

CHAPTER – VII

TRANSPORT

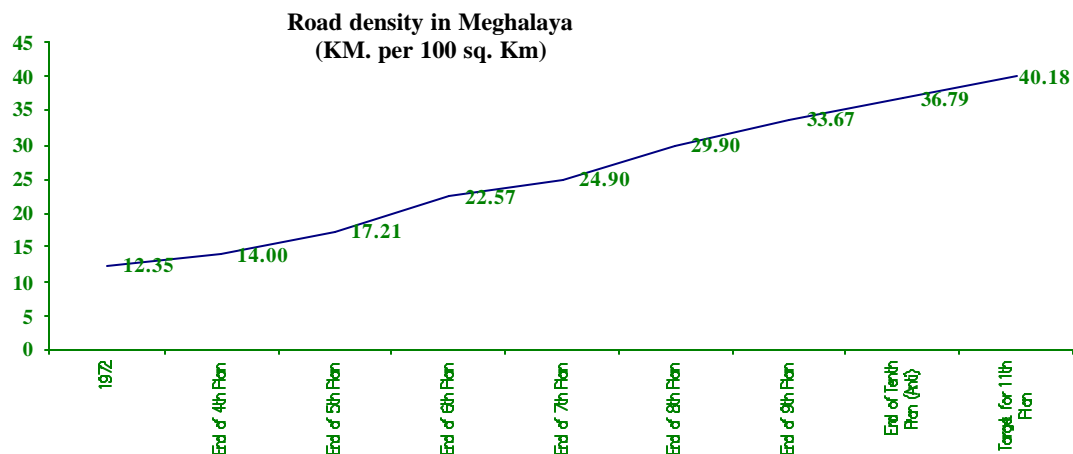
7.1. ROADS AND BRIDGES

7.1.1 Road transport offers the only mode of communication in Meghalaya and plays a major role in the socio-economic development of the State. It can be safely said that the growth rate of the State's economy depends upon the rate of the development of road infrastructure. It is also a known fact that only after development of road, other constituents of infrastructure such as power, water supply, health etc. can play the prominent role.

7.1.2. The State inherited a road length of 2786.68 Kms with a road density of 12.42 Km/100 sq. Km. from Assam in 1970. The road density achieved as on 31st March, 2006 is 36.40 Km/ 100 sq. Km. and at the end of the Tenth Plan (2002-07), the road length is anticipated to increased to 8253.74 Km. with a road density of 36.79 Km./100 sq. Km. Out of the existing road, more than 59 % of the road network consists of Other District Road (ODR) and Village Road (VR). Further, the length of the graveled and kutcha constitutes about 39.89% of the total length of the roads. Presently there are 17.00 km. 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 :-

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 31-03-2006	8165	4907	3258



Outlay and Expenditure during the 10th Plan period

(Rs. lakhs)

Annual Plan	Outlay		Expenditure
	Original	Revised	
2002-03	7500.00	6446.00	7521.56
2003-04	7680.00	9740.00	9445.93
2004-05	10135.00	10135.00	10006.28
2005-06	11094.00	11094.00	11057.08
2006-07	11213.00	-	11213.00
Total	47622.00		49243.85

7.1.3. The physical achievements in respect of 'Roads & Bridges' sector during the Tenth Plan period is indicated below :-

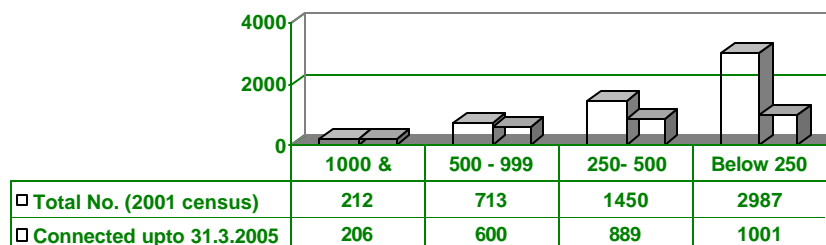
Physical Achievements and Targets in the Tenth Plan

Items	Unit	Tenth Plan target	2002-2006 Achievement	2006-07 Anti. Achievement	Tenth Plan Total Anti. Achievement
New Construction	Km.	397.00	422.88	89.00	513.88
Metalling & Blacktopping	Km.	755.00	1335.37	166.00	1501.37
Widening & Improvement	Km.	343.00	227.96	70.00	297.96
Major/ Minor Bridges	Rm.	3773.00	1784.62	848.00	2632.62
Road Density	Km/100 sq. Km	37.46	36.40	36.79	36.79

7.1.4. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana :-

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is implemented under the Central Sector and it is one of the programmes falling under the Bharat Nirman Programme (BNP). The State P.W.D. is the nodal Department for the purpose. During the 10th Plan, an amount of Rs. 25466.61 lakhs was allocated by the Government of India and Rs. 5844.91 lakhs utilized during the first four years of the Tenth Plan. For the 11th Plan, an outlay of Rs. 25850.00 lakhs will be required and an outlay of Rs. 3880.00 lakhs is proposed during Annual Plan 2007-08.

7.1.5. As per 2001 Census, the State has 5782 villages, out of which 2961 have been connected by road as on 31-03-2006 with another 32 villages proposed to be connected during 2006-07. The remaining villages that are yet to be connected comprise of small, isolated and remotely situated villages with a population of less than 200. Due to the terrain and remoteness of these villages, the per capita cost of connecting these villages by road is very high. The physical target and achievement in respect of PMGSY during the Tenth Plan period are indicated below :-



Village Connectivity under PMGSY

Population group	No. of habitations as per 2001 census	Villages connected upto 31-3-2002	Target for 10 th Plan	Villages connected during					Total Coverage
				2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Anti)	
1500 & above									
1000 – 1500	212	203	6	-	-	3	-	2	208
500-999	713	563	68	-	17	20	1	3	604
250-499	1450	853	49	-	9	27	1	9	899
Below 250	2987	991	17	-	1	9	-	5	1006
Other villages not accounted for by PWD	420								
Total	5782	2610	140	-	27	59	2	19	2717

Note : *The remaining unconnected villages are small isolated villages having a population of 200 and below.*

7.1.6. **Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) and Annual Plan 2007-08:-** The proposed outlay for ‘Roads & Bridges’ sector during the Eleventh Plan period is Rs. 150000.00 lakhs which consists of Rs. 1200.00 lakhs for Construction of Rural Roads Programme (CRRP). During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, priority will be accorded to completion of the spill over schemes, village connectivity, upgradation of the Road Research Laboratory, Computerisation, E-governance and capacity building. The bank of sanction of sanctioned schemes as on 01-04-2006 is around Rs. 630.00 Crores.

7.1.7 The broad breakup of the proposed State Plan Outlay in respect of the Roads & Bridges Sector for the 11th Plan and Annual Plan 2007-08 is as indicated below :-

(Rs. In lakhs)		
Items	11 th Plan proposed outlay	2007-08 proposed outlay
1. Spill over Schemes (from 10 th Plan etc.)	63000.00	13800.00
2. Common Outlay	11250.00	1350.00
3. Buildings	11250.00	1350.00
4. New Schemes	64500.00	1500.00
Total	150000.00	18000.00

7.1.8. With this outlay, a target of 759 Km of new roads will be constructed, 1494 km. of road metalled and blacktopped and 5381 Rm. of bridges constructed. **The proposed outlay for this sector during Annual Plan 2007-08 is Rs. 18000.00 lakhs.** The table below indicates the physical targets for the Eleventh Plan and Annual Plan 2007-08 :-

Physical targets during the Eleventh Plan period

Items	Units	Eleventh Plan target	Annual Plan 2007-08
New Construction	Km	759	100
Upgradation	Km	403	50
Metalling & Blacktopping	Km	1494	180
Bridges	Rm	5381	650
Village connectivity (PMGSY)	Nos.	117	32

7.1.9 Roads Projects Under Non Lapsable Central Pool Of Resources (NLCPR):-

[Rs. Crores]

Sl. No	Name of Scheme /Project	Approved Cost (in Cr)	Total Released (in Cr)	Remarks
A.	Completed Road Projects			
1.	Strengthening of Smit-Mawkynrew – Mawlat – Laitlyngkot Road	4.93	4.93	Completed
2.	Strengthening of Baghmara – Maheshkhola Road	1.86	1.86	Completed
3.	Widening of Mawngap – Mairang Road	4.52	4.52	Completed
4.	Strengthening of Mawshynrut – Nongdaju – Nongchram Road	7.33	7.33	Completed
	On-going Road Projects			
5.	Upgradation of Double Lane and Strengthening of Dkhiah – Sutnga – Saipung – Moulsei-Halflong Road 9 th -16 th Km	4.46	1.40	A/A for Rs.445.88 Lakhs has been accorded by DONER during October, 2005. An amount of Rs.140.40 lakhs released during Nov, 2005.
6.	Reconstruction of 10 Bridges and Approaches on Mawphlang – Balat Road	9.01	2.84	A/A for Rs.900.53 Lakhs has been accorded by DONER during October, 2005. An amount of Rs.283.50 lakhs released during Nov, 2005.
7.	Construction of R.C.C. Bridge over River Daru on Ampati – Purakhasia Road (2 nd Km) to Ampati village	4.53	1.43	A/A for Rs.453.89 Lakhs has been accorded by DONER during December, 2005. An amount of Rs.142.97 lakhs released during December, 2005.
8.	Improvement, Widening, Strengthening including Reconstruction of Bridges & Culverts of Rymbai – Iapmala –Suchen Road.	18.77	5.91	A/A for Rs. 1877.49 Lakhs has been accorded by DONER during December, 2005. An amount of Rs.591.41 lakhs released during December, 2005.

Sl. No	Name of Scheme /Project	Approved Cost (in Cr)	Total Released (in Cr)	Remarks
Retained Road Projects during 2003-2004 (Funds not released)				
9.	Reconstruction of RCC Bridges No.3/1, 7/1, 7/2 & 8/1 on Ampati-Mankachar Road (4 Nos.)	7.74		Revised /Modified DPR to be submitted by PWD as per the comments of DORTH dt.8-11-05.
10.	Improvement including metalling& blacktopping of Garobhada-Betasing Road via Rangsakhona	14.55		Revised /Modified DPR to be submitted by PWD as per the comments of MORTH dt.24-4-06.
11.	Improvement including metalling & blacktopping of Jakrem-Ranikor Road (6 – 15 Km)= 10Kms	6.68		Final DPR submitted vide PLR. 4/2002/PWD/427 Dt. 9-10-06 @ Rs. 5.56 crores
12.	Construction of a bridge over river Khasimara (120m. span) including 2 (two) culverts and approaches.	5.06		Modified DPR submitted to DoNER vide letter NO. PLR.4/2002/PWD/411 dt. 04-08-06. @ Rs.6.38 crores.
Retained Road Projects during 2004-2005 (Funds not released)				
13.	Construction of Ampati-Mellim Road from 10 th Km –15 th Km (6Km) and 4 Nos RCC Bridges	4.96		3 copies of modified/revised DPR to be submitted by PWD as per comments of DORTH as communicated vide. No.PLR4/2002/PWD/405 dt. 4.7.06
14.	Construction of remaining portion of Mawsahew-Nongsteng-Umblei - Mawphu Road (8 Km)	11.61		Parawise Replies to the observations of DORTH submitted vide PLR.4/2002/PWD/426 Dt.10-10-06
Retained Road Projects during 2005-2006 (Funds not released)				
15.	Construction including Metalling and Blacktopping of Lumshnong-Umlong Road (0-8Km)	5.86		PWD to submit 3 copies) of Modified / Revised DPR as per comments of DoRTH and conveyed to PWD vide letter No PLR.90/2005/130 dt. 13-07-06
16.	Improvement including metalling blacktopping of Mukraialong-Lumshyrn\mi Road (19Km)	15.27		PWD to submit 3 copies) of Modified / Revised DPR as per comments of DoRTH and conveyed to PWD vide letter No PLR.90/2005/130 dt. 13-07-06
17.	Construction including metalling blacktopping of a road from Mooshut to Lumpulloi via Rngad (12Km)	8.48		PWD to submit 3 copies) of Modified / Revised DPR as per comments of DoRTH and conveyed to PWD vide letter No PLR.90/2005/130 dt. 13-07-06
18.	Improvement, widening including metalling and blacktopping of Dkhiah-Sutnga-Saipung- Moulsei-halflong Road (16 Km)	10.61		3 copies of Modified / Revised DPR as per comments of DoRTH are being sent shortly.
19.	Reconstruction of Bridge over River Litein (Bridge No. 31/1) on Dkhiah-Sutnga-Saipung-Moulsei- Halflong Road	4.00		PWD to submit DPR

Sl. No	Name of Scheme /Project	Approved Cost (in Cr)	Total Released (in Cr)	Remarks
20.	Construction including metalling and blacktopping of road from Sohbar to Tharia (13Km)	6.00		PWD to submit DPR
21.	Construction including metalling and blacktopping of Mawkyrwat-Rangblang Road (8Km)	4.00		Final DPR along with the para wise replies to the comments raised by MoRTH submitted to M/O DONER vide No. PLR. 90/2005/132 dt20-07-06 @ Rs.7.73 crores
22.	Widening of formation and pavement into double lane of Garobadha-Ampati Road (11 Km)	11.00		PWD to submit DPR
23.	Construction of embankment cum road from Mandagre to Debela Bachanda road at Haldibari (4Km)	2.40		PWD to submit the Justifications on the increase of cost to Rs. 3.59 crores as communicated vide PLR. 90/2005/155 Dt. 14-09-06
24.	Widening of road to double lane from Araimile to Dakopgre of Tura town (4Km)	3.00		DPR submitted to M/O DONER vide No. PLR.90/2005/134 dt. 20-07-06 @ Rs.4.06 crores
25.	Reconstruction of Bridges on Kherapara to Dekubazar (Bridge No.2/5 5/5 & 10/2)	7.00		PWD to submit DPR
26.	Construction of a road from Rongjeng-Mansang-Adorgre road including metalling and blacktopping (33 -38) Km with bridges (5 Km)	3.50		PWD to submit DPR
27.	Widening of roads into double lane in Williamnagar town (8 Km)	4.00		PWD to submit 3 copies) of Modified / Revised DPR as per comments of DoRTH and conveyed to PWD vide letter No PLR. 90/2005/130 dt. 13-07-06
Retained Road Projects during 2006-2007 (Funds not released)				
28.	Improvement, widening, Strengthening including Metalling & blacktopping of a road from 9 th Mile of NH=37 (Guwahati – Shillong Road) to Killing – Pilangkata (6.00KM)	3.00		PWD to submit DPR
29.	Improvement and Metalling & Blacktopping of a road from NH-51 to Rongsigre (0-4KM)	3.00		PWD to submit DPR
TOTAL		197.13	30.22	

7.2 ROAD TRANSPORT

7.2.1 The Road Transport sector in the State of Meghalaya is very essential in view of the fact, that, the State is not linked with any railway lines and water transport facilities. The only Airport at Umroi near Shillong is not feasible for the landing of big aircrafts and as such, it is not serving the State and its people as desired. The State has, therefore, to depend solely on the road transport system only. The State Government is operating bus transport services between different destinations to carry goods and passengers through the Meghalaya Transport Corporation which gets financial assistance from the Government in the form of Capital Contribution, which is constantly running at a loss. The main reason for loss are (i) Overstaffing, (ii) Non- replacement of old fleet and (iii) Running on un-economic routes for providing services to the rural population etc. During 2004–2005 the Meghalaya Transport Corporation with the approval of the State Govt. has implemented the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in which 206 employees have accepted VRS.

7.2.2 The approved outlay for the Tenth Plan is Rs.1650.00lakhs. The amount released for the Meghalaya Transport Corporation during the first four years of the Plan is Rs.1035.00lakhs. The anticipated expenditure during the year 2006–2007 is Rs.300.00lakhs which is being given to the Meghalaya Transport Corporation for purchase of 15 to 20 new buses to replace some of the over-aged buses. At present the Corporation is having a total of 69 buses operating on 24 routes covering in total a route length of 3468 Kms. **An outlay of Rs.3200.00 lakhs is proposed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007–2012) for the Road Transport Sector in Meghalaya which is proposed to be released to the Meghalaya Transport Corporation as Capital Contribution. The proposed outlay for 2007–2008 is Rs.350.00lakhs.**

7.3 OTHER TRANSPORT SERVICES

7.3.1 Under the Other Transport Services sector, important Projects taken up are – Upgradation of Umroi Airport and construction of Airport at Baljek. The other schemes proposed for implementation are Motor Driving Schools, Financial Assistance to Un-employed Educated Youth of the State, Construction of Check gates, Pollution Testing Control besides Computerisation.

7.3.2 The approved outlay for the Tenth Plan 2002–2007 is Rs.880.00lakhs. The expenditure during the first four years of the Tenth Plan period was Rs.60.13 lakhs and the anticipated expenditure during 2006–2007 is Rs.50.00lakhs. **An outlay of Rs.500.00lakhs is proposed for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The proposed outlay for 2007–2008 is Rs.75.00lakhs.** The main programmes are briefly highlighted in the following:-

A. Upgradation of Umroi Airport:

It was felt necessary that the existing Umroi Airport be upgraded and facilities for landing of bigger aircrafts be provided. Accordingly, in March 1991, Airport Authority of India inspected the site and recommended the additional land be made available for expansion of the runway and other infrastructure. However, nothing can be done during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Airport Authority officials recommended the following:

1. Acquisition of land for extension of runway from 6000 ft to 8500 ft.
2. Development and grading of runway strip.
3. Extension of runway and associated pavements.
4. Extension and modification of terminal building complex.
5. Provision of V.O.R. /R.M.E. and PAPI.
6. Cutting of hills and construction of boundary walls.

Hence a sum of **Rs.150.00 lakhs** is proposed for the **Eleventh Five Year Plan**.

Further, a proposal for **finding alternative Airport in lieu of Umroi Airport in case the aforesaid upgradations can not be taken up by the Authority concerned**, is also being processed for selection of suitable sites by the Department of Transport in coordination with the District Authorities in the State. The same is yet to be finalized.

B. Construction / Upgradation of Baljek Airport:

The Baljek Airport was initially planned and designed for operating flight of smaller Aircraft of the STOL category. As most of the Airlines no longer operate small Aircrafts, it is necessary to upgrade the airport by extension of the Runway of the Baljek Airport by another 700 meters at least. Hence, **Rs.50.00 Lakhs is proposed for the 11th Five Year Plan 2007 – 2012**.

Other pending works for completion of B aljek Airport are :- (i) Electrification at the cost of **Rs.6,30,992/-** which is being funded from the MPLAD Scheme through the initiative of Shri P.A.Sangma, M.P. (ii) Construction of water connection by P.H.E. Department at the cost of **Rs.24,81,400/-** which is still under process.

It is also to be noted that Government of Meghalaya is approaching for assistance from **Private Airlines such as Jet Airways / Sahara / Spice Jet** for the trial flight/ landing and full time **operations at Baljek Airport**. In this regard, the proposal will take shape **provided subsidy is being extended to these Airlines**. As such, it is proposed that a sum of **Rs.50.00lakhs be earmarked in the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-2012** for the purpose to facilitate a quick response from these Private Airlines for the benefit of the people of the State and the North East as a whole.

C. Construction of Helipads:

The Department has introduced the helicopter service during the end of 10th Five Year Plan period which is being looked after by Meghalaya Transport Corporation. Till date the Department has got no Helipad of its own. However, negotiations are on with Veterinary Department, Government of Meghalaya and the Eastern Air Command at Upper Shillong for the construction of a permanent Helipad under the direct control of the Government in co-ordination with the Air Traffic Control of the Eastern Air Command. An amount of **Rs.50.00 lakhs** is proposed for this purpose during the **Eleventh Plan** period.

Proposal for construction of **Additional 6 (six) Helipads in the respective District Headquarters** is also being examined. The necessary infrastructure is being worked out.

D. Motor Driving Schools:

It is proposed to continue the scheme of assistance to the existing Motor Driving Schools and increase the existing 3 (three) schools to at least 5 (five) in the State in order to develop, impart as well as improve driving skills. The necessity of continuing the scheme is the fact that Meghalaya being a hilly State special skills are required for safe driving in hilly terrain roads in order to minimize occurrence of accidents which is not uncommon, besides other safety measure schemes proposed under this Five Year Plan. An outlay of **Rs.30.00lakhs** is proposed for the scheme.

E. Financial Assistance to Unemployed Educated Youth of the State :

The proposal is also a continuing scheme. In the wake of growing unemployment among the Educated youth of the State, the existing scheme is proposed to be carried over to the Eleventh Plan period with a view to create more and more employment opportunities in the Transport service sector. An outlay of **Rs40.00lakhs** is proposed for the scheme.

F. Construction of Check gates:

In order to check vehicles, service as well as goods transport plying without valid permits and without compulsory weighment, it is proposed that several Departments, including Police, Forest, Mining & Geology, Excise etc. put up joint check gates at strategic locations, particularly on National Highways and State Highways. The proposal will control movement of goods and commodities as well as check loss of Government revenue. The proposed outlay for the scheme is **Rs.30.00lakhs** for the **Eleventh Plan** period.

G. Pollution Testing Control:

There has been a steady increase in the number of Motor Vehicles in the State, both transport and non-transport. This has subsequently led to a higher level of air pollution due to vehicular smoke emissions. The Government has initiated the Public Private Partnership(PPP) by setting up the Private Vehicular Emission Testing Stations in the various parts of the Districts of the State. This however is an experimental measure and the State Government is keen to have Central Financial Support for its up-gradation. Though the work for pollution testing and control has been entrusted to the private parties, it is necessary that the personnel of the department are trained and acquire skill to handle the machines, so that they can counter check the vehicles certified as **Pollution free** by the Private Pollution Testing Stations. Hence, there is a need for the department to procure new machines for distribution to District Offices of the State for the purpose. The proposed outlay for the scheme is **Rs.30.00lakhs under the Eleventh Five Year Plan 2007-2012.**

H. Computerisation:

The Department proposes to upgrade the process of computerization which have already started during the 9th and 10th Plan. This is required in order to achieve the optimum utility in **e-governance** so that implementation of smart card in Driving Licence, High Security Registration Plate, Issues of Permits etc. can be achieved. The department will seek the assistance of NIC to prepare plan and estimate for the scheme. The proposal is estimated at **Rs.30.00 lakhs** during the entire **Plan** period.

I. Mass Transport System:

Meghalaya is a small State with a population of around **23,18,822** people, 70% of whom live in the rural areas. Population in the Urban areas of the State is increasing rapidly and accelerating day by day. There are sixteen Urban centres in the State, the largest being the capital city of Shillong with a population of around 3(three) lakhs people. The speed of urbanization has strained the existing infrastructure of Shillong which is coupled by the increasing volume of passenger traffic leading to traffic congestion during the peak hours of office and schools timings.

In order to ease the traffic problems an innovative scheme under the Mass Transport System is being mooted out for the grant of **subsidized school bus** during the **Eleventh Five Year Plan**.

Under this scheme, a **subsidy @ 50%** of the cost of chassis will be extended to the selected schools per year. An outlay of **Rs.20.00lakhs** is proposed for the **Eleventh Five Year Plan**.

J. Construction of Retaining Walls and renovation for District Offices and Head Quarter :

The scheme is essential for the safety of the Government property and also to prevent encroachment of the existing land by the public. An amount of **Rs.20.00lakhs** is being proposed for the **Eleventh Five Year Plan**.

7.3.3 The picture of proposal in respect of Annual Plan 2007-2008, and for the Eleventh Plan (2007 – 2012) in respect of Other Transport Services are indicated in the Table below:

Rs. In Lakhs			
Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) Proposal	Annual Plan (2007-2008) Proposal
1.	Upgradation of Umroi Airport	150.00	15.00
2.	Construction / Upgradation of Baljek Airport	50.00	8.00
3.	Subsidy to Private Airlines	50.00	8.00
4.	Construction of Helipads	50.00	8.00
5.	Motor Driving Schools	30.00	4.00
6.	Financial Assistance to Un-employed Educated Youth of the State	40.00	6.00
7.	Construction of Checkgates	30.00	7.00
8.	Pollution Testing Control	30.00	4.00
9.	Computerisation	30.00	7.00
10.	Mass Transport System	20.00	4.00
11.	Construction of Retaining walls and Renovation for District Offices and Head Quarters	20.00	4.00
	Total	500.00	75.00