



Speech

of

Dr. Donkumar Roy
Chief Minister, Meghalaya

at the

57th Meeting
of the
North Eastern Council

at

Parliament House Annexe,
New Delhi

7th January, 2009

Hon'ble Union Minister, DONER & Chairman, N.E.C Shri Mani Shanker Aiyar-Ji, Distinguished Members of the North Eastern Council, Officials from the Government of India, N.E.C., State Governments and Friends.

I am happy to participate at this 57th Meeting of the North Eastern Council here in New Delhi. I admire the abiding interest and stamina of the Hon'ble Union Minister of DONER & Chairman, N.E.C in this regard for convening this 57th Plenary at the very beginning of the year 2009.

2. At the outset, I, on behalf of the people of Meghalaya, would like to wish Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji, Hon'ble Union Minister, DoNER & Chairman of the North Eastern Council and all the distinguished members of this august House, a very happy & prosperous New Year, 2009. I hope that the initiatives and efforts put in by the NEC during 2008 would make further progress during 2009 to steer the region forward towards catching up with the rest of the country in the near future.

3. As regard the Action taken Report on the decisions taken at the 56th Meeting of the NEC, the draft **State Education Policy** is in the process of finalization. Since our aim is to make the State of Meghalaya an Educational Hub in the region, we have invited the views from all sections of the society in this regard. We hope to bring out a comprehensive & vibrant Education Policy of the State very soon. The **State Sports Policy**, in line with the National Sports Policy, is also under process and

is expected to be finalized soon. The **State Vision Document-2020** is under preparation. The Agriculture Department is seeking help of the APEDA for **setting up of Packaging Centres** in Meghalaya for promoting sale & export of horticulture products from the State.

4. For the Annual Plan 2007-08, the NEC had proposed an outlay of Rs.1,803.72 crores but the outlay approved by the Planning Commission was only Rs.600.00 crores, a woefully inadequate amount. The NEC has a large number of spill-over schemes amounting to Rs.1,921.69 crores. As against the proposed outlay of Rs.1200.00 crores for 2008-09, the outlay approved by the Planning Commission is Rs.624.00 crores only. The State Government endorses the NEC's move to seek enhancement of the outlay during 2008-09 to Rs.1000.00 crores. The over all picture indicates that the proposed 11th Plan outlay of Rs.12,487.54 crores, at the present rate of increase, would stand reduced by 31.12%.

5. The Vision 2020 Document has proposed massive investment in the NER in order to grow at a rate of 11.78% GSDP & a per capita income of 10.47%. Unless an adequate enhancement of allocation is made, I am afraid that NEC will not be able to make much impact in the development of the NER, thus making the Vision 2020, a distant dream only.

6. Meghalaya's share out of the approved outlay of Rs.600.00 crores of NEC's Annual Plan 2007-2008 was of the order of Rs.79.14 crores and the highest ever. However, during 2008-09, a total of Rs.21.27 crores only has been released by the NEC as on 31st December, 2008. It is requested that from the shelf of proposals pending with NEC, the prioritised schemes may be cleared at the earliest.

