power Grid.

10. The installed capacity in the State is 185.20 MW of Hydel Power. Our requirement of power now stands at 610 MW and is likely to go up to about 1000 MW by the end of 11th Plan. It is therefore imperative that we should add to our generating capacity in the State.

11. At present the State share of Central Sector Generation is 130 MW approximately. The peak power availability to the State including its generation is only 240 MW during the monsoon and 200 MW during the rest of the year. More power has to be purchased through bilateral arrangements which is costly.

12. It is therefore imperative that we increase our power generation to be able to meet the gap in requirement apart from the purchase from the National Power Grid.

GENERATION :

13. At present the new Umtru Hydel Power project with the capacity of 2x20 MW in Ri Bhoi District is ready for implementation where all the necessary clearances have been obtained. It will require about Rs.240 crores and can be completed within the period of

30 months. We would request that the fund may be provided during the 11th Plan so that this power is available by the middle of the Plan period.

14. Another Hydro Electric project at Ganol (2x12.5 MW) is also almost ready and a detailed project report will be completed shortly. This project will also require about Rs.150 crores and can be implemented within two years. We would request that this fund may also be provided to us. This moderate addition to our generation will also somehow ease the situation at a cost of Rs.400 crores.

15. In order to sustain the industrialisation of the State, it is necessary to improve generating capacity of the State. There is substantial hydro electric potential and the State Government would like to take up 16 projects with total outlay of Rs.64 crores for investigation and preparation of DPR in the 11th Plan period. Some of the important ones are:

1. Umngot Stage-I HEP, 260 MW
2. Myntdu Leshka Stage-II HEP, 60 MW
3. Umiam Umtru Stage-V HEP, 30 MW
4. Umngi Stage-I HEP (Storage), 54 MW
5. Umngi (Nongkohlait) Stage-III HEP, 120 MW
6. Selim HEP (Storage), 120 MW
7. Mawblei HEP, 140 MW

16. We would request that DONER/NEC may kindly assist in funding the investigations. The following new generation projects are also proposed to be taken up during the 11th Plan after survey:

1. Umngot Stage-I HEP, 260 MW
2. Myntdu Leshka Stage-II HEP, 60 MW
3. Umiam Umtru Stage-V HEP, 30 MW
4. Upper Khri HEP, 25 MW

17. We also propose to implement some of these projects during the period of 11th Plan either through Private Sector Investment or through the PPP Approach to ensure that these projects are implemented in the shortest possible time. This will add about 400 MW from these projects during the 11th Plan period at a total cost of about Rs.2400 crores, which is proposed to be met mostly by the private sector. The State Government is in the process of finalising its power policy in order to ensure that the projects can be implemented under the PPP mode in a transparent manner. Another project which the State Government is interested in is the thermal power project in Nangalbibra in Garo Hills based on the coal already available in the region. We propose to set up the 720 MW coal

based thermal power plant either by a Central Public Sector Unit or through the PPP model once the power policy has been finalized.

CONTROL OF SILTATION OF UMIAM RESERVOIR :

18. All the four power stations in the state are fed by water from the Umiam (Barapani) lake. However, the streams of the catchment area of the lake have become polluted and the resultant siltation of the lake has become alarming. The life of the lake and its effective storage capacity will be reduced if the present rate of siltation continues. A scheme for control of siltation and pollution of Umiam reservoir at an outlay of Rs 22.80 crores is proposed during the current plan period. EFC has raised certain queries on the scheme and the reply will be sent shortly.

Transmission

19. At the same time the transmission system in the State requires strengthening. Three ongoing transmission lines will require Rs.6.36 crores during the XI th plan . Twelve new transmission schemes are proposed to be taken up during the 11th Plan at a cost of Rs.476.15 crores during the 11th Plan .

Details of the new transmission schemes proposed to be funded by the NEC/ DONER during the 11th plan period are:

| Sl. No. | Name of the scheme. | Estimated cost (Rs. in crores). | Proposed outlay for the 11 th Plan. (Rs.in crores) |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Transmission Schemes : | | |
| a) | Construction of the 132 KV S/C line from Agia in Assam to Nangalbibra in Meghalaya | 43.32 | 43.32 |
| b) | Construction of the LILO of the 132 KV Stage IV Sarusajai line at Umtru Power Station | 3.87 | 3.87 |
| c) | Installation of the Capacitor Bank at the 33 KV Umtru switchyard at the EPIP sub-station I at Byrnihat | 2.84 | 2.84 |
| d) | Renovation and modernization of the protection system of the power stations and of the 132 KV Grid sub-station of Me.S.E.B. | 4.85 | 4.85 |
| e) | Construction of the 220 KV D/C line from Umngot Stage I HEP to the 400 KV/ 220 KV sub-station at Jowai (15 Kms) | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| f) | Construction of the 132 KV D/C line for Myntdu Leshka Stage I HEP to Myntdu Leshka Stage II HEP (20 Kms) | 4.50 | 4.50 |
| g) | Construction of the 132 KV S/C line from Umiam Umtru Stage IV HEP to Umiam Umtru Stage V HEP (10 Kms) | 1.20 | 1.20 |

| Sl. No. | Name of the scheme. | Estimated cost (Rs. in crores). | Proposed outlay for the 11 th Plan. (Rs.in crores) |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| h) | Construction of the 132 KV D/C line from the Thermal Power Station at Nangalbibra to the existing 132 KV/ 33 KV sub-station at Nangalbibra (5 Kms) | 1.13 | 1.13 |
| i) | Construction of the 132 KV S/C line from the existing Umtru HEP to the new Umtru HEP (5 Kms) | 0.70 | 0.70 |
| j) | Construction of the 220 KV line from the 220 KV/ 132 KV sub-station at Byrnihat to the 132 KV/ 33 KV sub-station at Nangalbibra (150 Kms) along with the construction of the 220 KV/ 132 KV, 400 MVA sub-station at Nangalbibra | 207.50 | 207.50 |
| k) | Construction of the 220 KV/ 132 KV, 200 MVA sub-station at Shillong along with the construction of the 220 KV D/C line from Shillong to Byrnihat | 187.00 | 187.00. |
| l) | Construction of the 132 KV/33 KV, 2x20 MVA sub-station at Mendipathar along with the construction of the LILO at the sub-station | 7.24 | 7.24 |
| Sub-Total (Transmission Schemes) : | | 476.15 | 476.15 |

20. To meet the requirement of power of the State, it has to be purchased from the Central Power Sector utilities and other agencies outside the State. The PGCIL levies transmission charge at 35 paise per unit. This is more than double the charge levied by PGCIL in other regions of the country which varies from 12 – 15 paise per unit . **This requires to be rectified.**

21. Further more the transmission net work of PGCIL at present level is inadequate to meet the power requirement of Meghalaya. We therefore need to establish 220 KV line. It is in this context that we would request that the **220 KV line from MISA in Assam to Byrnihat in Meghalaya at a cost of Rs.143 crores is sanctioned to us in full.** This will serve as the main highway to bring power to Meghalaya from MISA which is connected to the Eastern Regional Grid at 220 KV and 400 KV. This will ensure reliable power supply to the State

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

22. Electrification of villages in Meghalaya was undertaken through various schemes. In April 2005, a new scheme “Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna” was launched to achieve 100% village and rural household electrification in the country by the year 2010. Meghalaya submitted Detailed Project Reports for the seven districts in the State for electrification of 1598 new villages and 356 de-electrified villages including 1,19,235

BPL households in the scheme areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 264.45 crores. The details are:

| Districts | No. of new villages | No. of de-electrified villages | No. of BPL households | Estimated cost (Rs in Crores) |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| East Khasi Hills | - | 19 | 14193 | 15.93 |
| West Khasi Hills | 224 | 20 | 17592 | 32.91 |
| Ri Bhoi | 73 | 34 | 9647 | 18.21 |
| Jaintia Hills | 18 | 50 | 14029 | 38.25 |
| East Garo Hills | 365 | 100 | 16972 | 56.71 |
| West Garo Hills | 573 | 118 | 41095 | 68.75 |
| South Garo Hills | 345 | 15 | 5707 | 33.69 |
| Total : | 1598 | 356 | 119235 | 264.45 |

23. Sanction of the scheme for Ri Bhoi district has been received for Rs. 19.89 crores. In-principle approval of the DPRs of East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills has also been received for Rs. 15.71 crores and Rs. 26.11 crores respectively. Tenders have been invited for the work in Ri Bhoi district and the last date for receipt of bid documents is 5th December 2006. The work shall be executed on turnkey basis as per the terms and conditions of the scheme.

Agriculture & Allied Services:

24. The second priority we have is the development of agriculture with strong emphasis on horticulture including water management. About 70 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture and its allied activities which also contribute around 30 percent to the State's Gross Domestic Product. **In order to generate employment and income for the vast majority of the rural people, I am convinced that we have to find ways to double the investment in the agriculture and allied sectors by the next year, and ensure at least 4-5 % growth in this sector.**

25. Due to the terrain, the gross cropped area of the State is only about 10 percent of the total geographical area, and there is little scope to increase the cropped area. Only about 12 per cent of the net sown area in the State is under irrigation. **Since the area under cultivation can at best be marginally increased we have to evolve a strategy to increase cropping intensity and improve the productivity of land. Investment in irrigation will also have to be accorded high priority.** Due to limited land available,

our state can not be self sufficient in food grains. Against the requirement of 400 thousand metric tonnes of food grain the state produces about 230 thousand metric tonnes.

26. On the other hand, due to its unique climatic and physiographical condition, the State has tremendous potential in **horticulture**. Therefore, the State has given high priority to this sector. Under the Technology Mission and the State Plan, the State Government has implemented successful schemes for improving the production of traditional crops like pineapple, orange, bananas, ginger, turmeric, etc. and for growing non-traditional crops like strawberries and flowers. I am glad to report that our success with roses and anthurium have been favourably commented upon by the Ministry of Agriculture.

27. I am happy to inform you that my State is rich in production of certain horticulture products like potato (1,45,000 tonnes) ginger (47,000 tonnes), pineapples (92,000 tonnes), bananas (68,000 tonnes), oranges (35,000 tonnes) and turmeric (9,000 tonnes) and there is sufficient market surplus. We are happy that certain high value low-volume non-traditional crops such as strawberry, roses and anthurium are fast establishing themselves as revenue-spinners. In fact, recently, the State has made a dent in the national market for rose and in the international market for anthurium. Our State also grows substantial quantity of cashew nut, areca nut and some tea and rubber. We will be adopting a cluster approach to accord the desired focus in the growing of these potential horticultural crops. What is most important in this area is post harvest management like cold chain for perishables, marketing and fruit processing. This would generate more income and employment to the rural people and strengthen the economic base of the State. Intensive extension and training programmes in this respect would be essential. I also propose to introduce some additional incentives in the State sector to the entrepreneurs for investment in the processing industry. The details are under finalisation.

28. There is a need to establish **an Agriculture Risk Fund** and to expand the scope of agriculture insurance facility to all agriculture and horticulture crops. Such risk fund could have small contributions from stake holders. It will cover repayment risk over and above the insurance coverage. **The Central Government's guidance and financial support will be essential for this scheme.**

29. In respect of **credit**, and particularly agricultural credit, the outreach of formal banking has not been encouraging and the CD Ratio remains at around 35 percent only. The efforts and directions of the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD as brought out in the North East Financial Sector Plan needs to be supported and carried forward. The Co-operative Credit structure is being revived with relaxed norms for the North Eastern States and other tribal areas. I understand that the modalities are being worked out with NABARD in this regard. **I would however suggest that this revival plan should be fully financed by the Central Government as a one time measure instead of the 60:40 financing pattern proposed.**

30. **Cooperation sector** is at a nascent stage in the State. In fact, the North East is categorized as the least developed in the field of cooperative societies. A separate and special cooperative development Programme is needed for the North Eastern Region. This should also address restructuring and re-organisation of Cooperatives in the State and the North Eastern Region.

31. **Meghalaya is an ecological hotspot and rich in biodiversity.** The State has nearly 300 orchid varieties, about 700 odd varieties of medicinal plants, home to some of the rare varieties of paddy, banana, citrus plants and a storehouse of diverse germ-plasm reserves which can be a rich resource for crop and plant improvement programmes. **There is a need to strengthen the Bio-resources Development Centre at Shillong.** It should be expanded to provide application based research for production of quality planting materials. This will go a long way in improving the productivity of various crops. I seek the help of DONER in facilitating necessary financial and technical assistance from Department of Biotechnology.

32. For the 11th Five Year Plan, I propose to give **irrigation, horticulture, post harvest management and food processing the highest priority in this sector and increase the investment substantially in them** for both increasing income to farmers and creating local employment based on these resources.

Water Resource Management :

33. Another important area which needs immediate attention is the management of our water resources. In spite of heavy rainfall, Meghalaya still faces scarcity of water

especially in winter and spring seasons. We propose to encourage water harvesting on a large scale through community participation. We are blessed with heavy rainfall. Our effort during eleventh plan will be to conserve the water for use during the lean period. We propose to build check dams, water tanks in the villages for this purpose. It has been established that smaller storage tanks with suitable catchment areas are more efficient in storing water than large reservoirs. So we will build about 5000 reservoirs to cover all our villages, of size less than one hectare for drinking water and irrigation. At about Rs. 2 lakh per reservoir, this will cost about Rs. 100 crores during the Eleventh Plan. While we will meet the requirement from state plan, we would request the DONER to help us in this endeavor. We have already made a beginning in this regard. Under the Rural Employment guarantee programme being implemented in two districts in the State, we have stipulated that 60% of the funds should be spent on Water Management. In this way we propose to use surface water to the maximum.

Bamboo and bamboo based enterprises.

34. Like the rest of the north east, Meghalaya has abundance of bamboo and it is an integral part of our people's lives. According to the Forest Survey Inventory Report the state has more than 3000 square kilometres of bamboo forest. We have already made some progress in the manufacture of such products as bamboo boards, roofing materials and composites. We have four bamboo based industrial units in the State and they are doing well. **I have already asked my officers to set up a Bamboo Mission in the State** so that we can improve the productivity of bamboo and promote bamboo based units. Since our rural folk are used to working on bamboo, it would be easy for them to take to the non traditional items as well. I propose to avail of all the funding available externally and from Government of India for this purpose.

35. **Shifting cultivation** has been one of the traditional practices in my State. This is adopted in the hills since irrigation facility is not available and dry farming is the practice. At present, about 407 square kilometres are under shifting cultivation. In order to improve productivity and limit damage to environment we are working on soil conservation, water harvesting and watershed development measures so that some irrigation facility is available and the rural people in these areas can undertake permanent

cultivation. Organic farming and Commercial crop plantation activity in Jhum lands will be given priority.

36. Meghalaya has about 950 thousand hectares of land under forest. However, it being a Sixth Schedule State, most of the forest are under the administrative control of the District Councils and village authorities. Earlier the Supreme Court had put a complete ban on tree felling, which affected the livelihood of people to a great extent. The State Government thereafter undertook to formulate working plans and the same have now been approved by the Government of India. However, the revival of the wood-based industry seems difficult at present. Therefore, we are laying great stress on bamboo based industry.

Meat & Fish Production:

37. Majority of the people in my State are meat eaters. The State is presently deficient meat. Although Meghalaya has good potential for development of cattle, piggery, poultry, dairying and fishery, yet we still have to depend substantially on import of these products and fish from outside the North Eastern Region for which huge amount is going out of the State and the Region. Meat production in the State at present is around 27,200 tonnes and egg production is around 97 millions per annum. Milk production in the State is around 74,000 tonnes only per annum. As the production in these areas fall far short of our actual requirement, we will give the much needed thrust in these areas to boost production and at the same time help employment generation.

38. The State produces 5,500 tonnes of fish annually. 80 percent of the fish produced is captured fish and cultured fish is 20 percent of the total production. However, this meets only 50 percent of the demand of the State. As such, more investment in this area including **training** and skill development is required to be made, especially in realm of the State's potential in indigenous ornamental fish. This has also to be supplemented by the creation of a friendly credit system to facilitate the farmers to avail loans for self employment ventures in these areas. This would strengthen the production base of the State. We propose to increase the fish production to a considerable extent during the 11th Plan through our 1,000-pond scheme under which farmers are encouraged and assisted to

take up 0.5 to 1.00 hectare ponds in a cluster so that all necessary inputs and technical advice can be provided to them efficiently.

Sericulture & Weaving

39. All the four varieties of silk worms and their food plants viz: eri, muga, oak-tasar and mulberry are cultured in Meghalaya to provide fibre as well as food to the people. However, inspite of the congenial condition, sericulture is still to assume scale of major commercial activity. As at present, the production of raw silk is around 7,000 Kgs only per anum and the production of handloom fabrics is around 65,000 lakh sq.metres per anum. Over 28,723 families practice rearing of silk worm and 19000 weavers are engaged in handloom works. As sericulture is a labour intensive activity, we have decided to assign high priority to this area during the 11th Plan. For this, a number of schemes involving a cost of around Rs.25.00 crores have been drawn up and submitted to the NEC. We would request the DONER/NEC to assist us in this regard.

ROADS AND BRIDGES :

40. We have decided to give the third priority to roads and bridges to improve connectivity, since this is the only mode of transportation in the state at present.

Road Scenario

41. The total road length in Meghalaya is 8164.74 km as on 1st April 2006 with a road density of 36.40 km per 100 square km, which is far below the national average of 100 km per100 sqkm. About 60.10% of roads are surfaced and remaining 39.90 % are still un-surfaced roads. 2578 Nos of habitations out of total 5782 habitations in the state are yet to be connected by motorable roads.

42. There are semi-permanent bridges having a total length of 17.50 km in the state, which are required to be converted to permanent RCC bridges.

43. The total length of National Highways in the state is only 793.044 km which comes to 3.54 km per 100 sq km only. Out of the total length of National Highways in the state 414.71 km is single lane and 41.28 km is intermediate lane which need improvement and widening to double lane satndard. About 74% of the total road length consists of village roads, other district roads and major district roads, which are unable to cater to the present day traffic.

44. The 3(Three) district headquarters in Garo Hills are yet to be connected by double lane roads with the capital city Shillong. In absence of good road connectivity with Garo Hills Districts, we still have to travel via Assam and communications get disrupted whenever there are bandhs and agitations in Assam.

45. Meghalaya shares an international boundary of 423 km with Bangladesh in the South and West and is bounded by Assam in the Northern and Eastern sides and therefore improvement of the road network in the Border Areas is very important for trade and commerce and also from strategic point of view. The Land Custom Stations at Mahendraganj, Gausapara, Baghmara, Borsora, Shella Bazar, Bholaganj, Dawki, Rynku etc are not yet connected with double lane roads. The National Highway 40 connecting Shillong to Dawki is yet to be widened to double lane. Out of the total length of 82.661 km, **52.31 km remains to be upgraded to double lane standard**. The much awaited construction of permanent bridge over river Umngot at Dawki on NH 40 is still pending with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, New Delhi for **clearance for last one year**, restricting plying of heavy commercial vehicles from Shillong to Dawki as the existing suspension bridge can not carry more than 6 tonne goods . The National Highway from Jowai to Dawki (NH-40E) is still single lane for a length of 19.50 km and has to be widened to double lane at the earliest to facilitate transportation of coal to the Land Custom Station at Dawki. We would request MDONER to take up these cases with Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to expedite sanction .

46. Construction of Shillong Bypass is the most important scheme and requires immediate implementation by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to avoid traffic congestion and accidents in the Shillong City, due to plying of heavy commercial vehicles to Southern part of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram and Southern part of Manipur via the capital city of Shillong. Keeping in view that land already acquired is 24 meter wide, we have proposed immediate construction of a two lane road in 1st phase and simultaneous acquisition of land for four laning in second phase.

Approach to 11th Plan

47. As stated earlier the road density of the state is far below the national figure and road being the only means of communication in the state, therefore development of road net work is imperative for the upliftment of the economy of the state. During the next 11th five year plan (2007-2012) the state government has set a modest target to achieve road coverage of 41km/100 sq km, which means adding about 1200 km at a cost of Rs. 500 crore, beside widening and upgrading the existing roads.

48. The target may appear to be high but it is achievable. The Government has drawn up a plan in this regard and with the active support of the Central Government and the Ministry of DONER taking the role of a major player we hope we can reach this goal.

TARGET FOR 11TH FIVE YEAR PLAN (2007-2012)

| | New construction (Kms) | Upgrad-ation (Km) | Bridges (Rm) | Village connectivity (Nos) | Amount (Rs.in crore) | Amount required for Spill over Schemes | Total Amount (Rs.in crore) |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| State Plan | 544.00 | 1319.00 | 3987 | 100 | 800.00 | - | 800.00 |
| PMGSY | 600.00 | 500.00 | 370 | 140 | 450.00 | - | 450.00 |
| NEC | 116.50 | 457.54 | 300 | 10 | 500.00 | 95.00 | 595.00 |
| NLCPR | 20.00 | 400.00 | 1000 | 5 | 450.00 | 15.00 | 465.00 |
| CRF | - | 120.00 | - | - | 60.00 | - | 60.00 |
| Inter State Connectivity | - | 38.00 | - | - | 38.00 | - | 38.00 |
| Economic Importance | - | 26.00 | - | - | 13.00 | - | 13.00 |
| Externally Aided Project (ADB) | - | 212.80 | 80 | - | 185.20 | - | 185.20 |
| Total | 1280.50 | 3092.48 | 5737.00 | 255 | 2496.00 | - | 2606.00 |

Total Achievement at the end of 11th Five Year Plan will be :

Total road length =9445.24 Km
 Surfaced =8136.32 Km
 Out of which NH =793.044 Km
 (Inclusive of 189.76 Km under BRO)
 Unsurfaced =1308.92 Km
 No of villages to be connected =3459 Nos
 No of un connected villages =2323 Nos

49. Under **NEC scheme**, Meghalaya has taken up 825.095 km of roads for construction and improvement so far. All the works are completed except two numbers of spill over scheme from 9th Plan and eight numbers of schemes of the 10th Plan which are

in progress. Altogether six schemes will spill over to the 11th Five Year Plan for which an amount of Rs. 95.00 crore will be necessary. During the Eleventh Plan period 116.50 km of new road construction, 457.54 km. of upgradation and 300 running metre of bridges have been proposed, for which an amount of Rs.500 crore will be required. As such, the total amount required during 11th Plan will be Rs. 595.00 crore. All these schemes proposed by Meghalaya are very important for socio-economic development of the state, better connectivity to Land Custom Stations, development of tourism, providing alternate routes to Dawki border, inter-state connectivity and shall provide necessary infrastructure for growth of industries in the State.

50. The schemes under **Non-Lapsable-Central-Pool of Resources (NLCPR)** is found to be very good to facilitate development of road infrastructure. During 11th Five Year Plan stress has been laid on upgradation of 400 km. of roads, re-construction of 1000 running metre of semi-permanent bridges and 20.00 km. of new road construction. An amount of Rs. 450.00 crore will be required for these schemes and another amount of Rs. 15.00 crore will be necessary for the spill over schemes from 10th Plan. Thereby, an amount of Rs. 465.00 crore will be necessary during the 11th Plan.

51. The road from Mawngap-Mawphlang to Baghmara via Ranikor having a total length of 249.27 Km requires improvement and widening to at least intermediate lane standard, which will not only provide connectivity between East Khasi Hills District to South Garo Hills District Headquarter via West Khasi Hills District. This road runs mostly along the border with Bangladesh and will connect 3 important Land Custom Stations in the State, boosting exports. Moreover considering its strategic location special attention is required. The approximate cost of up-gradation will be Rs357.00 Crores and the project may be funded by the DONER in phased manner.

52. The NLCPR schemes retained during last few years are as follows:

2003-04: Out of 6 (six) no. DPRs submitted, only 2(two) schemes have been sanctioned.

2004-05: Out of 4 (four) no. DPRs submitted, only 2(Two) schemes have been sanctioned.

2005-06: From the 14(fourteen) no. retained schemes of the year 2005-06 no scheme has been sanctioned so far.

2006-07: The Department had proposed 73 nos of schemes but the Ministry of DONER have retained only 2 schemes.

53. The Ministry of DONER may consider expeditious sanction of all these schemes proposed for improvement of road network in the State.

The other important schemes are:-

- (i) Double Laning of Chokpot - Siju road including conversion of timber bridges.
(Length=17.00 km). Approximate cost = Rs 32.62 Crores.
- (ii) Double Laning of Chokpot-Sibbari-Road including conversion of timber bridges.
(Length=27.65 km). Approximate cost = Rs 68.79 Crores.
- (iii) Double Laning of 12th Mile Tura Dalu Road to Chokpot including conversion of timber bridges (Length=35.00 km). Approximate cost = Rs 59.55 Crores.
- (iv) (a) Bholaganj to Bangla Zero Point(Length=2.00 km)
(b) Bholaganj Naya Basti (1.20km).
(c) Ichamati Kolatek via Kalibari(5.85 km)
Total cost=Rs 5.75 Crores
- (v) Mawkyrwat-Rangthong-Ranikor road (Length=48.00 km). Approximate cost = Rs 35.00 Crores.
- (vi) Improvement, widening & strengthening of pavement of Umling - Patharkhmah (Length 0 – 40 km) Approximate cost = Rs 60.00 Crores.
- (vii) Improvement including metalling and blacktopping of Mukhaialong-Lumshyrmith road (Length = 19.00 km). Approximate cost = Rs 15.27 Crores. (This is a retained scheme of 2005-06)

54. The Ministry of DONER may also take up with the MORT&H for early implementation of the schemes already included under **SARDP-NE - Phase A & Phase B.**

Phase ‘A’

| Sl. No | NH No. | Scope / section of road | Length (Km) |
|--------|--------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 40/44 | 2 laning of Shillong Bypass | 49.676km |
| 2 | 40 | 4 laning of Jorabat-Barapani | 61.800 km |

Phase ‘B’

| Sl. No | NH No. | Scope/section of road | Length (Km) |
|--------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 44 | 2 laning of Shillong Nongstoin section of NH-44E | 83 km |
| 2 | SH | Improvement of Nongstoin-Tura road | 201 km |
| 3 | ODR | Improvement of Williamnagar to Nengkhra road & other road (2 side connectivity with respective length of 14 & 8 Km) | 22 km |
| 4 | 62 | Widening from 91.00Km of NH-62 to Baghmara | 48 km |

55. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has entrusted the works under Phase- A to National Highway Authority of India and preparation of DPR for Phase-B has been entrusted to the Border Roads Organization, though the roads are under Meghalaya PWD.

56. The roads under phase A have been proposed under BOT system. We believe that these projects will not be viable under BOT. These should be taken up through regular budget provision of the Central Ministry. We have also proposed that initially the Shillong Bye- Pass road should be 2 laned so that it can be implemented right away. We would request MDONER to facilitate implementation of the phase A scheme without further delay.

Tourism :

57. Tourism in Meghalaya has gained momentum in recent years. The Government accords 5th priority to Tourism infrastructure and Tourism Services. There has been a gradual increase in the arrival of foreign tourists in the State. About 12407 foreign and 4,33495 domestic tourists visited the State during the year 2004. With the State having vast potentials in eco- tourism, the endeavour of the State Govt. is to tap the abundant natural resources for tourism development with people's participation. This would generate both income and employment to the people in the State. The State Govt. on its part has taken up a number of schemes for development of tourist spots for tourism promotion. The DONER and N.E.C. is requested to supplement the effort of the State Government for development of tourism in Meghalaya keeping into consideration an integrated regional tourism policy. A number of proposals have been submitted to the NEC and these may kindly be considered favourably.

58. Promotion of tourism by developing an integrated regional policy and action plan in consultation, cooperation and coordination with the Union Ministry of Tourism, ITDC and the State Governments of NE States. Eco- tourism involving the local communities (e.g. in providing low cost facilities) with highlights of caves, rivers, bioresources, and ethnic diversity has bright prospects. This will build capacities, improve livelihood and allow tourists to experience the North Eastern Region in an authentic sense through mission – mode approach.

Industries and border trade:

59. The north-east Industrial Policy 1997 has benefited Meghalaya substantially creating investment in the State and employment. After the exemption period of the initial units are over they are expected to contribute substantially to the revenue of the Centre and the State Governments. The investment so far on the ground is about Rs.2000 crore, and has created an employment of more than 10,000 people in small, medium and large sectors.

60. Many more industries are in the pipeline. However the current policy expires in March 2007. The new policy is under preparation by DIPP. We would request the Government of India through you to ensure that the policy is extended without further delay, to maintain the flow of investment, and also ensure that the provisions as suggested by us are incorporated in the new policy especially in the context of the benefits having been extended to Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

61. As I have projected earlier the industrialisation has also created shortage of power and therefore we have given first priority to availability of power.

62. Meghalaya has eight land custom stations exporting goods to Bangladesh. The value of export from Meghalaya for the year 2005-06 is Rs.211.77 crores which is about 48.37% of the total exports from the North Eastern Region. However most of the exports are coal, limestone and boulders and some fruits. We are keen to export value added products. The State Government is therefore very keen to develop the infrastructure in the LCSs including road connectivity. Except for Dawki there is absolutely no infrastructure in all the other LCSs.

63. In the meantime, Govt. of India has selected Dawki for setting up of the Integrated Check Post which envisages integration of all facilities like Custom, immigration, weigh bridge, banks, police, post office, health facilities, hotels etc. The State Govt. has requested Govt. of India to include Borsora and Gasuapara in the list of Integrated Check Posts as our exports from these two LCSs was worth Rs.84.63 crores and Rs.23.36 crores respectively during 2005-06. We realize that creation of infrastructural facilities and improvement of road connectivity to the ICPs and LCSs will facilitate export activity and act like a catalyst for the all round development of the whole

State. We would request Hon'ble Union Minister DONER to use his good offices to support our case for ICPs for Borsora and Gasuapara. I have already earlier projected the requirement of roads including the Border Areas.

Export of Horticulture Products and value addition.

64. The State also has good potential for export of horticultural produce. As already indicated earlier we have substantial surplus of horticulture products. We have already taken up with Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture, to help us set up phyto-sanitary laboratories and train our staff in the absence of which these cannot be exported to Bangladesh . We would request DONER to facilitate the process. Meghalaya at present produces about 450 mt of cement per day through 10 units. Bangladesh has a requirement of 8 to 9 million tons of clinker which we hope to supply by setting up some clinker plants near the border. We would also request Govt. of India to take up the issue of supply of gas by Bangladesh to clinker plants so that it could be produced at a cheaper cost also causing less pollution. This needs to be seriously considered.

Border Haats.

65. Before the partition, the people living in the areas bordering Bangladesh used to exchange their produce from the hills with the people of the erstwhile East Bengal in the border haats and barter trade was thriving. However, with partition the then Indo-Pakistan border was sealed and the border haats were closed. This has caused tremendous economic hardship to the people of the area and informal trade became rampant. We have taken up the matter on several occasions with the Ministry of Home Affairs and at other fora also. We request facilitation for re-opening of these traditional haats on barter system, so that the informal trade now at several times the formal trade can be regularised. This needs to be taken up on an urgent basis.

Mobile services in the Border Areas.

66. As Govt. of India is aware, telecommunication facilities in the areas bordering Bangladesh are practically non-existent. Mobile phone services are also not allowed to be provided by BSNL or private players. As a result trade and export activities by the people as well as the functioning of the BSF and other security agencies have been handicapped. We have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Telecommunication and Ministry of Home Affairs. But so far no decision appears to have been taken. Here also

we would request Hon'ble Minister DONER to take up the matter with the concerned Ministries, to provide mobile phone services and improve the fixed line services along the border which in most places are almost non-existent. Telephone services in our State are poor and unreliable and needs augmentation. It is embarrassing to note that in our border areas, Bangladesh TV is easier to access than our own Doordarshan. This has been discussed for many years now but concrete action has been lacking.

Social Sector Education, Health and Social Welfare

Education

67. To plug the resource gap being faced by the State it is imperative that the DONER and NEC continue the support in the following schemes:

68. **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA):** The primary and Upper primary level in the Education sector suffer from lack of adequate infrastructure. The ministry for DONER has been assisting the State with the 15% share of the resources. At present 7640 schools are covered under the scheme and additional and innovative interventions of different kinds have been initiated. The recently held North East Education Ministers conference held in Shillong on the 31st October in its resolution has requested the Government of India to continue with the present funding pattern of 75:15:10 for the Government of India, DONER and the State Government in the XIth five year plan.

69. **LP/UP schools infrastructure:** The DONER through the NLCPR had sanctioned the construction of 960 LP Schools for an amount of Rs 14.40 crores and 320 UP schools for an amount of Rs 8 crores in the year 2001-02. The process of construction had started in right earnest and by December, 2006 the final Utilization certificates would be submitted. It would be apt to state that the scheme has helped the State tremendously in improving the existing infrastructure in the schools especially in the rural areas. We would request the DONOR to continue with additional funding.

70. **Mid Day Meal:** The State Government in its endeavour to provide cooked mid day meal to the students of the Primary schools in the State has made a proposal to the DONER for providing assistance for the construction of Kitchen sheds in all the primary schools in the State. This is important as the School Managing Committees do not cook

meals during rainy season due to the absence of cooking sheds. The proposal is for Rs 88 crores calculated at the rate of Rs 150000/- per school for the 5851 primary schools.

71. **Scholarships and stipends:** The NEC has been sanctioning scholarships to the students of Meghalaya pursuing professional studies in various fields. In the year 2005-06 the amount sanctioned was Rs 25 lacs and this has been helpful to the poor and needy students of the State. We urge the NEC to continue the scheme and to further supplement the scale of scholarship due to increase in cost of living. The number of applicants per year is around 700 whereas the department is being able to service only about 150 of them. So it is requested that the amount is increased so ensure additional coverage.

72. **Infrastructure in schools and colleges:** The DONER and the NEC have been sanctioning schemes for bridging the infrastructural gaps in the education sector in the State. The NLCPR has been a successful paradigm wherein the Government of India through its magnanimity has been setting up viable school and college buildings in the past. A number of proposals are still pending with the DONER and we request that the funding continues. So far one project has been completed for an amount of Rs 1.56 crores, three projects have so far been approved by the GOI for one school and two colleges. The total no of projects proposed to DONER is 50 nos and it entails plan and estimate for an amount of Rs 187.99 crores. Another 40 projects are still pending with the State Government which would be forwarded shortly. We also request that the 10% contribution required by the State department for the DONER projects be exempted for the Education sector as most of the schemes are community owned or managed by the respective Local committees and not by the Government. In most cases the schools would not be in a position to arrange matching contribution on their own.

73. **Provincialization of Colleges:** This current year the State Government is contemplating to complete the process of Provincialization of three Government assisted Colleges into full fledged Government Colleges. The proposal for the same is being made for the approval of the Cabinet and funding from DONER/NEC would be necessary to plug the gap in costing. This would ensure equitable distribution of facilities for education purpose as the three colleges proposed are located in far flung areas. The total financial involvement for the purpose is Rs 1,14,22,956/- and since we do not have any

provision in the State budget in the current year we request the DONOR/NEC for funding of the same.

74. **Training programmes:** The NEC has been arranging training programmes for the students of the North East for further specializing in various skills and also job oriented training capsules at various institutes. We desire that the funding continues as this would encourage the unemployed youths to gain access to facilities that would ensure jobs to them.

75. **Improvement of Government School infrastructure:** The Ministry of DONER is requested to finance for the Infrastructural development of the following Govt Schools:

(i) Const of Pinemount school: Rs 4,42,61,000/-

(ii) Const of Maharam Secondary school: Rs 74,22,000/-

(iii) Const of Jirang Govt Sec school: Rs 2,70,82000/-

Health :

76. The present Medical Institutions which are available in the State include 24 CHCs, 101 PHCs and 401 Sub-Centres. The present set-up is well below the expected norms which should be 33 CHCs, 132 PHCs and 860 Sub-Centres. Fund flow to bridge the gap is desirable in this respect. Funds sre also required for upgradation of existing hospitals.

77. In addition, the State Plan provides only 16 crores for development of infrastructure which includes maintenance and repairs. The State has already a shelf of ongoing schemes alongwith liabilities to the tune of Rs. 37 crores. It is desirable that NEC/DONER may provide additional fund to bridge the shortage and to enable the State Government to achieve the target as per the required norms viz-a-viz the demographic structure of the state.

78. In terms of equipments, the State Plan provides revenue of Rs. 2 crores for procurement of equipments. Many State Hospitals, CHCs, are without major equipments for diagnosis and investigations. Therefore, it is proposed that equipments like laparoscope, endoscope, CT Scan, Ultra-Sound machines, Dental Chairs may be assisted.

79. In view of the Supreme Court Ruling, all major Hospitals are mandatory to be equipped with incinerators and DONER/NEC may provide funds for the same.

80. The State Plan provides only Rs. 3.5 crores per annum for purchase of medicines for Hospitals, CHCs and PHCs. At present only 25% of the requirement could be met. This gap and the demand to dispense these Hospitals, CHCs, PHCs with medicines is very much required.

81. The State proposes the setting up of a Rabies Vaccines Processing Centre in Shillong which is not regularly available in the market and costly. The funds for the purpose may be provided.

82. Sponsoring in-service Doctors / Nurses / Para medical staff for specialized studies / courses at various levels would also be a welcome gesture of DONER/NEC.

83. To enhance better services at all Districts and Sub-divisional headquarters, the State Government proposes to set up 4/5 Accident and Trauma Centres at these locations especially those located on the National & State Highways. Funds may be considered for the purpose.

84. In order to reach out to remote areas, in absence of established Medical Institutions, procurement of Mobile Units are necessary. Funds may also be provided for procurement of Ambulances for Hospitals and CHCs.

85. The State Government requires fund to set up a Para-Medical Institutions in line with that of RIPAN, Aizawl and RIPSAT at Agartala. It would be beneficial if NEC sets up one more institute in Meghalaya.

86. One of the major constraints in health delivery system is the acute shortage of specialist doctors. This is a serious problem and we would seek advice from DONER on ways and means to bridge this gap.

Integrated Child Development Project:

87. In Meghalaya the first project was launched on an experimental basis in 1975 at Songsak Community and Rural Development Block, East Garo Hills District. Since then, the Department have come a long way expanding the ICDS projects in the 37 Community and Rural Development Blocks (including 7 ICDS Projects sanctioned recently) with 3139 **Anganwadi Centre** (AWCs).

88. We will strengthen the delivery of services with more incentives to the grassroot workers. In line with the Supreme Court Order the Department has make an effort to

involve NGOs/ SHGs/ Local Committees in supplying food items to the Anganwadi Centres. A District Level Committees headed by the respective Deputy Commissioner has been constituted to identify NGOs/ SHGs/ Local Committees etc. for implementation of Supplementary Nutrition Programme, select the items of foodstuff locally available, to fix the rate of selected food items and to coordinate and monitor the running of ICDS Project and ensure the convergence of services.

89. DONER and NEC may consider to provide fund for construction of anganwadi centre buildings in the remaining uncovered anganwadi centres along with boundary wall and fencing. NEC and DONER may also provide fund for construction of 2 (two) Anganwadi Training Centre buildings and fund for recreational facilities in all the anganwadi centres.

Assistance for Disaster preparedness:

90. Meghalaya falls under Zone V of of seismicity and is vulnerable geopolitically. The requirement of redundant voice network as an alternative to BSNL infrastructure would be desirable. A large number of satellite phones would be required. Besides, VHF switches and Voice over IP solution based on static and mobile VSAT equipment is necessary.

91. Further a focused , time bound programme backed up by adequate funds is required for retrofitting various lifeline buildings in the state such as hospitals, schools, colleges, and emergency shelters. This must be accompanied by dedicated search vehicles and rescue ambulances at each district. Basic survival equipments are required in large numbers. Strengthening fire services as well as civil defence and homeguards would be necessary. DONER and NEC must have specific funding window for these requirements.

Capacity Building:

92. One of the essential requirement for employment is capacity building and skill oriented training. In this respect DONER and NEC have taken some steps like training in hospitality including aviation sector, training in National Institute of Fashion Technology, BPOs etc. This needs to be encouraged on a larger scale so that the youths of this region

can secure employment both outside and within North East. More such professions having potential need to be identified.

93. Another area where DONER/NEC could play a vital role is providing in-service training to our Engineers and Doctors, so that they can keep abreast with the latest developments in technology.

94. This should be made a regular feature so that all our engineers in the fields of roads, building, water resource management, public health can get their knowledge and skills upgraded regularly. This needs to be made an effective and important function of the Ministry.

CONCLUSION :

95. I have touched a few but very important points relevant both to the State of Meghalaya and the Region. I have already asked my Officers to work out the details of requirement of funds for the 11th Plan, and the funds expected from DONER and NEC. These will be submitted very soon by the State Government.

96. The State Government agrees with the decisions in the meeting taken by Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the role of Ministry of DONER and NEC. The Ministry and NEC should ensure equitable allocation of resources and should focus on few areas of critical nature particular to each state. While doing so the priorities of State Governments should be accommodated to the fullest extent.

97. I would specially request that there are a shelf of schemes already retained by DONER. These should be sanctioned in the Tenth Plan itself. Moreover, the priority laid down by the State Government should be honoured, instead of sanctions on selective basis. I would also request that the whole process of sanctions be streamlined in order to reduce delay.

98. I am sure the deliberations of this august body would be fruitful for the benefit of the people of the North East. We are in the last year of the 10th Plan and we have made a beginning. In the 11th Plan, we will further strengthen these initiatives. I would like to thank you once again for having given me this opportunity to place my views before this august gathering.

THANK YOU