

CHAPTER – VIII

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

8.1 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

8.1.1. The Projected Outlay for the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) is Rs. 3650.00 lakh. The Actual Expenditure for the Annual Plan 2013-14 is Rs 652.59 lakh. The Budgetted Outlay for Annual Plan 2014-15 is Rs600.00lakh and the Anticipated expenditure for the year is Rs. 300.00 lakh., For the year 2015-16, **Budgeted Outlay of Rs. 800.00 lakh has been provided** which includes **Rs. 200.00 lakh** for the scheme Promotion of Bio Technology.

8.1.2. Science & Technology Cell was set up in the Planning Department for promotion of Science & Technology in the State. The Cell undertake various schemes / projects for promotion of Science & Technology in the State. Such programmes include Popularization of Science Programme, Introduction of Appropriate Technology Programme, Specific Projects Programme, Students' Project Programme, S&T Library & Documentation Programme, S&T Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Science Centres Programme, Bio- Resources Development Programme and Remote Sensing Application Programme. Concentration has been made in the area of popularization of science with the ultimate goal of generating scientific minded citizens in the State. Concentration has also been made in the field of introduction of appropriate technology in the State, particularly, societal technologies aimed at improving the living conditions of the people, especially those living in rural areas. Efforts have also been made in the 11th Plan to promote S&T entrepreneurship and to tackle local-specific problems through few specific projects and studies. Environmental consciousness generation among the masses has also been taken-up during the 11th Plan through various programmes with school children and the people in the community. A programme on meaningful conservation and sustainable utilization of bio-resources of the State has been implemented during the 11th Five Year Plan.

The various activities carried out in the State under the different S&T programmes in the 11th Plan would also continue during the 12th Plan period. However efforts would also be made to strengthen and enhance such activities suitably.

8.2. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

8.2.1 The projected Twelfth Plan outlay (2012-2017) for the Information Technology Department is **₹ 8850.00 lakh** and the actual expenditure during 2013-14 was **₹ 3465.76 lakh**. The Budgetted Outlay for the Annual Plan 2014-15 is **₹ 2550.00 lakh** which includes ACA of **₹ 255.00 lakh** for National E-Governance Action Plan (NeGAP) and **₹ 10.00 lakh** for strengthening of State's IT Society and **₹ 1500.00 lakh** for Digital Learning

Aids for School Students.. In addition ₹ 200.00 lakh was also approved for **GIS and Geo Spatial Technology** to be budgeted by IT Department. An amount of ₹ 1155.00 lakh is anticipated to be utilized. The Tentative Budgeted Outlay for the Annual Plan 2015-16 is ₹ 2750.00 lakh which includes ₹ 200.00 lakh for **GIS and Geo Spatial Technology**.

8.2.2 Activities taken up under the sector include building up IT Infrastructure, furnishing of its newly allotted space, establishing and support GIS activities in collaboration with NESAC, setting up of Computer Learning Centres in District Headquarters, participating in IT events, conducting IT related seminars and workshops, contribution towards setting up of IT Park by STPI, Govt. of India, NISG etc. Financial support have also been extended to educational institutions for setting up of CISCO Networking Academies and providing broadband internet connectivity.

8.2.3 During the Annual Plan 2014-15 the important schemes that are being implemented and proposed to continue include – development of the ICT Parks at New Shillong, providing of IT infrastructure to the District Headquarters, Sub-Divisional Headquarters & Block Headquarters, strengthening and augmenting of IT institutions across the State, distribution of awards to meritorious students, Operation & Maintenance of the core NeGP infrastructure projects, promotion of knowledge based enterprises, e-commerce, IT enabled services and IT Education, provision of infrastructure and training for e-governance activities such as connectivity across Departments, etc.

The above mentioned schemes will also continue during the financial year 2015-16.

The growth and development of the Information Technology Sector will continue to receive the attention of the Government especially in the era where e-Governance has touched each and every steps of the common man. The vision is to make information technology a tool for attaining all round development in the State and fully participate in the IT revolution, thereby bringing prosperity in the State. The ultimate goal is wealth creation, employment generation and IT led economic growth.

8.3 ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

8.3.1 The Twelfth Plan (2012-2017) Approved Outlay for Ecology and Environment Sector is Rs. 1000.00 lakh. The actual expenditure during 2013-14 of the 12th five year Plan was **Rs. 127.38 lakhs**. The Budgetted Outlay for 2014-15 is Rs. 130.00 lakh and the anticipated expenditure is 100.00 lakhs. Pending finalization of the Annual Plan 2015-16, a tentative budgetted outlay of Rs. 130.00 lakhs has been provided.

8.3.2 The State Government through the State Forest & Environment Department is taking up various schemes of afforestation, creation & maintenance of nurseries, urban aesthetic & roadside plantations, construction of public sanitary blocks, publicity and awareness measures etc.

8.4 FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

8.4.1 The Approved Outlay for the 12th plan period is Rs. 32600.00 lakh. The actual expenditure during 2013-14 of the 12th five year Plan was **Rs. 2296.68 lakhs**. The Budgetted Outlay for the Annual plan 2014-15 is Rs. 8000.00 lakh including Rs. 4202.00 lakhs under TFC award for maintenance of forests, zoological parks and botanical gardens, Rs. 50.00 lakhs for setting up of a Bird Sanctuary, Rs. 100.00 lakhs for the Forestry Mission under IBDLP, Rs. 100.00 lakh for preservation of critical catchment areas and Rs. 100.00 lakh for Meghalaya Eco Development Society. The anticipated expenditure is 3192.00 lakhs. Annual Plan 2015-16 The tentative budgeted outlay for the Annual Plan 2015-16 is Rs.8000.00 lakh.

8.4.2 Schemes proposed for 2015-16 :-

Normal schemes of Forest & Wildlife sector implemented during the Annual Plan 2014-15 will be continued during the Annual Plan 2015-16 as follows :-

- Education & Training
- Survey of Forest Resources
- Communication and Buildings
- Statistical Planning & Evaluation
- Forest Conservation and Development.
- Plantation schemes
- Preservation of Wildlife and maintenance of Zoological Park & Public Garden
- Forest Research
- Contribution to Eco-Development Society
- Assistance to Public Sector and other Undertakings.

Besides the State Plan schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes will also be implemented during 2015-16 viz., the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme. The scope of this scheme has been expanded by adding four new components which are forest management interventions and accordingly the name of the scheme has been changed to Intensification of Forest Management Scheme for which 90% of the total outlay is funded by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The scheme is divided into the following components i.e, i) Forest Fire Control & Management, ii) Strengthening of Infrastructure for Forests iii) Working Plan preparation / Survey and demarcation, iv) Protection & Conservation of Sacred Grooves & vi) Control and Eradication of Forest Invasive Species.