



GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

BUDGET SPEECH

2014 – 15

OF

**Dr. MUKUL SANGMA
CHIEF MINISTER I/C FINANCE**

WEDNESDAY THE 19TH MARCH, 2014

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 2014-15 along with the Vote-on-Account for the first three months of the year.

National Economy

2. The Hon'ble Union Finance Minister recently presented an interim budget for the year 2014-15. I agree with him when he said that whether it is a interim or regular budget, the goals are similar and the global context is the same.
3. Grappling with a severe economic crisis, the world economy has been witnessing a sliding trend over the past years. However, economies such as United States, Japan, EU countries are slowly picking up. India has so far avoided a banking or financial crisis of the proportions witnessed in the United States and some other economies.
4. Nonetheless, the Indian economy is not fully insulated from the global economic crisis. The consequent slowdown, especially in 2012-13, has been felt across the board, with no sector of the economy remaining unaffected. However, as I said earlier the country did not slip into a deep recession. The fiscal economic indicators say it all. The Current Account Deficit declined from 88 billion USD in 2012-13 to a projected 45 billion USD in 2013-14. The fiscal deficit is being contained at 4.6% during 2013-14. The Wholesale Price Index inflation at the end of January 2014 stood at 5.05% as against 7.3% last year and core inflation decreased to 3% from 4.2% during the corresponding period.

State Economy

5. We are now entering the 3rd year of the 12th Five Year Plan. There has been an upward movement in the growth of GSDP over the years. From 4% during the 8th Plan, the growth rate shot up to 8% during the 11th Plan and the advance estimates of 2013-14 indicate that the growth momentum is being sustained.
6. The Gross State Domestic Product at constant price (2004-05) stood at ₹ 11,957 crore in 2012-13 (Quick Estimates) and ₹ 13,215 crore in 2013-14 (Advance Estimates), indicating

an increase of 10.52%. Over the past years, the contribution of the primary sector has decreased from 23.25% in 2004-05 to 16.7% in 2010-11. The Advance Estimates also suggest a decrease of 0.34% from 2012-13 to 2013-14. The share of Industry has gone up from 26.14% in 2004-05 to 29.45% in 2010-11 and advance estimates show that the share of industry to the GSDP is around 29% in 2013-14. The weightage of services sector has increased from 50.61% to 53.82% during the year 2004-05 to 2010-11. Advance Estimates of 2013-14 indicate a further increase to 55.65%.

State Finances

7. The State still has a limited and relatively inelastic resource base. A sizeable gap exists between the resources needed to finance development and infrastructure, and the resources available. The State is, therefore, dependent on finances transferred from the Central Government. State's Own Revenue is only around 22% of the available resources. The fiscal health of Meghalaya viewed in terms of key parameters such as revenue deficit, fiscal deficit, and primary deficit indicates that the State has been faring well, with all indicators almost within targets fixed by the Thirteenth Finance Commission. The Debt-GSDP ratio was well contained at 26.73% during 2012-13 and the fiscal deficit at 2.1% of GSDP. In 2013-14 the same has been pegged at 26.6% and 2.6% respectively.

Financial Sector

8. In my Budget Speech last year I had informed the House that 305 bank branches were present in the State. This year, I am happy to inform this august House that with the addition of 33 new branches the total number has increased to 338. The CD ration has increased substantially from 36.94% in September 2012 to 44.93% in September 2013. This is still below the national norm. IIM and NEHU were entrusted with the task of conducting a study to highlight the causes and measures to increase the low ratio. IIM has recently submitted a report in the month of February and the Government is examining its recommendations. Banks have been directed to follow the financial inclusion road map as circulated by the Lead Bank. I am also happy to inform that Financial Literacy Centres have been opened in all the eleven Districts and awareness camps are being held periodically with the objective of scaling up financial literacy.

Finance Commission

9. The total allocation of grants under the award of the 13th Finance Commission is ₹3,924 crore. Till date, Government of India has released ₹2,671 crore only leaving a balance of ₹1,253 crore. Being the last year of the award period of the 13th Finance Commission, the respective Departments have taken action to expedite implementation of all schemes so as to enable the Centre to release the balance amount.

10. The Chairman and members of the 14th Finance Commission visited the State in November 2013. During the official meeting with the State Government, the Commission was briefed about the fact the Meghalaya faces severe constraints in accelerating growth and improving the living conditions of the people at a rapid pace, primarily because of its landlocked nature, hilly terrain, lack of access to the markets and poor connectivity. We have emphasized the fact that although we have made sincere efforts to mobilize our own resources, the Government is still heavily dependent on Central transfers, to bridge the existing physical and social infrastructure gaps. I had requested the Commission to consider an award of around ₹ 50,000 crore to cover, inter-alia, the upgradation of infrastructure and State's specific needs, maintenance of roads and completed schemes and normalization of posts.

Skill Development - ADB

11. I am happy to inform this august House that a project agreement of 125 million USD was signed between Government of India and ADB on 23rd January, 2014 in New Delhi to improve the quality, delivery and access to Secondary and Higher Secondary School Education and facilitate result oriented technical and vocational skills training in the State especially for women. ADB's loan will be 100 million US dollars and the State Government contribution will be of 25 million US dollars. Out of the 100 million US dollars 90% would be passed on as grant to the State Government and 10% as loan by Government of India.

Tax and Non Tax proposals

12. The Government has increased the rates for tobacco and tobacco related products to 20%. Further, we have also notified the export fee on forest products in October 2013. These new measures will increase the State's Own Resources. The Government is examining the

proposal for upward revision of rates on sand and stone. We are also exploring the feasibility of increasing the tax slab for liquor and also to bring into the tax net the admissible textile products. Additional revenue generation of around ₹ 18 crore is expected from the recommendations of the 2nd Interim Report of the Task Force on Resource Mobilization.

Plan

13. The 12th Plan outlay for Meghalaya is ₹ 22,000 crore. During the current fiscal year, a Plan size of ₹4,151 crore was agreed for Meghalaya, which included an amount of ₹550 crore of Special Plan Assistance, ₹300 crore of Special Central Assistance, ₹450 crore of E.A.P. component and ₹83 crore of NABARD loan. The anticipated expenditure during 2013-14 is, however, likely to be at the level of ₹3,580.50 crore. This is due to less than anticipated releases in respect of Additional Central Assistance and Externally Aided Component.
14. It has been the endeavour of this Government to structure development initiatives in such a manner that convergence is promoted. Convergence in action has enabled active participation of local communities in making decisions about projects which matter to them. This has yielded good results. Black topping of rural roads programmes involving convergence with NREGS is just one such example amongst many.
15. It is important that Government's approach to development is comprehensive and promotes inclusive growth. This commitment has resulted in significant increase in allocation made over the last 4 years for crucial sectors such as Agriculture and Allied, Roads and social expenditure on Agriculture and allied sectors which was ₹75 crore in 2009-10 has now gone up to ₹178 crore excluding the expenditure made under RKVY. Similarly, the expenditure in respect of road sector has gone up from ₹180 crore to ₹440, for Education from ₹152 crore to ₹222 crore and for Health from ₹92.5 crore to ₹271.5. the Government is committed to ensuring that the benefits of growth reach all sections of society.
16. The implementation of the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme continues to make good progress and interventions under various Missions are currently underway. The State has formulated a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) to

strategize adaptation and mitigation initiatives with a view to enhancing the resilience of ecosystems. The German Development Bank, KfW has signed an agreement with Government of India to finance North East Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NECCAP) to address specific issues related to climate change adaptation in the North Eastern Region. The Centre for Adaptation to Climate Change was inaugurated in July 2013 at the Trout Farm Premises, Cleve Colony, Shillong in the presence of the high delegation of BMZ, KfW and GIZ.

17. The size of the Annual Plan 2014-15 is yet to be finalized with the Planning Commission. The State Government has, therefore, decided to budget a Plan size of ₹4,545 crore which would include ₹130 crore of assistance under the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and ₹125 crore from the North Eastern Council. With the proposed Plan budget of ₹4,545 crore, the increase in Plan size over the preceding year is ₹394 crore, which is an increase of 9.5%.
18. From 2014-15, the Government of India has decided to restructure the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). The funds which were passed directly from the Government of India to the respective societies and agencies implementing the CSS programmes earlier will henceforth be routed through the Treasury and will be a part of the inflow of resources under the State Plan.

Tax and Non Tax Revenue

19. Taxation Department has made substantial contribution to the State exchequer and the revenue collected during 2012-13 was ₹631.12 crore. The anticipated revenue for the year 2013-14 is ₹702 crore. The estimated revenue from Excise is ₹159 crore.
20. The revenue from Mining and Geology sector is expected to be more than ₹430 crore. The revenue from Registration and Stamps during 2013-14 will be around ₹8.30 crore. Revenue collection by Forest and Transport Department is expected at ₹36 crore and ₹38 crore respectively.

Law and Order

21. There are challenges to internal security posed by militant outfits in certain pockets of the State. The Government is fully aware of its responsibility and deal with the challenge with a firm hand.
22. A peaceful and harmonious environment is a pre-requisite for the development of the State. Disruptive and violent tendencies ultimately lead to reversal of achievements made by a society. Violence in any form impedes the society in terms of disruption of normal life, delays in the implementation of developmental programmes, adverse impact on trade and commerce, setback to the growth process, and damage to the whole social fabric.
23. Therefore, it makes eminent sense to spend more on maintenance of law and order so that development can take place. It should be seen as productive investment, because all other investments in developmental activities would be futile and wasted if there is violence and disturbance in the society. Therefore, our Government has taken a conscious view of extending full support to the police forces in terms of manpower, arms and equipment, access to new technology, training and other resources required. Given the challenges posed to the internal security, we need to be self sufficient in terms of manpower and resources, and dependence on the Central Security forces needs to be curtailed. It is with this objective that we have recently decided to raise a full-fledged unit of commando force to be known as “Special Force 10”, with a total strength of 1,795 personnel. The dividend of this should be a sense of security, dignity and self respect for our citizens and a conducive environment for all around development in the long run.

District Councils

24. The District Councils are autonomous bodies constituted with the objectives of framing laws to safeguard the rights and interest of the indigenous people within their respective jurisdiction. The Councils have narrow resources base and largely depend on the State Government for funding their various developmental programmes. The main source of revenue of the District Councils is their share of royalty on minor and major minerals which is shared between the State Government and the Councils in the ration 75:25 in respect of coal and 40:60 in respect of other minerals.

For the year 2014-15 a Plan outlay of ₹5.50 crore is proposed for financing of Own Plan Schemes of the Autonomous District Councils.

Power

25. The power scenario in the State is a major concern of the Government. The demand for power is above 600 Mega Watts (MW), whereas the installed capacity in the State is 314.7 MW only. In order to bridge the gap, the State Government has signed Memoranda of Agreement with NEEPCO for a 90 MW Hydel Project at Mawphu and a 599 MW Thermal Project in Garo Hills. Steps have been initiated for allotment of power projects on JV & IPP mode. Work on the New Umtru Hydro Electric Project of 40 MW is progressing. Work order for implementation of the Ganol HEP of 22.5 MW has been issued in January, 2014.
26. Under the transmission sector, in order to provide connectivity between the State grid and the regional grid at 400 KV level, and to enable the State to draw its share of power allocated from the central generating stations, a 400/22 KV Gas insulated Sub-station at Byrnihat has been commissioned in March, 2013. The Agia Nangalbibra transmission line has been commissioned in August 2013. In order to augment the Transmission & Distribution systems in the State, 220 KV, 132 KV and 33 KV lines and associated sub-stations are being taken up under the World Bank funding.
27. System improvement works are being undertaken in nine towns in different areas of the State under the Scheme Re-structured Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programmes (R-ARDRP). Under this Scheme, besides installation and implementation of The I.T. component, an amount of ₹ 159.73 crore has been sanctioned for system improvement and the Agreement was signed with the Power Finance Corporation on 12th February, 2014.
28. With a view to achieving 100% village and rural household electrification in the entire State, the scheme “Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)” is being implemented in all Districts of Meghalaya at a cost of ₹ 466.92 crore. As on February, 2014, a total of 1,764 number of un-electrified villages were electrified, intensification of 2,726 number of electrified villages has been completed and 98,484 number of BPL households have been provided with power connections under the scheme.

29. The Meghalaya Non-Conventional and Rural Energy Development Agency has implemented several projects to popularize renewable energy technologies. The main programmes of the Agency are to harness the non-conventional sources of energy such as bio-gas, bio-mass, wind energy, solar energy and distribution of energy saving devices. During the current year, 41 SPV power packs are being installed in Government schools and colleges, and 63 power plants in Government offices. Electrification of 106 remote villages is under process. 55 bio-gas plants and 139 SPV power packs are being installed in Government schools and colleges, and 63 power plants in Government offices. Electrification of 106 remote villages is under process. 55 bio-gas plants and 139 SPV street lights are being installed and 50 Solar Water Heating Systems and 20 Solar driers are being distributed.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 104.15 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15 for the Power Sector.

Commerce and Industries

30. During 2013-14, the Commerce and Industries Department has provided financial assistance to the tune of ₹ 3.5 crore to 629 Micro and Small Units. Financial assistance the tune of ₹ 2 crore has been sanctioned to 16 Medium and Large units. Under the National Mission on Food Processing, three units were established during the current year.
31. Two road projects, namely, (i) Improvement and MBT of Balat – Bagli road leading towards the Border Haat, East Khasi Hills District and (ii) Upgradation to double lane standard including improvement, strengthening of Byrnihat-Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) approach road have been sanctioned under the ASIDE Scheme. An additional plot of land measuring about 27,597 Sq meters has been acquired for setting up of Integrated Check Post at Dawki.
32. During 2013-14, Awareness and Entrepreneurship Development Programmes were organized at 45 centers wherein 750 local youths participated. Trainings were conducted for beekeepers under the Apiculture Mission. Other trainings for rural artisans in trades such as cane and bamboo work and woodcraft under Master craftsmen Scheme and for 64e youths in various fields of industrial activity under the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) have been imparted.
- A Plan outlay of ₹ 33 crore is proposed for the year 2014-15.

Mining and Geology

33. Mining and Geology Department is involved in carrying out geological programmes on mineral exploration every year. As far as the production of coal and limestone is concerned, during the current financial year upto December, 2013, production recorded was 37.61 lakh metric tonnes and 35.35 lakh metric respectively. The total revenue collected on major minerals upto December, 2013 was ₹ 289.14 crore.
34. As a measure of additional resource mobilization, the Government has set up 15 checkgates on important routes of the State in order to ensure proper checking and revenue collection on minerals transported. Steps have been initiated to implement the Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012 in the State. An Empowered Committee has been constituted to monitor and periodically review the implementation of this Policy. Meetings of the Empowered Committee were held and all the relevant Departments were advised to put requisite systems in place to bring the mining activities under the regulatory regime. The first awareness programme for stakeholders on the Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012 was held on 18th February, 2014 at Williamnagar and more such awareness programmes will be conducted at different District headquarters during the next financial year.
- A Plan outlay of ₹ 5 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Health and Family Welfare

35. Meghalaya has come a long way in improving the health facilities and health status of the people during the last 42 years of its existence. While the coverage and the outreach to the people have also increased over the years, the State still has many challenges to counter to achieve the desired objectives of 'Health for All'. To meet the same, all the support provided under the National Health Mission (NHM) is being availed of.
36. Implementation of the Maternal Child Health & Family Welfare Programme is being given thrust through a number of interventions under the Reproductive Child Health and Universal Immunization Programme. According to SRS (2012), the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has come down from 59 to 49 in the State.

37. In order to achieve better results in the Maternal & Child Health Programme, an Adolescent Health Programmer, RKSK is being taken up in the State for adolescents. All steps are being taken for maximum coverage under the Universal Immunization Programme to protect children from six killer diseases. Prevention of childhood anemia and night blindness is also being covered.
38. The Department will continue implementing the Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) to cater to the medical needs of all citizens of the State during sickness with valid BPL enrollment and Voter ID as a proof. It provides protection to households from financial liabilities arising out of hospitalization.
39. The State Government will pursue vigorously the setting up of Shillong Medical College on PPP mode at the site of Reid Chest Hospital, Shillong and the Government Medical College at Tura in order to address the shortage of doctors. The Government of India has identified West Garo Hills District, Tura for opening of a Medical College under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of “Establishment of New Medical Colleges” at an estimated cost of ₹ 189 crore on the cost sharing basis of 90:10.
40. Some of the important programmes of the Department are construction of the new building for Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong to ease the congestion in the old building and new Primary Health Centres at Khadarshnong and Mawsiatkhniam in East Khasi Hills District have been made functional. Foundation stone for construction of a new PHC at Lawbah was laid on 18th January, 2014. Emergency Response Services related with medical, fire and police emergency cases etc., are operated in 42 locations of the State. A Plan outlay of ₹ 380.5 crore is proposed for the year 2014-15.

Education

41. The Education Department continues to function with the basic aim of improving human resource in the State and focus on improving access, infrastructure, equity and quality in education. The Right to Education Act is being implemented earnestly through interventions under SSA. The State has been able to achieve 93% access and significantly reduce gender gap in literacy to 3.39% against the national average of 16.68%. To improve the quality of education, 4,385 untrained in-service elementary school teachers have been

enrolled for two year Diploma in Elementary Education course through distance learning under NIOS during 2013-14. Further, learning through innovative ways has been undertaken to improve students' performance in maths, science and english. Free textbooks and uniforms have been distributed to students. Improvement of infrastructure such as setting up of residential schools, rural hostels, model schools in educationally backward blocks, girls hostels has been initiated. Improvement of Government Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools and Government Aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools has been taken up under RMSA and through assistance from ADB respectively. Mid Day Meal Scheme continues to provide cooked meal to every child in Government schools and Government aided primary and upper primary schools. On account of the above mentioned interventions the dropout rate has declined from 17.3% in 2009-10 to 9.01% as per the latest DISE Survey.

42. In the field of higher and technical education, strengthening of infrastructure has been taken up. As part of this, steps for setting up of Polytechnics in the West Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi and South Garo Hills District, Williamson Sangma Technical University in Tura, and Engineering Colleges in Ampati and Jowai have been initiated. A number of scholarship schemes sponsored by the Government of India and Government of Meghalaya are implemented by the Department including Post-Metric Scholarship for SC/ST students and Minorities to reduce the financial burden and encourage students to complete their education.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 413.60 crore under General Education and ₹ 7 crore under Technical Education is proposed during the year 2014-15.

Labour

43. The State Labour Department has made good progress in the implementation of Skill Development Programmes. The Department is expected to meet its target to skill 56,856 individuals during the 12th Five Year Plan period through 4 major schemes viz., Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), Apprenticeship Training Scheme (ATS), Skill Development Initiative S(DI) Scheme and Short Term – Job Oriented Courses. 8,800 persons are expected to be covered in 2013-14. Upgradation of the Mechanic section in Government ITI, Shillong in collaboration with M/S Tata Motors Ltd., under the Corporate Social Responsibility is in progress. One new ITI in Ampati has been proposed to Government of

India. Skill Fests in Tura, Shillong and Jowai were organized during February, 2014 to generate awareness about job-oriented skill development programmes.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 10.5 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Social Welfare

44. The Government attaches great importance to the welfare of women and children. The Government will continue to implement the Social Welfare Schemes such as the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Integrated Child Development Scheme alongwith the Supplementary Nutrition Programme for children, pregnant and lactating motehrs and adolescent girls covering 5,13,751 beneficiaries in 41 ICDS Projects. The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA) and the Indira Gandhi Matritava Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) will also continue.

45. Scholarships, grants for uniforms and books to students and vocational training, conveyance and unemployment allowances to physically challenged are being implemented. During 2013-14, under the Chief Minister's Scheme for assistance to physically challenged, infirm and widows, financial assistance has been provided to 5,535 infirm, 5,494 widows and 7,022 physically challenged. An amount of ₹ 5 crore has been sanctioned towards implementation of the Chief Minister's Social Assistance for wedding of orphan girls of marriageable age.

The proposed Plan outlay for the Social Welfare Sector including nutrition for 2014-15 is ₹ 152.3 crore.

Water Supply and Sanitation

46. Provision of sufficient and safe drinking water to the people of both rural and urban areas of the State and provision of rural and urban sanitation facilities are the primary objectives of the Government in the Public Health Engineering Department.

47. Emphasis is being given on improvement and augmentation of water supply to all urban areas of the State both in respect of coverage, per capita availability as well as reliability and quality. A water supply project intended to cover the New Shillong Township Area benefiting population of about 1,34,000 in Phase I has been formulated for funding under Special Plan Assistance (SPA) during 2013-14.

48. In respect of rural sanitation, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) Programme continues to be implemented to achieve 100% sanitation coverage within the Plan period. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has been given extra impetus by Government of India and renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) with more thrust on awareness campaigns, solid and liquid waste management in the rural areas, apart from covering all households with sanitation facilities, construction of toilets in schools and Anganwadis.

49. The incentive for construction of individual household latrines has now also been extended to Above Poverty Line (APL) families in ST dominated areas or landless labourers or women headed households apart from Below Poverty Line(BPL) families, which will result in majority of the households of the State receiving incentive for construction of latrines.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 309.40 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15.

Rural Development

50. Persistent efforts are being made by the Government to create more rural employment opportunities and promote rural livelihoods. Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship programmes, namely, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Indira Awaas Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Central Schemes such as Backward Region Grant Fund and the different State Schemes will continue to be implemented in the State.

51. The Meghalaya State Rural Employment Society, established exclusively to coordinate the implementation of MGNRES in the State, is also managing the State Corpus Fund amounting to ₹ 36 crore to tide over the problem of cash flows that arise due to delayed releases by the Government of India. The Government will continue to support the State Corpus Fund. The Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Society will continue to oversee the implementation of the NRLM (Ajeevika) and sufficient fund is earmarked for this scheme.

52. The State Rural Infrastructure Development Initiative, aimed at creating village level infrastructure, with active participation of the community, has been started from the current year.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 539.64 crore is proposed during 2014-15 for the sector.

Development of Border Areas

53. The Border Areas Development Department is implementing developmental schemes in the international and inter-State border areas to supplement the efforts of other Departments.
54. During 2013-14, an amount of ₹ 21 crore was allocated under BADP, ₹ 10 crore under SCA for ISBADP, ₹ 1.50 crore State roads, ₹ crore under SPA for construction of roads, ₹ 9.97 crore under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India. Further, the Government is also providing scholarship and stipend to students hailing from the notified border villages. During the current financial year, an amount of ₹ 50 lakh was approved for covering 3,681 students.
- A Plan outlay of ₹ 39.50 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

55. With the aim of providing food security, the Government is continuing with the “Targeted PDS” covering all sections of consumers in the State with emphasis on the targeted groups i.e. BPL and AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) families. Implementation of the ANNAPURNA scheme is continuing, and rice is distributed free of cost to old age persons not covered by the National Old Age Pension Scheme. Rice is also supplied to the inmates of ST/SC hostels and Vocational Training Centres.
56. To create awareness about the rights of the consumers, publicity through advertisements, consumers awareness programmes and observation of World and National Consumers Rights’ Day involving NGOs is undertaken.
57. About 76.79% of the rural population and 50.46% of the urban areas will be brought under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. Identification of beneficiaries is currently underway as per the draft Socio-Economic and Caste Census, 2011. Once the beneficiaries have been identified, ration cards will be issued to all beneficiary families with the women member as head of the family as provided under section 13 of the Act. The allotment of food grains will be done per unit per beneficiary in keeping with the provisions of the Act. Since a major portion of the expenditure in this Sector is under Non Plan, a Plan outlay of

₹ 1.30 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15.

Roads and Bridges

58. Development of road infrastructure and providing village connectivity is one of the main thrusts of the Government. The total road length of the State as on 31st March 2013 is 9,548 kms, of which 6,432 kms are blacktopped and 3,125 kms are graveled providing a road density of 42.57 kms/100 sq.kms. During 2013-14, the Plan outlay for Road Sector is ₹ 425.10 crore, which is targeted to achieve construction of 79 kms of new roads, blacktopping of 302 kms of existing roads and construction of 1,972 running metres of bridges. Out of 43 projects under Special Plan Assistance, 18 have already been completed and the remaining schemes are targeted to be completed by March, 2014. The total amount released till date is ₹ 356.82 crore. For conversion of 91 Semi Permanent Timber bridges into permanent RCC bridges the Ministry of Finance under the 13th Finance Commission award has recommended an amount of ₹ 80 crore. Out of these schemes, 43 have been completed and the remaining schemes are in progress.
59. During 2013-14, upgradation of 105 kms of existing State highways and major district roads at a total cost of ₹ 63.95 crore, conversion of 919.20 running metres of SPT bridges into RCC bridges amounting to ₹ 93.34 crore, improvement of 139 kms of critical feeder roads and missing gaps costing ₹ 72.76 crore and 5 parking bays amounting to ₹ 9 crore have been approved under Special Plan Assistance. The total amount released for all these projects is ₹ 40.50 crore and DPRs for the same are under preparation.
60. There are 32 ongoing schemes under NLCPR covering a total length of 220.269 kms and 45 bridges, amounting to ₹ 273.53 crore.
The proposed Plan outlay for 2014-15 is ₹ 428.90 crore.

Transport

61. Road transport plays an important role in the development of the State. The construction of Inter State Bus Terminus at Mawiong has been initiated with the project cost of ₹48.31 crore. With the aim of improving revenue collection and ensuring regulated movement of goods' vehicles, funds have been sanctioned in the current financial year for construction of Integrated Check Gates at Byrnihat and Umling. Steps have been taken to make the Dudhnoi - Mendipathar Railway line operational.
A Plan outlay of ₹ 7.44 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Urban Development

62. The approach for the Twelfth Five Year Plan is focused on long term strategic urban planning and development of small and medium towns, development of satellite towns and peripheral areas to accommodate future growth and improving the urban infrastructure with emphasis on accessibility of services to the vulnerable sections. It is also proposed to accelerate implementation of North Eastern Region Capital Cities Development Investment Programme (NERCCDIP) in Shillong assisted by ADB. Government has taken up implementation of road network for New Shillong Township Phase-I. This will facilitate move towards decongestion of Shillong City. Beautification of Laitumkhrah Junction is in progress.

The proposed Plan outlay for 2014-15 is ₹ 169 crore.

Housing

63. The Government has initiated a housing scheme called the Meghalaya Affordable Housing Scheme for the economically weaker families. The Department continues to implement the Rental Housing Scheme, under which L.I.G (Low Income Group) and M.I.G (Medium Income Group) rental houses are being constructed in the district headquarters for providing accommodation to Government employees.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 43.20 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15 for this sector.

Agriculture and Horticulture

64. Meeting food security requirement of the State continues to be the main focus of the Department with thrust on water harvesting structures, agriculture mechanization and crop production technology to raise production of foodgrains. A programme of seed exchange among farmers has been initiated in order to maintain and preserve diversity of crop varieties, enhance local food security and mitigate impact of climate change. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, which aim at reduction of indiscriminate application of plant protection chemicals and promotion of eco-friendly bio-pesticides and organic applications, will continue.
65. The Department will continue to assist the farmers in post-harvest management, particularly in evacuation of their perishable crops to the market and in adding value to their produce through procession. Capacity building for farmers is being expanded to

provide customized practical hands-on training programmes, bridging the gap between theory and practice through innovative practical programmes. Efforts are being made to increase the existing farm power to overcome the shortage of farm labour especially during critical phases of crop operations.

66. A Plan outlay of ₹ 128.45 crore is proposed under Agriculture and ₹103 crore under Horticulture during the year 2014-15.

Water Resources

67. As on March 2013, the irrigation potential created in the State is 61,911 hectares, which is about 28% of the identified irrigation potential of 2.18 lakh hectares. Efforts are being made to increase the irrigation coverage through Minor Irrigation projects, Jalkunds and water harvesting structures in order to have a positive impact on crop production and productivity, which will result in improving the livelihood of the people. Irrigation projects are being proposed for funding under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). The anticipated achievement in irrigation coverage during 2013-14 is 5,775 hectares. Implementation of multipurpose reservoir has also been initiated in order to maximize water use efficiency and to cater to different water needs of the communities.
68. To promote participatory approach in the management of irrigation projects, Water Users' Associations in 254 Minor Irrigation projects have been formed and registered. A Plan outlay of ₹ 221.20 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15.

Soil and Water Conservation

69. The Department is focusing on activities for conservation of natural resources in order to achieve sustainable development through the participation of all concerned stake holders. The main programme being implemented for achieving this objective is the Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Watershed Development Programme" under which 84 ongoing projects will continue to be implemented.
70. Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, 42 projects under implementation seek to encourage multi-cropping activities and scientific conservation of water resources. Fourteen ongoing projects under the RIDG programme are focused on coordinated land development in river valleys. Under the Cherrapunjee Ecological Project, 700 hectares of

degraded land is being reclaimed through partnership with local communities under the aegis of the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme.

A Plan outlay of ₹263 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary

71. The main focus of the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department is to increase the productivity of livestock and poultry through improved breeding, management, health care and training facilities. Various schemes are being implemented to generate employment to the farmers and educated unemployed youth. This includes initiatives under the Livestock Mission of the IBDLP as well as piggery and dairy units under Special Central Assistance. A plan outlay of ₹ 40.50 crore is proposed under Animal Husbandry & Veterinary sector and ₹ 6 crore is proposed under Dairy sector during 2014-15.

Sericulture and Weaving

72. The Department of Sericulture and Weaving focuses on conservation and promotion of the traditional silk worm rearing and fabric weaving of Eri and Muga silk. The North Eastern Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), a central scheme of Government of India, is being implemented for the growth of sericulture and handloom industry in the State. Promotion and publicity of ethnic handloom fabrics is being done through participation and organization of events within and outside the State. The Department is expanding capacity building activities particularly upgrading the skills of weavers throughout the State. A Plan outlay of ₹ 10 crore is proposed for Sericulture and Weaving sector during 2014-15.

Fisheries

73. The Department of Fisheries, through the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission, has created 952 hectare water area by creating individual fish ponds with 9,520 partners. To ensure production of quality fishseed, 15 Eco-Hatcheries have been established and 14 more entrepreneurs have set up Fabricated Reinforced Portable (FRP) hatcheries. Three feed mills are in the process of being established.
74. The Meghalaya State Fishery Research & Training Institute at Mawpun, Ri-Bhoi District has commenced training and capacity building programmes for the fish farmers in the

State. The Department has organized several training programmes in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) and reputed Institutes in other State such as the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA), the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), and the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) with a total investment of ₹ 1.58 crore during the current fiscal year. through these initiatives, 69 Departmental officials and Fish Farmers' Development Agency's (FFDA) technical personnel have been imparted training along with 1,475 fish farmers.

75. Training infrastructure have also been upgraded with the establishment of training halls, one each at Tura, Nongpoh and Jowai. Fifty seven Fish sanctuaries to conserve and protect the indigenous and endemic species are at various stages of construction. Through all these efforts, the fish production in the State is anticipated at 6, 960 metric tonnes during 2013-14.

A Plan outlay ₹ 23 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Forest and Environment

76. Forests play a very important role in protecting the environment of our State. Government forests are managed through Working Plans. For community owned and privately owned forests, which constitute the major portion of the forest cover in the State, the Department with the assistance of NESAC, has prepared Working Schemes to bring them under modern scientific management.
77. To enlist active participation and involvement of local people for protection of forests and wildlife and implementation of afforestation aided regeneration schemes and forest based resource development programmes, a decentralized institutional structure comprising 15 Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) and 307 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) have been constituted in the State. During 2013-14, plantations were raised over an area of 2,980 hectares under the National Afforestation Programme.
78. During 2013-14, twenty eight Community Reserves were notified over an area of 2,029 hectares. These Reserves are being extended financial assistance from both, the State as well as the Centre. The State Bio-diversity Board is taking steps towards conservation of bio-diversity and leveraging it for the benefit of the local communities. During 2013-14, the State Medicinal Plants Board extended assistance to farmers for raising plantations over 115 hectares.

79. A Plan outlay of ₹ 80 crore is proposed during 2014-15 for Forests and Wildlife sector.

Co-operation

80. The Cooperation Department acts as a regulatory and supervising agency for the growth and development of the Cooperative Societies in the State. There are altogether 1,402 cooperative societies in the State with a membership of about 1.72 lakh individuals which are undertaking different business activities such as credit, marketing, dairy, handloom and handicraft. Linkages of bank loans with share capital assistance provided by Government is continuing for increasing the investment in the cooperative business and the Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative Societies are being strengthened for adequate flow of credit to the farmers in the State.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 14 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Tourism

81. The rich culture, tradition and natural landscape of the State make Meghalaya an appealing destination for tourists to visit. Hence the Government is making concerted efforts to create tourism infrastructure to enhance the attractiveness of the State as a tourist destination. These efforts also include providing assistance to entrepreneurs in creating homestays through the Meghalaya Tourism Development and Investment Promotion Scheme. The Government is also promoting tourism products such as rural or village tourism to provide tourists with authentic experience of the culture and traditions of the State. During the Current financial year, publicity campaigns were undertaken in leading TV channels such as TLC and Discovery to promote adventure tourism and festivals of the State. Government continues to market the tourist destinations through advertisements in print and electronic media. In order to bring overall development of tourism in the North East including Meghalaya, NEC has prepared a Master Plan for inter-State tourism circuits. Two such circuits have been identified for development.

82. Tourism is an activity which provides employment opportunities to the youth especially in the hospitality trades. In order to provide the youth with requisite skills to enhance their employability in hotels and restaurants, the Government is providing training and skill development free of cost with the help of training partners such as the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) Shillong, the Food Craft Institute (FCI) Tura, the ILFS Education,

B-ABLE etc. This year we are training 1,865 local youth under the Tourism Mission.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 24 crore is proposed for the year 2014-15.

83. **Arts and Culture**

The Department of Arts and Culture plays a major role in depicting, protecting, preserving, popularizing and promoting the district, unique, rich and diverse cultural heritage of the State and its people. This is being done through promotion of district arts and culture societies, financial assistance to voluntary organizations, research activities, compilation of district gazetteers, development of museums, collection of archival documents and audio archives and promotion of performing, fine and visual arts.

Information and Public Relations

84. Functioning as the press and publicity wing of the Government, the Department of Information and Public Relations continues in its endeavor to disseminate Government information at all levels. Through schemes such as Special Interactive Programme (SIP), distribution of Government advertisements to newspapers and publication of the departmental magazine “Meghalaya Chronicle”, the Department plays a pivotal role in promoting mass awareness about Government schemes and policies leading to a greater understanding of governance, accountability and transparency. Further, the Department continues to project and promote a positive image of the State through participation in the annual India International Trade Fair (IITF) held at New Delhi, and the Republic Day Celebration and other fairs, which are held from time to time. The Department continues to provide financial assistance to local working journalist of the State, in time of need. The Department also provides opportunities to youth in the entertainment sector and promotes the State as a film shooting destination.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 9.50 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Sports and Youth Affairs

85. The priority areas of the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs include infrastructure development, promoting sporting talents, conduct of different sports tournaments, coaching camps and various youth development programmes. Initiatives with a focus on youth include ‘The Chief Minister’s Career Guidance and Counselling’ scheme and youth exchange programmes. The Department is promoting sports in the rural areas under the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) of the Government of India.

86. Sporting infrastructure of national and international standards such as synthetic running tracks, artificial football turfs, futsal courts and football stadia are being developed. The Department felicitates sports persons of the State excelling in various sports disciplines through awards and cash incentives.
- A Plan outlay ₹ 40.85 crore is proposed during 2014-15.

Information Technology

87. Accelerated growth of Information Technology is imperative to bring about transparent, responsive and accountable governance. The e-Governance infrastructure programme under NEGP would continue to receive the attention of the Department and in addition the e-District project and Cloud Enablement Infrastructure at Meghalaya State Data Center have been initiated. The IT Department is currently in the process of engaging a consultant for design and development of the Technology Park at New Shillong Township.
88. The Department continues to implement Capacity Building Programme in the field of information technology by imparting IT skills up-gradation and specialized training for e-Governance Programme (STeP) to the Government employees. The thrust areas for the IT Department are improving IT education to enhance job skills and create a talent pool of employment in the State, monitoring of e-Governance projects, augmentation of GIS Lab, establishment of Technology Park at New Shillong Township, technological and financial support to ICT promotional activities, extension of SWAN Horizontal connectivity to the Government Departments, awarding meritorious students, policy framework to improve and generate the required quality of manpower and encourage research & development in ICT to meet the emerging demands.
- A Plan outlay of ₹ 25.50 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15.

Law

89. The State of Meghalaya now has its own High Court and separation of judiciary from executive has taken place in four Districts of East Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills, Ri-Bhoi and West Garo Hills. The Central Government and the State have provided funds for infrastructure such as court buildings and residential quarters for Judges of Subordinate Judiciary. An amount of ₹ 20 crore has also been approved under the Special Plan Assistance by the Government of India for construction of residences for the Chief Justice and other Judges and a Judicial Guest House.

Prisons

90. The Prisons Department is laying greater emphasis on conducting programmes aimed at reformation of prisoners including generating awareness about their legal rights, drug addiction, HIV, AIDS and Alcoholism. Efforts to strengthen security in jails are being made through implementation of the recommendations of the Jail Security Audit Committee and procurement of security equipment.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 4.50 crore is proposed during the year 2014-15.

Civil Defence and Home Guards

91. The Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel have been actively engaged in imparting training to Civil Defence and Home Guards Volunteers including training on disaster management. During the current financial year, the Department has imparted training to 3,346 volunteers including students, officials and members of the NGOs. Considering the vulnerability of the State to high intensity earthquakes and natural calamities such as floods, landslides and storms, the Department has submitted a proposal to the 14th Finance Commission for raising of the State Disaster Response Force. A total of 90 Home Guards personnel were trained for preparation of the Mega-Mock exercise recently conducted.

92. During 2013-14, fifteen personnel have undergone training outside the State at the National Civil Defence College (NCDE), Nagpur and the Civil Defence Academy (CDA), Bangalore. Civil Defence and Home Guards personnel continue to render help in times of natural calamities as well as in discharging internal security duties. As many as 1,521 Home Guards volunteers have been discharging security duties with various organizations including Government Departments.

The proposed Plan outlay for 2014-15 is ₹ 5.35 crore.

General Administration

93. The construction of Meghalaya House at Anandilal Poddar Sarani, Kolkata has been completed and the building was taken over by the Government on 5th August, 2013. Furnishing works of the House are now being taken up with the Government of Karnataka for acquiring land for construction of Meghalaya House at Bangalore in order to ease the problem of the people of the State and the students while visiting Bangalore. Construction

of the Governor's Guest House at Tura is nearly complete except minor works under progress. The Department has also taken up the construction of the Integrated office complex in the newly created Districts. Extension of the Circuit Houses at Tura and Baghmara are currently underway.

Personnel

94. As the nodal training institute of the Government, the vision of the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI) is to train and build the capacities of public servants so that they are responsive to the needs of the citizens with an emphasis on ethics and commitment to work. Trainings at nationally recognized training institutes such as YASHADA Pune, and the Initiative of Change-Asia Plateau at Panchgani, have been conducted to expose participants to ethical leadership and various aspects of development administration. During 2013-14, three batches of officers from the State Civil Services and various other Departments were sent for such trainings.
95. The institute is in the process of developing a five year strategic plan for training of all public servants with support from Government of India and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop competencies for good governance and citizen administration.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 7 crore is proposed for 2014-15.

Revenue and Disaster Management

96. The Directorate of Land Records & Surveys carries out survey and preparation of maps of Government lands and village lands including survey and demarcation of Inter-State and Indo-Bangladesh boundary and updating of records. To highlight the benefits of having cadastral maps and land records to the Sirdars, Headmen, Nokmas and elders of the villages, awareness campaigns have been organized.
97. The State and District Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) have been made functional. The National School Safety Programme, a pilot project of NDMA, is being implemented in the Districts of East Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi. Capacity building activities on disaster management under the 13th Finance Commission award are being implemented. A Mega Mock Exercise, simulating the Shillong Earthquake of 1897 was recently conducted to improve the preparedness against earthquake.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 60 lakh is proposed during 2014-15.

Budget Estimates 2014-15

98. Sir, for 2014-15, I have estimated the total receipts at ₹ 11,820 crore. The revenue receipts are estimated at ₹ 11,128 crore and capital receipts at ₹ 692 crore. Excluding borrowings and other liabilities, the total receipts are estimated to be ₹ 11,156 crore.
99. Plan grants from the Centre are expected to be ₹ 6,527 crore. I have estimated the State's Own Revenue at ₹ 1,886 crore.
100. On the expenditure side, I have estimated the total expenditure at ₹ 11,893 crore, during 2014-15, of which revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹ 9,903 crore and capital expenditure at ₹ 1,990 crore. Excluding repayment of loans and other liabilities, the estimated total expenditure is ₹ 11,683 crore.
101. I have estimated the Plan expenditure including the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Sectors Schemes, NEC and NLCPR for 2014-15 at ₹ 7,434 crore. The total non-plan expenditure has been estimated at ₹ 4,249 crore. Interest payment during 2014-15 is estimated at ₹ 403 crore and pension payment at ₹ 400 crore.
102. I am presenting the 2014-15 budget with a fiscal deficit of ₹ 527 crore, which is around 2.2% of GSDP, and well within the parameters laid down by the State's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act.
103. Mr. Speaker Sir, with these words, I commend the Budget to this august House, and seek approval for the Vote on Account for the expenditure during the first three months of the financial year 2014-15.

Khublei

Mithela

Thank you.