

CHAPTER – X :

GENERAL ECONOMIC SERVICES

10.1. SECRETARIAT ECONOMIC SERVICES

10.1.1. The approved Ninth Plan (1997-2002) outlay for the Secretariat Economic Services is Rs.812.00 lakhs and the expenditure incurred during 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were Rs.74.82 lakhs, Rs.75.19 lakhs, Rs.139.98 lakhs and Rs.138.12 lakhs respectively. The approved outlay during 2001-2002 is Rs.158.00 Lakhs which is expected to be utilized in full. As such, the total anticipated expenditure during the Ninth Plan is Rs.586.11 Lakhs. **The proposed outlay for the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) is Rs.870.00 lakhs and the proposed Annual Plan (2002-2003) is Rs.175.00 Lakhs.**

10.1.2. The Planning Organization of the State is the major component of Secretariat Economic Services. The Planning Organisation is the machinery which is responsible for the formulation of the Five Year Plans, Annual Plans and all allied matters in the State. The Organisation also function as a liason body between the Planning Commission and the State Government on all matters relating to Planning and development for the State of Meghalaya. The State Planning Board which is an apex planning body in the State form a part of Planning Organisation at the headquarter and is actively involved in Plan formulation and reviewing of the implementation of Plan Schemes. At the district level, the District Planning and Development Councils formulate the District Plans and also monitoring and reviewing the developmental activities in the State.

10.1.3. The Programme Implementation Department consists of (a) Research Wing, (b) Computer Cell, (c) Public Enterprises and (d) Evaluation Unit. The Programme Implementation Department is also a nodal Department in respect of Public Sector Undertaking in the State.

10.1.4. Besides the above Organisations, the State Government has also set up the following Councils/commission:-

I. Employment Generation Council:

The terms of reference of the Council are as under :-

- i) To make an assessment of Man-Power requirements particularly in technical fields so as to effectively utilize the immense natural resources of the State and to ensure that the local youths participate fully and meaningfully in the developmental process in the State.
- ii). To suggest measures for widening the scope for gainful and productive employment, particularly self-employment.
- iii) To motivate the youths to take to vocational and technical education instead of looking up exclusively for white collar jobs.
- iv) To suggest effective measures to reduce the gap between demand for technical man-power and availability to local personnel with the requisite qualifications.
- v). To assist the local youths including farmers, entrepreneurs etc. to prepare and implement bankable schemes.

- vi). To monitor the performance of banks and financial institutions with regard to sanction and disbursement of credit to viable schemes.
- vii). To monitor the employment profile in Central Government Offices Institutions, Universities, Banks etc. so as to ensure that it conforms to Central Government Policy on reservation.
- viii). To suggest measures for giving wide publicity to the various avenues of employment available to the local youths.
- ix). To motivate the youths to appear in various all-India competitions so as to take advantage of the drive by the Central Government to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes.
- x). To examine the existing training infrastructure and facilities and to suggest measures for making them more effective.
- xi). To go into any other issue which is relevant to the above terms of reference.

II. Meghalaya Economic Development Council:

The terms of reference of the Council are as under :-

- i). To advise the State Government on issues relating to or touching upon the industrial and Economic policies.
- ii). To deliberate and examine the constraints inhibiting flow of investment into the State and the possible steps for removal thereof.
- iii). To identify sectors where overall economic and industrial growth can be created and also accelerated.
- iv). To suggest ways for attracting investments, local and foreign in the State.
- v). To advise or recommend the strategy for achieving the aforesaid goal.

III. State Development Reforms Commission :

The Terms of reference of the Commission shall be as follows:

- i). To examine the parameters of ongoing developmental programmes, from time to time, with a view to determine whether such programmes have been/are achieving the desired results. If not, to suggest suitable modifications thereof with a view to ensure their affectivity.
- ii). To examine the need for undertaking new programmes for accelerated development of the rural areas with particular emphasis on poverty alleviation, and to suggest working parameters therefore, from time to time.
- iii). Any matters ancillary thereto.

10.1.4. Present Status of Secretariat Economic Services:

At present, the different organization falling under the Secretariat Economic Services are manned by officers and staff as indicated below :

(I). Planning machinery at the State Headquarters :-

- | | | |
|-------|---|-----------|
| (i) | Officer on Special Duty & Ex-Officio Joint Secretary | - 1 (one) |
| (ii) | Special Officer & Ex-Officio Deputy Secretary | - 1 (one) |
| (iii) | Senior Monitoring Officer & Ex-Officio Deputy Secretary | -1(one) |
| (iv) | Planning Officer & Ex-Officio Under Secretary | -4 (four) |

(v)	Research Officers	- 6 (six)
(vi)	Assistant Research Officers	- 4 (four)
(vii)	Computer Programmer	-1(one)
(viii)	Research Assistants	- 8 (eight)

(II). State Planning Board :

(i)	Special Officer & Ex-Officio Under Secretary	- 1(one)
(ii)	Research Officers	-2 (two)
(iii)	Research Assistant	- 1 (one)

(III). District Planning Machinery:

(i)	District Planning Officers	-7 (seven) i.e. 1 for each District.
(ii)	Research Officers	- 7 (seven) i.e. 1 for each District.
(iii)	Assistant Research Officer	- 1 One) only i.e. for East Khasi . Hills District.
(iv)	Research Assistants	- 14(fourteen) i.e. 2 for each district.

(IV). Evaluation Organisation :

(i).	Director(on deputation from IES)	- 1(one)
(i)	Joint Director	- 1(one)
(ii)	Deputy Director	- 1 (one)
(iii)	Research Officers	- 3(three)
(iv)	Research Assistants	- 3(three)

(V). Programme Implementation Organisation :

(i).	Officer On Special Duty(on deputation from IES)	- 1(one)
(ii)	Research Officers	- 3 (three)
(iii)	Research Assistants	- 3 (three)

PID's Computer Cell:

(i)	System Engineer	- 1 (one)
(ii)	Programme Assistants	- 2(two)
(iii)	Data Entry Operators	- 4 (four)

10.1.5. Proposals for the Tenth Plan -The Planning Machinery at all levels need to be strengthened on need based consideration so as to cope with the increase volume of works in all these organisations. It has now become necessary to strengthen and upgrade the machinery to improve the efficiency. In view of this, the following additional posts are required to be created during the Tenth Plan. :

1. Planning Machinery at the Headquarters :

1. One post of Secretary Plan Co-ordination in the Planning Department in the Meghalaya Planning Service Cadre.

2. One Post of Research Officers for manning the Voluntary Action Unit, one post for handling the works of the Employment Generation Council and the Meghalaya Economic Development Council, etc., one post for co-ordination of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes and one post for General Plan Co-ordination.
3. Seven posts of Assistant Research Officers – one each for the six districts of West Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills, Ri Bhoi, East Garo Hills, West Garo Hills, South Garo Hills Districts and two posts at the Headquarter for filling up the administrative gap and coping with the increase volume of work.
4. One post of Asstt. Engineer (Computer), one post of Programming Assistant and two posts of Data Entry Operators/ Computer Typists for dealing with the Computer works.
5. Four posts of peons for the Research Officers, Assistant Research Officers, Computer Cell and Research Assist ants for each category.
6. **Manpower Cell :-** During the Tenth Plan, it is proposed to revive the Manpower Cell of Planning Department by creation of one post of Manpower Officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary. The Manpower Cell will look after the various aspects of the demand and supply of manpower in the State's economy and provide advise to the Government on the matter from time to time.

10.1.6. **Computerization of Planning Administration in Meghalaya:**

The Planning Department started to computerize its works by way of monitoring the sanction of plan Schemes since 1993-94 with the help of one Desktop Pc and a wide format laser printer. In the year 1999-2000, the Department is disposing much of its works with the help of thin client terminals distributed across to office rooms of Planning Department in the main Secretariat Building and connected to the central high-end server. During the Tenth Plan period, it is proposed to go for Geographical Information Systems (GIS) where the actual implementation in the field could be seen using high resolution satellite images. These types of visual information will aid the Planning machinery of the Government in most of the sectors ranging from Agriculture to Forestry to Soil Conservation, to practically any implementation visible on the ground. Even aerial photography would supplement the satellite imagery to a greater extent. All visual information being in vector format can generate accurate information, which will aid the planning process appreciably.

Research Officers, Research Assistants etc. of Planning Department may also be required to undergo short term training as how to handle factorized graphics to generate meaningful information. There are organizations and companies specializing in Geographical information Systems such as Rolta Inc. etc. They may be invited to give a presentation to Planning Department as how vectorized visual information can be useful in the planning process. The financial implication is estimated to be within **Rs. 20,00,000/-** out of which the most will go to the cost of satellite images, aerial photos and the rest to the hardware and software of the GIS system.

During the Tenth Plan Period, procurement of **more thin client terminals** will be taken up so as to provide to each and every officer and staff of Planning Department with one

thin client terminal. The cost of the thin client terminal as on now would be in the range of **Rs. 20,000-25,000/-**. The requirement for this purpose will be of the order of Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

10.1.7. The broad break-up of the proposed outlay of Rs. 870.00 lakhs for Secretariat Economic Services during the Tenth Plan and also during Annual Plan 2002-03 are indicated below :-

(Rs. Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Items	Proposed Tenth Plan (2002-07) Outlay	Proposed Annual Plan 2002-03 Outlay
1.	Planning Machinery at the Headquarters including Computerisation but excluding the State Planning Board.	250.00	55.00
2.	State Planning Board	225.00	45.00
3.	State Dev. Reforms Commission	100.00	20.00
4.	Programme Implementation & Evaluation Organisation	225.00	45.00
5.	Meghalaya Economic Dev. Council	25.00	3.00
6.	Meghalaya Employment Generation Council	25.00	3.00
7.	NEC & Other Regional Meetings and Conferences	20.00	4.00
	Total	870.00	175.00

10.2. TOURISM

10.2.1. The approved outlay during the Ninth Plan is Rs .1500.00 lakhs.As against this, the actual Expenditure during the first four years (1997-2001) of the Plan is Rs.666.00 lakhs.The approved outlay for 2001-02 is 300.00 Lakhs. **The proposed outlay for the Tenth Plan (2002 -07) is Rs.1650.00 Lakhs and the proposed outlay for the Annual Plan 2002-03 is Rs.330.00 Lakhs.**

10.2.2. Tourism Potential, Present Status and Strategy.-

Meghalaya is one of the premier Tourist State of the Country, which is endowed with rich natural beauty. It has a rich cultural heritage and is blessed with a salubrious climate, which is naturally attractive for short sojourn for tourists from the plain areas. It has special attractions in its Shillong golf course and in the rainiest town of Cherrapunjee (Sohra). It also boasts of one of the most beautiful high altitude lake at Umiam. So far, many tourists have been coming to the State but in a disorganized manner and are not lured by any specified packages and products. A strategy needs to be employed where even upper market tourists are offered tourist products, which will translate to jobs for the population and revenue for the State exchequer. In the above context, the thrust will, therefore, be in promotion of wildlife

and adventure tourism and in the areas of golf and leisure tourism. Appropriate packages will have to be devised and marketed in pre--determined sectors.

The Government had recently adopted a policy resolution declaring tourism as an Industry. The requirement of people's participation in tourism promotional activities is central to the new Policy. Tourism is a pollution free industry, an eco-friendly industry capable of generating substantial employment opportunities to the people of the State. Because of this, efforts are being made to create a congenial atmosphere for the development of tourism in the State. In recent years tourism has gained momentum especially with the lifting of the Restricted Area Permit, it is expected that more foreign tourists would visit the State and the flow of tourist traffic both domestic and foreign would increase rapidly in the near future.

10.2.2 Tenth Plan Objectives:-

Based on the above observations, **the Tenth Plan outlay for this sector is proposed at the total amount of Rs. 1650.00 Lakhs and the Outlay for the Annual Plan of 2002-2003 is proposed at Rs. 330.00 Lakhs.** The foremost objective of the State is to promote tourism through implementation of various schemes in the field of Water sports, Wildlife trekking, Adventure Tourism, Eco-tourism, Preservation of historical places & monuments and provision of accommodational facilities.

10.2.3 Tenth Plan Priority:-

During the Tenth Plan period, priority will be given on the intensification of implementation of the continuing/on-going schemes like- Development of tourist Spots, provision of transport and accomodational facilities to the tourist, Water-sports, wild life and adventure tourism, children's park etc. **One very important scheme proposed to be taken up during the Tenth Plan period is the Development of Cherrapunjee as a No. 1 Tourist Destination in the State.**

10.2.5 Important schemes/programmes to be taken up during the Tenth Plan and the Annual Plan of 2002- 2003 are broadly as indicated in the Table below :-

(Rs. Lakhs)			
Sl. No	Name of schemes	Proposed Tenth Plan outlay (2002-07)	Proposed Annual Plan outlay (2002-03)
1.	Development of Upgradation of existing and new Tourist spots	200.00	40.00
2.	Provision for Tourist bungalows/yatriniwases/wayside amenities etc	60.00	12.00
3.	Direction and administration	85.00	17.00
4.	Training	15.00	3.00
5.	Promotion and Publicity	270.00	54.00
6.	Adventure Tourism etc	285.00	57.00
7.	Tourist transport service	5.00	1.00
8.	Assistance to Public sectors, other Undertakings and Private sectors	130.00	26.00

9.	Tourist Accomodations	440.00	88.00
10.	Land acquisition for creation of Tourist Infrastructures	10.00	2.00
11.	Financial Assis tance to MTDC	150.00	30.00
	Total	1650.00	330.00

10.3. SURVEY AND STATISTICS

10.3.1. The approved Ninth Plan outlay for the Survey & Statistics sector is Rs.350.00 Lakhs and the expenditure incurred during the first four years of the Plan is Rs.270.75 Lakhs. The approved outlay of Rs.85.00 Lakhs during the current year(2001-2002) is expected to be utilized in full. **The proposed outlay for the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) is Rs.470.00 Lakhs and the proposed outlay for the year 2002-2003 is Rs. 95.00 Lakhs.**

10.3.2. Achievements during the Ninth Plan (1997-2002):-

The programmes taken-up during the Ninth Plan period include expansion of the coverage under the Agricultural Statistics with special emphasis on Crop Insurance Scheme, processing and dissemination of Statistical data in various areas and subjects, qualitative improvement effort so as to match with a quantitative aspects, Socio-economic Survey, Census of State Government Employees, Estimates of State Income and Compilation and Publication of various Statistical information, reports etc.

Efforts were also made to remove the data gap of the Statistical System. In the sphere of Price Statistics, new price centres have been added to obtain a reliable price information of the State. The estimates of State Income at constant and at current prices series have been taken up and brought out from year to year. Preliminary attempts for District estimates and the Input-Output transaction table have also been initiated. The coverage of the Crop Estimation Survey with emphasis on Crop Insurance Scheme has been expanded both intensively and extensively. During the Plan period, three personal computers were installed in the Directorate. Efforts for timely publication of reports and Handbook have been made and the new series of Pocket Statistical Handbook 1998 and 2000 have been released during the Plan period.

A new Publication titled "*Where do we stand in 2000- Meghalaya in Northeast and India and the World*" was brought out. Construction of the staff quarters at the District Headquarters of Tura, Williamnagar and Baghmara have also been taken up and some of the buildings have been completed during the Ninth Plan.

10.3.3. Programmes for the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) :-

Expansion of statistical system in the country as well in the State has grown considerably over the successive five year plan periods for effective planning process in India. The need for statistical data/information has been growing from one Plan period to another. This led to the creation and growth of the statistical machineries in the country as well as in the State. The Statistical set-up in the country depends on the range of State governmental activities and the manner in which statistics are required and used for the development programmes and for the purpose of administration. In the State of Meghalaya,

the quantitative improvement in the field of statistics are not, however, accompanied by qualitative improvement. Therefore, top priority are to be stressed on qualitative improvement of the statistical system and also on its output during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period. Keeping this in view, the important schemes and programmes proposed to be taken up during the Tenth Plan are briefly stated in the following : -

(i). **Strengthening of Statistical Organisation:**

In the State Statistical System, the Directorate consists of several sections for data collection, dissemination and analysis of the different statistical data in different areas.. Since the inception of Meghalaya in the beginning of the seventies, practically all the major Departments have established their own Statistical cells or Divisions. An attempt is being made to integrate all Statistical posts of different departments into a common Statistical cadre under the umbrella of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics. However, the quantitative growth in the statistical system is not matched by the corresponding quality of output. Hence, this calls for proper attention during the Tenth Plan Period. An outlay of Rs. 150.00 Lakhs is proposed during the Tenth Plan for strengthening of the Statistical Organisation at the State, District and Sub-Divisional levels. For the Annual Plan 2002-2003, an outlay of Rs.30.00 Lakhs is proposed.

a) **At the State Level:** The statistical system in Meghalaya consist of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics headed by the Director and it is functionally organised into 10 technical sections and 1 Administration and Accounts Section. The technical section are (i) The Agricultural Statistics Division, (ii) Survey Division, (iii) Social and Housing Statistics Division, (iv) State Income, Capital Formation & Finance Division, (v) Price and Market Intelligence Division, (vi) Training and Co-ordination Division (vii) Statistical Intelligence, Publication and Reference Division (viii) Census on Employment and Manpower, Socio and Economic Research and Analysis Division (ix) Adhoc -Survey Division, (ix) Data Processing Division.

The Administration and Accounts Division is manned by the Deputy Director as Officer in charge who is supported by Registrar, Superintendent and the other ministerial staff like Upper and Lower Division Assistants. With the increase of work load in Administration and Accounts, it is necessary that the section be strengthened with one Superintendent of Accounts, two Upper Division Assistants, one Lower Division Assistant, one Typist and one Grade Four. Two vehicles will also be required.

b) **At the District Level:** The Directorate comprises of District Statistical Offices headed by a District Statistical Officer. The District Officers are assisted by Inspector of Statistics, Sub-Inspector, Investigator, Field Assistant and Ministerial staff. With the increase of Work Programme like Crop Insurance Scheme, National Sample Survey, Economic Census and Price Statistics the ministerial works have increased considerably. It is therefore, proposed that during the next plan period, 1 post each of Head Assistant, Upper Division Assistant, Lower Division Assistant and Grade IV be created for each of the 7 District Statistical Office. The District Offices are also to be provided with additional office equipments like typewriters and Cyclostyle machines and computers.

c) **Sub-Divisional Statistical Offices:** To speed up the flow of Statistical information from Primary level to District and State Headquarters, it is proposed to set-up Sub-Divisional Statistical Office during Tenth Plan Period. Excluding District Headquarters, the State is

having 8 Sub-Divisions. Setting up of the Sub-Divisional Statistical Offices will be taken up in a phased manner during the Tenth Plan.

(ii). Annual Survey of Industries:

Collection of Industrial Statistics are very essential especially in Meghalaya since advancement of this sub-sector in the economy is very much shy. Absence of such statistics posed some economic data gap for planning purposes. Though collection of industrial statistics falls under the Collection of Statistics Act 1953, yet the Directorate of Economics & Statistics along with other concerned Departments are yet to streamline the units to furnish annual data. These statistics have become more important as the value added from registered manufacturing units is to be estimated in the State Domestic Product. In addition, other information in respect of capital formation, salaries and wages and number of markers could be provided for the State in respect of registered manufacturing units.

Therefore a scheme for compilation and preparation of Indices of Industrial Production is proposed to be taken up in the Tenth Plan period. Hence additional man power are required, viz: one Deputy Director with supporting officials of one Inspector, one Sub-inspector and three Computers. An outlay of Rs. 30.00 lakhs is proposed for this scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan. An outlay of Rs.4.00 Lakhs is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-2003.

(iii). Estimation of State Domestic Product and District Domestic Product:

Estimation of the State Domestic Product have become a regular work of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics of the State. Though it is proposed to take up the District Estimates of Domestic Product during the Ninth Plan, it could not be taken up due to shortage of man power. With a view to reflecting the disparity and growth of economy at District levels, it is felt that estimation of Gross Net Domestic Product of the Districts be formulated during the next Tenth Plan period so that proper planning process at the grass root levels could be taken up. It is generally felt that the benefits of development are not evenly spread all over the districts of the State, hence district variation could not be reflected in absence of such District Estimates data. During the Tenth Plan an amount of Rs. 12.00 lakhs is proposed for strengthening of the manpower to deal with this subject. An outlay of Rs.1.00 Lakhs is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-2003.

(iv). Economic Census - Core Scheme:

The conduct of Economic Census is a joint effort of Central State Statistical Organisation, Government of India and the State Directorate of Economics and Statistics as planned from time to time. The Fourth Economic Census, 1998 was to bridge the data gap in the un-organised sectors through periodical Sample Surveys and the report was released during the plan period. The Census is on the un-organised segments of economy like un-registered manufacturing, trade, hotels and restaurants, construction and services where no information on input, output, employment and inventory of fixed assets are available from the un-organised sectors of non-agricultural economy as well as agricultural sectors excluding plantation. As the Economic Census is also the responsibility of the State Directorate, it is proposed that a skeleton staff maintained after the completion of the Census works. Hence one post each of Deputy Director, Sub-Inspector of Statistics and Computer be maintained as the nucleus cell in the Directorate during the Tenth Plan Period and an outlay of Rs.5.00 Lakhs is proposed. An outlay of Rs.1.00 Lakh is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-2003.

(v). **Training Division:**

The Directorate of Economics & Statistics deals with various mathematical and statistical methods in the preparation of reports and statistical information under different programmes. Government of India provides service training and refresher courses to the senior statistical personnel and the middle level officials of the State Statistical Bureau in the country. But all statistical personnel could not be deputed for training as seats for such training are limited. Therefore, training to junior staff are to be taken up by the State Directorate periodically. A training unit at the Directorate is required to be set up to conduct various courses under different programmes and resource persons are to be invited to deliver lectures by way of payment of honorarium, etc. an amount of Rs 5.00 lakh is proposed during the Tenth Plan period. An outlay of Rs.1.00 Lakhs is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-2003.

(vi). **Price and Market intelligence Statistics:**

With a view to provide more information to facilitate construction to Consumer Price Index with particular reflection of the changes over time of the retail prices in both Urban and Rural Centre, it is necessary to improve that data collection at the Primary level and also to enlarge the system of collection of Farm Harvest Prices in the State. In order to meet the growing demand for current information relating to the trend in the movement of retail prices for some essential commodities, it is desirable that monitoring of the prices of essential commodities be taken up in the important centres. To achieve the goal constructing our own Consumer Price Index Number and Whole sale Price Index Number, suitable personnel are required to man the section alongwith officers to assist him to undertake the work programme. During the Tenth Plan , it is proposed that the Joint Director will head the section and one Statistical Officer along with 30 additional price centres are required under this sector. An amount of Rs.10.00 lakh is proposed under this programme during the Tenth Plan. An outlay of Rs.2.00 Lakhs is proposed for 2002-2003.

(vii). **Agricultural Statistics :**

Agricultural Statistics which include land use , Crop pattern, Crop yield / Production, Irrigation or crops irrigated area, Crop Insurance are the most comprehensive set of required Statistical data relating to our Agriculture based Economy of the State. In view of the absence of land records and being non-cadastrally surveyed areas , the reliability of estimates of the crop area and production are not at all satisfactory. The system of obtaining reliable or near accuracy Agricultural Statistics can be made only through a special survey or scheme like 'Establishment of an agency for reporting crop area Statistics' (EARAS) which may be taken up under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(viii). **Continuing State Scheme (Crop Insurance) :**

Under Crop Insurance Scheme , maintaining of the existing staffing pattern has to be taken up during the Tenth Plan Period. During the next Plan period 8 posts of Sub-Inspector of Statistics and 40 post of Field Assistants are necessary for the conduct of Crop Cutting Experiments under the scheme. An outlay of Rs.100.00 Lakhs is proposed for this requirement during the Tenth Plan. For the year 2002-2003, an outlay of Rs.28.00 Lakhs is proposed. For the sanctioned posts of 2 Primary Investigators and 6 Field Assistants in the Myllem and Rongram Development Block under the Plan Scheme (q) Agricultural Statistics an amount of Rs.15.00 lakh is estimated during the Tenth Plan. An amount of Rs.2.00 Lakhs is proposed for the year 2002-2003.

(ix). Surveys :

The new strategies proposed under this Scheme are :-

- (i). To increase the sample size of the State Sample of the National Sample Survey for the qualitative of Statistical information from the Primary level.
- (ii). To initiate pooling of State Sample and Centrally Sample Survey result and
- (iii). To take up Survey of Common local interest, this call for increase on the strength of man-power in the field as well as at the State Headquarter for quality of data , timely scrutiny, tabulation and preparation of report and also to ensure competent guidance for the overall performance of the section.

An outlay of Rs.30.00 Lakhs is proposed to take up this programme during the Tenth Plan. An outlay of Rs.10.00 Lakhs is proposed for the year 2002-2003.

(x). Modern Data Processing Unit :

The importance of Electronic Data Processing for modernising data processing and the need for the use of information technology tool have become indispensable to reducing time lag between the completion of field work and production of final tables by suitably decentralising the computer scrutiny and correction of error. Therefore, keeping in view the vastness of data collected through various sample surveys and increased activities, the Directorate of Economics and Statistics has accorded high priority to the computerisation programme for timely generation of results. To develop databases at district level for planning , monitoring and evaluation, the networks of 7(seven) District Statistical Offices and Directorate of Economics and Statistics is also of urgent need as at present the Statistical system at the District level are being done manually in absence of required computer facilities.

In order to improve and up-date the professional skill and competence , computer professional are necessary to work for the system to design , programming and to develop software. It is proposed to create 1(one) post of System Analyst and three post of Data Entry Operator. An outlay of Rs 20.00 is proposed for this scheme during the Tenth Plan period. An outlay of Rs.3.00 Laks is proposed for the year 2002-2003.

(xi). Housing and Social Statistics :

With the increase in the coverage of statistics in areas such as Health, Education, Environment,etc., another important statistics which throw a very important information on the human living conditions is the Housing & Building Statistics , the Government of India has recognised the need for a regular setup and system for collection of Housing & Building Statistics and has made the National Building Organisation (NBO) as the Nodal agency for the collection and dissemination of Housing and Building Statistics in the country. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics is the agency to collect the Housing and Building Statistics from the different State Government Organisation and local bodies and forward the same to the National Building Organisation. In order to effectively implement the Scheme in the Directorate , an additional manpower consisting namely of an Statistical Officer, two Sub-Inspectors and two Computers are required. An outlay of Rs.8.00 lakhs is proposed for this scheme during the Tenth Plan. An outlay of Rs.1.00 Lakhs is proposed for the year 2002-2003.

(xii). Publication and Reference Division:

Maintenance and dissemination of statistical data at the State level is done through compilation and scrutiny of data for presenting factual reports in various fields and areas and also depicting the Socio-economic development of the State in maps and charts. The village Index Card of the State was designed to be a course of key level information in respect of individual village. Entries in the cards are up-dated from year to year. The division call for strengthening the supervisory officers through additional man-power namely one each of Research Officer, Statistical Officer and Inspector of Statistics at the State Headquarter.

One of the main output of the Directorate is the release of publication and reports.. Often there are delays in printing of publications, reports etc., by the State Government Press due to over pressure of works. To obviate this, a printing machine or a modern system of copying machine like printer is urgently needed for the Directorate. An amount of Rs 8.00 Lakhs is proposed during the Tenth Plan. The entire amount of Rs.1.00 Lakhs is proposed for the year 2002-2003.

(xiii). Construction of Office and Residential Buildings at the District Headquarters :

This programme will be continued during the Tenth Plan period and an outlay of Rs.70.00 Lakhs is proposed for the purpose. An outlay of Rs.9.00 Lakhs is proposed for the year 2002-2003.

10.4. CIVIL SUPPLIES

10.4.1. The proposed outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) is Rs.165.00 Lakhs and the proposed outlay for the Annual Plan 2002-2003 is Rs.35.00 Lakhs . As against the approved outlay of Rs.200.00 Lakhs during the Ninth Plan period, the actual expenditure for the first four years of the plan period is Rs.94.92 Lakhs. The approved outlay during 2001-2002 being Rs.30.00 Lakhs, the total anticipated expenditure during the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) is Rs.124.92 Lakhs.

10.4.2. The schemes during the Tenth Plan period are as follows :-

1). **Mobile Fair Price Shop** - The Scheme envisages distribution of Essential Commodities through Vans in the Rural areas. It has been implemented prior to the Ninth Plan period with partial assistance from Govt. of India. 14 Vans have been acquired and these are deployed in the Districts and Sub - Divisions for use as Mobile Shops in the distribution of Essential Commodities in the interior and far - flung areas and carrying of **PDS** Commodities from the Wholesale Centres to the Fair Price Shops. At present 3 Vans have been condemned and therefore only 11 Vans are available under the Scheme. Purchase of new Vans will be considered after obtaining proposals from Deputy Commissioners/ Sub - Divisional Officers. For the maintenance of the existing Vans and meeting the expenses in connection with Salaries etc. of Drivers, adequate Fund may be provided during the Tenth Plan period. Hence an amount of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs may be provided during the Tenth Plan period and Rs.10.00 is provided for 2002-2003.

2). **State Commission And District Fora-** This is a continuing Scheme from the Ninth Five Year Plan. Under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the Department

have constituted Quasi - Judicial Bodies i.e., State Commission at the State Level and the District Forum at the District Level. These Quasi - Judicial Bodies deal with Consumer Disputes / Grievances as stipulated under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Their jurisdictions are as follows :-

- a) District Forum deals with Consumer Disputes, the value of which is below Rs. 5 Lakhs.
- b) State Commission deals with disputes, the value which are above Rs. 5 Lakhs but upto Rs. 20 Lakhs. It also acts as appellate Court against the decision of the District Forum.

Funds are required for payment of Sitting Fees to the Members of the State Commission and District Forum and other Office expenses. Further for the State Commission and the District Forum of Shillong, Jowai and Tura, Posts have been created under Plan Sector. Hence Funds are required for Salaries etc of the Staffs. The following amounts may be provided during Tenth Plan and Annual Plan 2002-03.

a)	State Commission	Rs.30 lakhs	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
b)	District Forum	Rs.35 lakhs	Rs. 7.00 lakhs

3). **Consumer Awareness Programme** - The provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, provide for constitution of the State Consumer Protection Council and Protection and promotion of Consumer rights in the State. We propose to conduct Consumer Awareness Programme throughout the State during the 10th Plan. An amount of Rs. 20.00 Lakhs is proposed for the purpose and Rs.4.00 Lakhs proposed for Annual Plan 2002-03.

4). **Improvement/ Maintenance of Staff Quarter** - The Department have constructed a number of Official quarters in the Districts Nongstoin/ Baghmara/ Nongpoh/ Tura and Sub - Division at Khliehriat and Resubelpara upto the Ninth Five Year Plan period. For improvement and maintenance of the quarters, funds may be provided during 10th Plan. An amount of Rs. 15.00 Lakhs is required during the Tenth Five Year Plan period 2002- 2007 against which the outlay of Rs.3.00 lakhs is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-03.

5). **Computerisation** - During the Ninth Plan period, the Department have purchased Computers and accessories in the Directorate and the Districts Offices at Tura. It is proposed to purchase Computers for other Districts also. Funds is therefore required and an amount of Rs. 15.00 lakhs is proposed for the 10th Plan and the amount of Rs.5.00 is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-03. The aim / objective is to facilitate better maintenance of records / accounts in the Department.

10.4.3 Centrally Sponsored Scheme:-

Implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yogna - This is Central Sector Scheme and provides for distribution of Foodgrains (Rice) to the poorest Families at 25 Kilograms per Family per month and the Price of Rs. 3/- per Kg. The Central Govt. will make available Foodgrains to the State Govt. at the price of Rs. 300/- per quintal and State Govt. should ensure distribution to the beneficiaries at the price of Rs. 3/- per Kg. State Govt. should pay for the cost of transportation of foodgrains from the FCI Godown to the distribution Centres. Funds may therefore be provided under State Plan Sector.

As per target fixed by the Govt. of India 28,100 Poorest Families will be covered under the Scheme. The total quantity of Foodgrains (Rice) per month under the Scheme is $25 \times 28100 = 702500$ Kilogram or 7,025 quintals. In accordance with the guidelines issued by Govt. of India for the PDS, the rate of transportation and other incidental charges per quintal may be fixed at Rs. 50/-. The requirement of Fund under the Scheme is Rs. 351250 per month or Rs. 4215000/- annually. For the Tenth Plan period an amount of Rs. 2,10,75,000 may be required for the Scheme. Necessary arrangement like identification of beneficiaries and issue of Ration Cards have been completed. The Scheme will be implemented as soon as allocation of Rice from Govt. of India is received.

10.5. WEIGHT AND MEASURES

10.5.1. **The proposed Tenth Plan outlay for this sector is Rs. 165.00 lakhs out of which an amount of Rs.35.00 lakhs is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-2003.** As against the approved Ninth Plan outlay of Rs. 150.00 lakhs for this sector the expenditure during the first four years of the Plan is Rs.75.41 Lakhs. The approved outlay during 2001-2002 being Rs.30.00 Lakhs, the total anticipated expenditure during the Ninth Plan is 105.41 Lakhs .

10.5.2. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, enforcement and implement of the Standards of Weights & Measures Acts 1976 will be continued.. The Meghalaya Standards of Weight & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules 1977. will also be implemented.. The above Acts and Rules aim at protecting the interest of the Consumers relating to correct and accurate Weights & Measures and also correct pricing in respect of all packed Commodities. During the Ninth Plan period, the achievement is below target mainly because of shortage of manpower and mobility. These problems are proposed to be taken care of during the Tenth Plan period by creation of more infrastructures and additional Manpower.

10.6. AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS

10.6.1. The approved Ninth Plan outlay for Grant –in- aid to the three Autonomous District Councils in Meghalaya is Rs. 2000.00 Lakhs. However, as per the approved Annual Plans' allocation, the outlay is Rs. 3278.00 lakhs. The expenditure during 1997-98, 19978-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were Rs.410.00 Lakhs, Rs.450.00 Lakhs, Rs.450.00 Lakhs and Rs.962.00 Lakhs respectively. The approved outlay during 2001-2002 including EFC Award's component is Rs. 962.00 Lakhs which is expected to be utilised in full The total anticipated expenditure during the Ninth Plan is, therefore, Rs. 3234.00 lakhs. **The proposed outlay for the Tenth Plan is Rs.2500.00 Lakhs and the proposed outlay for the Annual Plan 2002-2003 is Rs.500.00 Lakhs.**

10.6.2. The District Councils are the Autonomous bodies constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India .They have been invested with certain powers of not only for legislation and administration in respect of tribal interest, but, also with executive and judiciary powers. However, since the Autonomous District Councils have a narrow resource base, the State Government in consultation with the Planning Commission has been extending Grant-in-aid to them from time to time under the State Plan to enable them to take up rural development programmes in areas like approach roads, bridges, foot paths, drinking wells, Village markets, play grounds etc. Grant-in-aid is also given for the construction of the

District Councils' administrative and functional buildings. The funds available each year is divided to the three Autonomous District Councils of Khasi Hills, Garo Hills and Jaintia Hills in the ratio of 9:8:3. From the year 2000-2001, Plan funds have also been released to the Autonomous District Councils on the basis of the Award of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The amount released during 2000-2001 from EFC's award is Rs.512.00 Lakhs and the amount scheduled to be released during 2001-2002 is Rs.516.00 Lakhs.

10.7. VOLUNTARY ACTION FUND

10.7.1. During 1995-96, the State Government had started a Voluntary Action Fund with an amount of Rs. 10.00 Lakhs only for involvement of VAs / NGOs in development activities. This scheme implemented through the Planning Department has created considerable enthusiasm among the VAs / NGOs. The position of financial and physical achievements from 1995-96 are as indicated below :-

YEAR	FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENT (RS. LAKHS)	PHYSICAL ACHIEVEMENT (NOS. OF VAs /NGOs ASSISTED)
1995-96	10.00	23
1996-97	15.00	42
1997-98	21.00	64
1998-99	19.00	89
1999-2000	20.00	163
2000-2001	27.75	270

A provision of Rs. 25.00 lakhs only is made for assisting VAs / NGOs during 2001-2002.

10.7.2. The objectives of the Voluntary sector are to encourage and promote voluntary institutions for development, reducing dependence on Government, promotion of self-reliance and accelerated rural and tribal development through Voluntary action. Eligible VAs/ NGOs are extended with financial assistance for organising / conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars and action oriented field research of public importance, etc., for motivating workers / beneficiaries.

10.7.3. The Plan outlay for "Voluntary Action Fund" during the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) is Rs. 80.00 lakhs and the expenditure upto the end of the fourth year of the Plan period is Rs. 87.75 Lakhs. The anticipated expenditure for 2001-02 is Rs. 25.00 Lakhs.

10.7.4. With the increasing numbers of registered VAs / NGOs , it is essential that a serious thought is given to strengthening the role of the Voluntary Action Unit under the Planning Department for better coordination with the VAs / NGOs at the State and District levels. Moreover, the Voluntary Action Unit also needs strong supervision and monitoring on the implementation of the schemes / projects undertaken by VAs / NGOs so as ensure full participation at the greater interest of the general public.

10.7.5. **The proposed outlay for the Voluntary Action Fund during the Tenth Plan is Rs. 150.00 Lakhs and for the Annual Plan (2002-03) is Rs. 30.00 Lakhs.**