

CHAPTER – VII

TRANSPORT

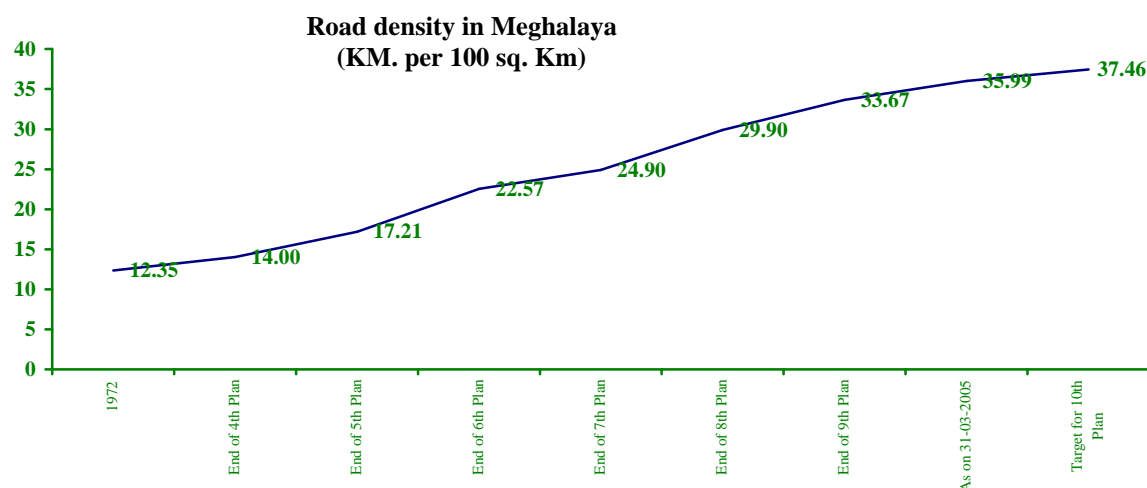
7.1. ROADS AND BRIDGES

7.1.1. When the State came into being, it inherited a road density of 12.35 Km/100 sq. Km. from Assam in 1970. At the beginning of the Tenth Plan (2002-07), the road density was 33.67 Km./100 sq. Km. with a total road length of 7553 km. The road density further increased to 34.29 Km/100 sq. Km as on March, 2005 with a total road length of 8072 Kms of which 4973 Kms is blacktopped road and the remaining 3099 Kms is graveled road. The total road length of 8072 Km includes 186.76 Km. of roads under the Border Road Organisation. Presently there are 17719.91 Rms of semi-permanent timber bridges in the State. The Table below gives the details of achievements made up to the end of the various Plan periods :-

Table – I : Achievements Under Road Sector

Sl. No.	Plan periods	Total road length achieved	Of which	
			Blacktopped Road	Gravelled Road.
1.	End of the Eighth Plan (1992-97)	6707	3004	3703
2.	End of the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)	7553	3571	3982
3.	As on March, 2005	8072	4973	3099

7.1.1.



7.1.3. **Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07):-** The proposed outlay for ‘Roads & Bridges’ sector during the Tenth Plan period is Rs. 51500.00 lakhs. With this outlay, targets for construction of 850 Km of new roads, blacktopping of 600 km. of roads and construction of 2375 Rm. of bridges have been fixed.

7.1.4. **Annual Plan 2002-03 :-** As against the approved revised outlay of Rs. 6446.00 lakhs during Annual Plan 2002-03, an expenditure of Rs. 7556.37 lakhs was incurred for ‘Roads & Bridges’ sector. With this investment, the State was able to construct 80 Kms of new roads, blacktopping of 120 Kms and construction of 224 Rms. of bridges.

7.1.5. **Annual Plan 2003-04 :-** The expenditure incurred under ‘Road & Bridges’ sector during Annual Plan 2003-04 was Rs. 7398.59 lakhs. During 2003-04, 58 Kms. of new roads were constructed, 64 Kms. of roads blacktopped and 108 Rms. of bridges constructed.

7.1.6. **Annual Plan 2004-05 :-** As against the approved revised outlay of Rs. 10135.00 lakhs for ‘Roads & Bridges’ sector, the expenditure incurred was Rs. 10006.28 lakhs. With this investment, 10.58 Kms of new roads were constructed and 743.58 Rms of bridges constructed.

7.1.7. **Annual Plan 2005-06 :-** The approved outlay for Annual Plan 2005-06 is Rs. 11094.00 lakhs which includes Rs. 2100.00 lakhs of NABARD Loan, Rs. 757.00 lakhs of Central Assistance for Roads & Bridges, Rs. 700.00 lakhs of HUDCO Loan, Rs. 240.00 lakhs under CRRP, Rs. 1000.00 lakhs of one-time ACA for completion of critical ongoing/ spill over schemes and Rs. 6297.00 lakhs for other programmes. With this allocation, it is anticipated to construct 99 Km. of new roads, blacktopping of 188 Kms and the construction 1036 Rms bridges.

7.1.8. **Annual Plan 2006-07 :-** The proposed outlay for this sector during 2006-07 is Rs. 11213.00 lakhs only which includes Rs. 2200.00 lakhs of NABARD Loan, Rs. 800.00 lakhs of HUDCO Loan and Rs. 288.00 lakhs for CRRP. The thrust during Annual Plan 2006-07 will be to upgrade the existing structures such as strengthening of pavements, reconstruction of semi-permanent timber bridges, etc. Besides upgrading of existing structures, thrust will also be made for the mechanization of road construction and connectivity of villages. With this outlay, it is targeted to construct 89 Kms of new roads, blacktopping of 166 Kms and construction of 848 Rms of bridges.

Table - II below indicates the physical targets for the Tenth Plan :-

Table – II : Physical targets during the Tenth Plan period & anticipated achievement during 2002-07

Items	Units	Tenth Plan [2002-07] Target	Achievement			2005-06 Anti. Achievement	Annual Plan 2006-07 Target
			2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		
Formation	Km	850	80	57.84	10.58	99	99
Metalling & Blacktopping	Km	600	120	64.10	174.24	188	187
Improvement/ Widening	Km	400	68	38.25	67.71	80	79
Bridges	Rm	2375	224	108.14	743.58	1036	948

7.2 ROAD TRANSPORT

In the absence of rail link, water ways or airways in the State, Road Transport plays a pivotal role in linking the rural areas with the main trade centers and administrative Headquarters of the State and thus helps to improve the economic condition and quality of life of the people of the State. The private transport operators in the state are by and large guided by consideration of profit and hence do not operate in those routes where the returns is likely to be uneconomical. Hence, it is left to the Meghalaya Transport Corporation to operate on such routes to meet the public demands on social consideration.

Meghalaya Transport Corporation is the only organized road transport body in the State of Meghalaya. Now all the Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been connected to the District Headquarters and the District Headquarters to the State capital by bus services of the Corporation. The Corporation has also extended its services to the interior villages, administrative units and border areas. With a fleet of 58 buses today, Meghalaya Transport Corporation is operating on 24 routes covering in total a route length of 3468 Kms. The Corporation also operated School Bus Services involving the utilization of 16 buses every day for 21 Schools of Shillong and Tura. A demand for more School buses to cover other Schools has been received from the parents of School Children but due to the shortage of buses we are unable to meet such demand at present.

For the Annual Plan 2006-2007, only critical on-going schemes and schemes that are essential to generate maximum benefits from the existing operations and infrastructures have been accommodated within the limited amount of Rs.330.00 lakh; for the following schemes :-

1. RATIONALISATION OF OPERATION : (Rs.290.00 LAKH) (ACQUISITION OF FLEET)

As per our past experience, it has been observed that there is a tremendous traffic potentiality in routes like Shillong – Guwahati, Shillong – Silchar, Shillong – Tura, Shillong – Shallang, Shillong – Umrangso, Shillong – Shella, Tura – Guwahati, Tura – Williamnagar etc. apart from increased demand for School Bus Services. The Services of the Corporation has been extended from year to year depending on the public demand and requirement. As per our standard norms, buses which cover 4,00,000 Kms. Or 6(six) years of age whichever, is earlier were found to be uneconomical to operate further in view of continuous break-down and higher maintenance cost. Hence, it is advantageous if such buses are condemned and disposed of. The present strength of averaged buses is 21% of the total fleet and to ensure maximum dependability of our service, some of these averaged buses will have to be replaced. Hence, during 2006-2007, an amount of Rs.290.00 lakh have been proposed for purchase of 18(eighteen) new vehicles to replace some of the averaged buses and to provide services in the existing routes which have been suspended temporarily due to shortage of good running buses.

2. WORKSHOP FACILITIES Rs.2.00 LAKH

At present full-fledged workshop facilities is available only at the Central Workshop at Shillong. In order to maintain the present standard of Central Workshop, purchase of some plants and machineries like Conrod line boring Machine, Brake and Clutch reviting Machine, Marvel drive, complete tool boxes, Mechanical jacks, Arc Welding machines, Bench grinding machine etc have to be made against replacement of the old unserviceable ones and addition besides purchases for the Workshop/maintenance Centers at Tura, S.G. Routes, Williamnagar, Jowai and Guwahati. During 2006-2007, an amount of Rs.2.00 lakh; is proposed under this scheme.

3. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND AMENITIES TO EXISTING DEPOTS, WORKSHOP AND STORE : Rs.10.00 LAKH

In order to meet the emergent requirement towards renovation, addition and alteration of the existing buildings, construction of fence and boundary walls of Depots at Nongpoh, Jowai and Williamnagar, improvement of parking yards and drainage system at Shillong, Tura and Jowai, procurement of furniture and providing of passenger amenities like construction of toilets, waiting sheds and arrangement for drinking water at the Depots, an amount of Rs.10.00 lakh is proposed under this scheme during the Annual Plan 2006-2007.

4. BUS BODY RENOVATION : Rs.5.00 LAKH

Some buses are laying shutdown at the Central Workshop Shillong due to major damaged to their bodies. An amount of Rs.5.00 lakh has been proposed during this Annual Plan under this scheme in order to renovate the buses and make them road worthy.

5. REPLACEMENT OF ENGINES : Rs.5.00 LAKH

Some buses are laying shutdown at the Central Workshop Shillong for major repair of Engines. In order to minimize the downtime of such buses; it is proposed to procure some new engines assemblies. Amount of Rs.5.00 lakh has been proposed under this scheme.

6. DEPOT AT JOWAI Rs.5.00 LAKH

This Depot is operating from an old Assam type building which is in a dilapidated condition. In order to avoid recurring expenditure towards maintenance of the building, it is proposed to construct an R.C.C. building in place of the existing old building. An amount of Rs.5.00 lakh is proposed under this scheme for this period.

7. COMPUTERISATION : Rs.5.00 LAKH

Some years back one set of Computer was procured which was mainly used for preparation of pay bills and accounts. It is proposed to go in for computerization of other sections like Store and Booking Counters of major Depots like the S.G. Routes, Shillong, Guwahati Depot, and Tura Depot in phases. An amount of Rs.5.00 lakh is earmarked for the scheme for purchase of some units of Computer Hardware, software, for training of the staff and purchase of 1(one) Photostatting Machine in order to replace the existing one which is very old and unserviceable.

8. DEPOT CUM MAINTENANCE CENTER AT NONGSTOIN : Rs.5.00 LAKH

Nongstoin is a District Headquarter of West Khasi Hills connecting important routes of remote villages. It is fast developing into a big town. It has a large rural areas, with very inadequate means of communication at present. The District is also fingering prominently on the mineral map of the state now. There is a great potential for traffic to increase in a near future. The Meghalaya Transport Corporation is operating from a small rented house with no passenger amenities and parking place for vehicles. A sum of Rs.5.00 lakh is proposed for construction of the Depot cum Maintenance Centre.

9. DEPOT AT BAGHMARA : Rs.3.00 LAKH

Baghmara is the District Headquarter of South Garo Hills. There is a potentiality for traffic to increase. Some few years back M.T.C. was operating from a small rented house which is already gutted. Hence, it is proposed to construct a Depot building. A sum of Rs.3.00 lakh is proposed for acquisition of land only in order to construct a small Depot building.

7.3 OTHER TRANSPORT SERVICES

The total proposed outlay for the year 2006-2007 under the annual plan scheme on Other Transport Services is Rs. 55.00 lakhs.

- 1. Computerization:-** The Department is partially equipped with Information Technology and there are still some more district offices which are yet to be provided with this technology. This will help in decreasing the work load in District Offices and ensure a strict regime in the enforcement of the Central Motor Vehicles Act and Rules and the Meghalaya Motor Vehicles Taxation Act and Rules. Hence, a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs have been proposed for the year 2006-07 for District Transport Officer's offices at Baghmara and Nongstoin.
- 2. Pollution Control Equipments and Machinery:-** The air pollution in the State is on the rise due to the increase in the vehicle population. The problem is further compounded as vehicles going to other States like Mizoram, Assam, Tripura and Manipur have to pass through the heart of the City, thereby aggravating the situation. Hence, a sum of Rs, 5.00 lakhs have been proposed for the year 2006-2007 for procurement of pollution testing equipments.
- 3. Motor Driving School:-** This Department proposes to continue the scheme of financial assistance to Bosco Pnar, Motor Driving School, Jowai, Donbosco School, West Garo Hills, Tura and Donbosco Vocational Training Centre, Mendal, East Garo Hills to develop and impart training skills to desirable candidates. The necessity for continuing the scheme is that the State of Meghalaya is a hilly terrain and special skills are required for safe driving in order to minimize the occurrence of accidents. Hence, a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been approved.
- 4. Financial Assistance to Un-employed Educated Youth of the State:-** This proposal is a continuing scheme. In the wake of growing un-employment amongst

the educated youths in the State and to lure them away from unlawful activities, it is felt that the scheme would partly provide a kind of sustenance to educated unemployed youths to earn their livelihood by way of running transport services. Hence, a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs has been proposed.

5. **Construction of retaining wall for District Offices:-** The scheme is essential for the safety of the district offices in general and also to avoid encroachment of the existing land by the Public. Hence, a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs have been proposed for the year 2006-2007.
6. **Construction of Helipad: -** M/ S Pawan Hans Helicopter Services is operating its flights to Tura in West Garo Hills District via Guwahati from A.L.G., Shillong which is located at 7th Mile Upper Shillong. As Government is contemplating setting up of a Helipad of its own, a sum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs have been proposed for the year 2006-2007.