



MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ADDRESS

BY

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GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA

MARCH 14, 2013

Mr Speaker and the Members of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly,

1. I extend my warm greetings and sincere felicitations to each and every one of you. This is the first session of the House after the citizens of the State have selected you to be their elected representatives to the Ninth House of the Legislative Assembly. The people have reposed their confidence and trust upon you, with the expectation that you will voice their concerns and meet their aspirations. This is indeed a great responsibility which has been thrust upon you, and with hard work, sincerity and a sense of responsibility, I am confident that you will be able to lead the State forward in its march towards peace and stability, development and progress.
2. The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly is reputed for its sense of decorum, and for the manner in which its proceedings are conducted and I urge upon all of you to carry this tradition forward in the days to come.

Home & Political

3. The law & order situation in Meghalaya over the last one year has been stable and well under control. Festivals were celebrated with traditional gaiety and in a peaceful manner. General elections to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly were conducted peacefully despite the poll boycott by the HNLC and in spite of intermittent attempts at disruption prior to the poll in the Garo Hills region. The high voter turn-out shows the commitment of our people to democratic principles, and

this is indeed a matter of pride for all of us. However, the activities of the GNLA is a matter of serious concern. The Government stands resolutely to take all necessary steps to counter anti-national and criminal activities effectively.

4. The State Police has performed creditably in its anti-insurgency drive. During the 12 months ending October 2012, a total of 106 militants have been arrested. Besides, 9 militants have surrendered and large quantities of arms and ammunition have been seized.
5. Government has been making concerted efforts to check infiltration. Over the last eleven months, 5,012 illegal migrants were detected out of which 193 were prosecuted and 4,919 were sent back directly. The Government has set up the Anti-Infiltration Directorate under an Additional DGP and 114 (one hundred and fourteen) posts have been sanctioned to provide a more focused and coordinated approach in anti- infiltration efforts.
6. While crime has been under control in the State, yet the incidence of crimes against women, especially rape, has been showing an upward trend and this is a matter of serious concern. To deal with the situation, new strategies and interventions have been devised.
7. The launch of the Safe and Secure Shillong City Project is a significant initiative. This envisages installation of centrally monitored CCTV cameras at strategic locations and encouraging business establishments with heavy public access to procure and install CCTV cameras within their premises.

As part of the project, patrol vehicles have been placed at strategic locations of Shillong city. The Department has also set up Citizens' Committees at Police Station, Sub-Division and District Headquarter levels for meaningful interaction with the citizenry on various issues.

8. The Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) Project of the Government of India in collaboration with State Governments will be implemented in right earnest to connect all the police stations and senior police officers to a nationwide electronic network to track the activities and movements of criminals, besides giving the general public the much awaited service of filing FIRs online. It is hoped that with the CCTNS Project, professionalism in the Police will increase manifold.
9. Government will continue the Transparent Recruitment Policy (TRP) based on which the Meghalaya Police has started recruitment to a large number of posts of UB/AB Constables amongst others. The policy has ensured objectivity and put a fair and transparent recruitment system in place.
10. Government is keen to raise 2(two) more India Reserve Battalions in the State and has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs. A proposal for an upward revision in staff strength in certain police stations is also being pursued with the Ministry.

Planning

11. Under the 12th Five Year Plan starting from 1st April 2012, the State has projected a Plan size of ₹ 27,027 crores to the Planning Commission. The agreed Annual Plan size for 2012-13 is ₹ 3,939.00 crores, which is an increase of 44%

over the preceding year. The annual Plan size for 2013-14 is yet to be finalised. Ongoing programmes including the State Flagship Programme, the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Programme (IBDLP) continue to underpin the State's approach to faster, inclusive and more sustainable growth. We are grateful to the Government of India for its continuing support to our endeavours.

Finance

12. While financial stability continues to be an overriding priority, the State has launched a number of initiatives to improve financial reporting, and an Integrated Financial Management System has been put in place to make this possible. Plan and non-plan expenditure is now monitored and analysed on real time basis. The database of employees and pensioners is nearing completion, which will make salaries and pension easier to track and monitor. The Scheme for Economic Empowerment of Women through Financial Inclusion will continue in the remaining years of the 12th Five Year Plan to cover around 4 lakh families. The emphasis will be on facilitating integration of small and viable enterprises into larger value chains with forward and backward linkages, thus creating employment opportunities for woman headed households especially in rural areas.

Excise, Registration, Taxation & Stamps

13. Computerisation of the State's Value Added Tax, Excise and Registration regime through the introduction of e-Services, has led to greater transparency and efficiency. Services such as e-CST, e-Refund, e-Audit, Enforcement Module, VAT MIS,

and Check Post Module will be taken up soon. Government is actively pursuing authorisation of more banks for e-payment, paving the way for greater convenience for tax payers.

Agriculture

14. Government has made a conscious attempt at investing more resources in agriculture and allied sectors. This has paid dividends in the form of a significant increase in Government of India's allocation for the State under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). In turn, this has had a multiplier effect on the rural economy.
15. Our food security hinges on production of rice. The Meghalaya State Rice Mission has accordingly been taken up with the technical expertise of the International Rice Research Institute, Manila. The Mission has a two-pronged strategy of increasing rice yields during the rainy season (Kharif) through the development and promotion of improved technologies, and area expansion of 'Boro' paddy grown during the dry season (Rabi) through increased irrigation. It shall be the endeavour of Government to make available more power tillers on liberal terms to overcome the shortage of farm labour. Extension activities through the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Farmer's Training Institutes will be targeted based on location-specific crop ecosystems and in depth diagnosis of farmers' needs.

Horticulture

16. The Horticulture Hubs, which are playing a pivotal role in improving commercial prospects and productivity of horticulture, will be further strengthened with introduction of

new crops. An Integrated Farmer's Market Complex is being set up at Ampati in South West Garo Hills to help strengthen the agricultural marketing system. This Market will inter alia provide market infrastructure, storage facilities, a farmers' information centre, post harvest and other support services. For the first time, organic certification has been accorded to about 100 hectares of Tea plantations, which will help tap the market for organic produce, enabling farmers to obtain remunerative returns. Planting Material Production Centres are being established to cater to the critical need of farmers for quality planting stock. Government will set up a Practical Innovative Training Centre which will have a vocational and professional approach based on 'Learning by Doing'.

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary

17. Animal Husbandry & Dairying are key off-farm activities for supplementing income from agriculture. The State Livestock Mission under the IBDLP has taken up promotion of value chain development of piggery, goater, poultry and dairying sectors. This will facilitate increased meat production, better technical services and new opportunities for entrepreneurship. During 2013-14, Government proposes to avail Central assistance under the National Mission for Protein Supplements and take up modern abattoirs at Tura and Jowai along with slaughter houses of smaller capacities elsewhere. Extension services will be augmented to meet emerging requirements.

Fisheries

18. The Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission continues to make good progress. 6,000 fish ponds of 0.1 hectare size are currently under construction and production from these ponds is likely

to commence by June, 2014. During 2013-14, 8000 more ponds are proposed to be taken up. Steps have also been taken to develop the essential infrastructure for production of fish seed, augmentation of fish seed production, and establishment of feed mills. To conserve indigenous and endemic species, fish sanctuaries are being established in all districts.

19. A particular focus during 2013-14 will be building capacities of functionaries and stakeholders such as potential fish farmers and fish entrepreneurs through institutions such as CIFA Bhubaneswar, CIFRI Barrackpore and ASCI Hyderabad. The State's Fisheries Training Institute has been upgraded and provided new infrastructure.

Soil & Water Conservation

20. The Soil and Water Conservation Department has been implementing projects with the aim of checking soil erosion and surface run-off; harvesting/recycling of rain water, enhancing soil moisture, promoting sub-surface flow for improving overall soil health and soil stability. These measures will improve production and productivity and also promote employment opportunities to the people within the watershed areas. A notable project is the Cherrapunji Ecological Project covering 45 villages through Sustainable Natural Resource Management for restoration of degraded lands working with traditional institutions and creating avenues for livelihoods. During 2013-14, the Department proposes to significantly expand its activities by availing higher quantum of resources under different schemes of the Government of India and NABARD.

Cooperation

21. There are over 1,000 Cooperative Societies in the State with a membership of about one lakh individuals. The Societies are undertaking various businesses such as credit, food processing, handloom, handicraft, industrial, diary, livestock, marketing of agricultural produce etc. The Department has brought in new norms for providing share capital assistance and managerial subsidy and has linked all Government assistance to loans with Meghalaya Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd thus increasing the investments in the sector. In 2013-2014, the Department will lay greater emphasis on increasing the reach of the Cooperative movement and bringing more people into the cooperative fold. Efforts are being made to strengthen the Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperatives (PACS) of the State. 45 PACS are being supported to build enterprises and to revive the rural credit delivery mechanisms. As part of this initiative we propose to take up work on Integrated Village Co-operatives.

Community & Rural Development

22. The implementation of MGNREGA has continued to make a positive impact on the rural economy and provided an effective safety net. The East Garo Hills district has been conferred the National Award for 'High Level of Employment Generation in Challenging Circumstances' in 2013 for the implementation of MGNREGS. The State Rural Employment Society (SRES) has been set up and the State Employment Guarantee Fund (SEGF) has been created for better administration of the programme and smooth flow of funds to the districts.

Government has also notified the Rules for granting Unemployment Allowance. While continuing the vigorous implementation of the scheme, it is proposed to set up a Society for Social Audit at the State level during 2013-14.

23. Government will continue to implement the Indira Awas Yojana, the BRGF and various Social Security Schemes for assisting BPL families.
24. The Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Society (MSRLS) has been set up and will take up NRLM activities on a pilot basis in 4 Community & Rural Development Blocks, during 2013-14. The MSRLS has also commenced steps for implementing a Cocoa-Coconut-Spice project.
25. As an exclusive state government initiative, a scheme for the black topping of the Rural Roads has been taken up last year. This has been a remarkable success. More villages and habitations are now getting connected by all weather roads. The scheme will continue in the current year as well.
26. The establishment of Multi Facility Centers across the State is a new initiative. These MFCs can be used for manifold purposes – as training and meeting venue, for financial inclusion through ATMs, for awareness campaigns and for service delivery at the doorstep. Government proposes to take up many more MFCs in 2013-14.

Border Areas Development

27. There has been a huge demand from people in the border areas for meeting their infrastructure deficit and improving their quality of lives. In tune with this the scale and reach of the

activities of the Border Areas Department have been stepped up significantly compared to earlier years. In addition to ongoing schemes of scholarships and stipends, major focus is now on infrastructure. This includes roads, bridges, MFCs, community facilities and markets in areas bordering Bangladesh. In the coming months, the Border Areas Department shall be completing construction of 12 RCC footbridges and 20 Suspension Bridges in villages near the Indo- Bangladesh border. A new programme called the Special Inter State Areas Development Programme has been taken up from 2012-13. This is expected to further address the development needs of people residing along the Inter State boundary.

Power

28. Availability of power is essential for the development and progress of the State. With the commissioning of all 3 units of the Myntdu Leshka Hydro Electric Project, the State's generation capacity has been augmented. Work is also currently underway on the New Umtru Hydro Electric Project. The project is expected to be completed by March, 2014. With the completion of the Substation at Byrnihat, the State will now be able to draw its share of power from the Palatana Gas Station in Tripura. Under the Transmission segment, the 132 KV transmission line from Nangalbibra to Agia (Assam) is expected to be completed soon which will substantially improve the power situation in Garo Hills. The Meghalaya Energy Corporation Ltd has also taken up schemes to improve and augment the distribution network. The State has successfully

implemented the Reforms programme in the distribution sector under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), and is now taking up the second phase of reforms under the Restructured APDRP.

29. Preparation of feasibility studies and DPRs of small hydro projects in the State will be given more emphasis. These will help establish viability of such projects and once these are implemented they will produce additional power for the State which in turn will help provide cheaper power.
30. Under the Renewable Energy programme, the main thrust of the 12th Five Year Plan is to intensify the programmes and restructure the scheme on the basis of end users' application of technologies, with focus on Off-Grid and Thermal Application. Improvement in the availability of commercial sources and improved use of renewable sources in rural areas will be an area of emphasis. For sustainability of renewable energy development, capacity building for simple maintenance and repair is proposed to be developed at local level. We aim to create at least one such service centre in each C & RD Block Headquarters to cater to the users of the respective area.

Mining & Geology

31. Coal mining is an important economic activity in parts of the State. From time to time concerns have been expressed regarding safety and environmental impacts of such coal mining. Yet it is also a fact that many families depend on coal mining as their only source of income. Government has announced a Meghalaya Mines and Mineral Policy 2012. The

policy seeks to create a fine balance between the need for more scientific mining operations which are safer and sustainable, environmental aspects and safeguarding local livelihoods. It is with this intention that threshold levels have been set out in the policy. Thus the regulatory requirements and clearances become necessary beyond a specified size of mining operations as specified in the policy. As part of its effort to educate local mine owners and allay their concerns, Government shall organize more training-cum-awareness programme in different areas.

Commerce & Industries

32. The Industries sector encompasses the entire gamut of activities ranging from rural artisans to large industry. To accelerate the industrial growth in the State, the State Government has announced the Meghalaya Industrial Investment Promotion Policy (MIIPP) 2012, which along with the NEIIPP of the Government of India, provides a framework of support to potential entrepreneurs in the Small, Medium and Large Sector. This policy framework would be used to engage with potential entrepreneurs in 2013-14. Existing schemes of PMEGP and Master Craftsman shall be continued.
33. The promotion of trade and commerce continues to receive priority attention. The successful Border Haats at Kalaichar and Balat have led to many requests from other areas of the State for opening of new Haats. Government will pursue this matter with the concerned Ministries of Government of India for expeditious sanction of more Haats. Government will also continue to invest in infrastructure improvement at Land Custom Stations.

Sericulture & Weaving

34. Sericulture and weaving play a major role in supplementing incomes of rural households. Women in large numbers weave at home and in villages, as the torch bearers of a rich cultural tradition. The State Government has begun providing work sheds in villages. A State Sericulture Mission will be implemented from 2013-14, aimed at increasing the scope for self employment and entrepreneurial development of the rural people through expanding area under silk worm food plants, improving reeling and spinning equipment and supply of quality yarn to the weavers. Weavers will be imparted training on improved looms provided with modern accessories. Government will facilitate product diversification and market access. The Sericulture Training Institute and Handloom Training Institute will be revamped and upgraded. Welfare schemes for weavers - Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunker Bima Yojana - will be continued.

P.W.D.

35. Roads are the lifelines of our State. Good roads promote economic activity. Bad roads add to costs, cause delays and lead to frustration. It is natural that roads must be given very high priority by Government. In recent years a large number of projects have been taken up for improving road connectivity in the State. The beneficial impacts of the completed projects are already visible. The Intermediary Jowai Bye-Pass has been completed and has relieved traffic congestion to some extent as all coal laden trucks are diverted along this road. A 100-meter span RCC Bridge over river Umkhen on the Nongpoh-Nartiang

road is now complete. The Shillong Bye-Pass is targeted to be completed within this month. The 4-laning of NH 40 (from Jorabat to Barapani for a length of 61.80 Kms) is making good progress and targeted to be completed by early part of 2014. Similarly, the work on the Shillong-Nongstoin- Tura work has been progressing satisfactorily. Sanctions have been issued in respect of 2(two) bridges on Rongrengre-Simsanggre-Nengkhra road and for a major bridge on Mawlai Umthlong-Nongpathaw road. Work on both is likely to begin shortly. During 2013-14, Government also intends to commence work on the Garobadha – Dalu road under the NESRIP project.

36. The notification of National Highway 127 B from Phulbari to Nongstoin has been a major initiative. Government is actively pursuing the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for initiation of upgradation work on this road at an early date.
37. Government have stepped up the pace of implementation of the PMGSY. 86 D.P.Rs have been prepared to connect 109 habitations and are awaiting sanction from the Ministry of Rural Development and D.P.Rs of the remaining habitations will be submitted within March, 2013. Further, it is targeted to construct about 1625 Kms of road length in the next three years benefiting about 515 habitations at an approximate cost of about ₹ 1350 crores. During the current year, proposal for 88 DPRs covering a length of 326 Kms amounting to ₹ 287.59 crores have been submitted to Government of India. 171 projects have been sanctioned for upgradation of State Highways, Major District Roads, strategic roads and urban roads. Work on these will be taken up in right earnest in the coming months.

Transport

38. The State of Meghalaya will be on the country's rail map from 2013-14 with the commissioning of the Dudhnoi – Mendipathar line. This will be a landmark event in the history of the State. Government will continue to pursue the approved lines of Tetlia – Byrnihat and Byrnihat – Shillong and the proposal for Panchratna – Badarpur.
39. In respect of air connectivity, the expansion of the Umroi Airport will be expedited. A new helipad is also proposed to be located at New Shillong.
40. In the area of road transport, an Inter State Bus Terminus at Shillong and a Inter State Truck Terminus in Ri Bhoi district will be taken up. Government also proposes to set up Integrated Check Gates at Byrnihat and Umling to regulate the movement of goods carriage vehicles and curb tax leakage. As part of the efforts to improve citizen centric services, a Payment Gateway has been introduced and Dealer Point Registration through a web based application has been commissioned in Shillong and this has to a large extent, simplified matters for the vehicle buyers. Government is also taking steps to convert the Driving License and Registration Certificate into a Smart Card. Government proposes to set up a Motor Driving Institute in East Khasi Hills District under Central Scheme and land for this project is being located.

Information Technology

41. With a rapidly improving core IT infrastructure, a conducive environment now exists for further roll out of e-Governance services. These have lower transaction costs and can be scaled

up as demand for services increases. The Government has accordingly taken up Mission Mode e-District projects for all districts and the e-Health project. The Meghalaya Integrated Information (MIIS) system project implemented by the State has been adjudged as 1st Winner in the 'Innovative use of ICT for Public Use Category' during the North East e-Awards November, 2012.

42. Government proposes to take up Phase II of the IT Park at Lumjengshai to further enhance the space available for incubation activities and for attracting local IT entrepreneurs. Government is also continuing the Capacity Building training with leading industry providers for providing IT skill up-gradation and empowerment to unemployed youth. Government is also continuing the Capacity Building training with NIIT and Symantec for providing IT skill up-gradation and empowerment to unemployed youths. In partnership with Symantec, Singapore the first phase of training 2000 youths has been completed and 1500 more are being trained during the current year. Job Fairs have been held and placement successfully made. With NIIT 1100 youths have been trained and another 1300 are undergoing training during the current year. In the first phase about 341 students have got placement inside and outside the State. In addition, 100 students will also be trained on Specialised Animation and Web Development Technologies in partnership with Arena Multimedia.
43. Under the Digital Learning Scheme, the Department will shortly be providing tablets to students of all Higher Secondary Schools in the State, with full course syllabus content of

MBOSE as well as CBSE for science, commerce and humanities streams. In addition, the tablets will have contents of competitive examinations like IIT-JEE as well as Medical entrance to help students prepare and gear up for these tests. The teachers will also be provided with teaching aid material in the form of Tablet PC's to be linked with overhead projectors for modern and attractive teaching methods to ensure better students interaction and participation. The scheme to reward toppers with laptops will continue and the plan to provide schools with computers with the assistance of the NEC will receive further thrust of the Government.

Forests & Environment

44. Government is mandated with the protection, conservation and improvement of forests & wildlife resources. In the case of Meghalaya, this requires close co-ordination with the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs). It will therefore continue to work with District Councils to prepare working schemes for more private & community owned forests. The preparation of working plans, using satellite imageries and land use resource maps, besides ground verification and enumeration of growing stock is progressing well.
45. The ambiguity in identifying Forest areas for deciding on the applicability of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has affected many land based developmental programmes in the state. Further, the forest areas need to be identified, irrespective of ownership, in order to implement the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Hence, the state government, with due

consent of the Autonomous District Councils, has adopted a clear definition of 'forest' for the state through an amendment of the Meghalaya Forest Regulation (Application & Amendment) Act, 1973 which has been notified on the 21st December 2012.

Water Resources

46. For a State with the highest rainfall in the world, it is necessary that the water resources are managed judiciously. The State's Integrated Water Resource Management Programme is an attempt at a holistic management of the sector, taking into account the multiple uses to which water is put. After drinking water, one of the key areas is irrigation. While the irrigation potential of the State is about 2.18 lakh hectares, the potential created so far is about 18.49% only. Government has therefore taken up a large number of micro and minor irrigation projects across the State. For ensuring better utilization of the existing irrigated area, Command Area and Water Management Programme is also being implemented in the State. In order to promote Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM), Water Users Association in 162 irrigation projects have been formed and registered. With a view to put in place water regulatory mechanism, a State Water Policy and a comprehensive Water Bill are being formulated.

District Councils

47. The Autonomous District Councils will continue to be supported to enable them to function effectively in the discharge of their duties as provided for in the Constitution of India.

Substantial funds have been channelised to the District Councils for implementation of various developmental works and upgradation of administration. Government has also decided to set up a State Finance Commission to assess normative financial requirements of the ADCs thereby ushering in a more transparent and predictable mechanism of fund flows.

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

48. The State Government is implementing the Public Distribution System known as the “Targeted PDS” to provide Food Security to the families living Below the Poverty Level. The AAY Scheme covers the cost of transportation and other incidental charges incurred by the dealers in transporting stocks from FCI to the Fair Price Shops, to ensure that the AAY beneficiaries avail their due quota. In addition to TPDS the Department will also continue to implement the Annapurna Scheme and provision of Subsidized Rice to inmates of SC/ST hostels and institutions. The recently completed “Socio Economic Caste Census” Survey will enable Government to ensure better implementation of food security programmes.

Programme Implementation & Evaluation

49. Government undertakes regular monitoring and evaluation of various schemes and projects being implemented by different Departments to ensure that the schemes are implemented more effectively so that the fruits of development percolate down to the poorest of the poor, whose lot the Government seeks to improve. The work of monitoring and evaluation is being done both in-house and by outsourcing to reputed organizations/

agencies within the state and outside. At present, three studies are underway covering three programmes, namely, MGNREGS, Irrigation and RKVY. More such studies will be instituted during the 12th Plan period. Committees have also been set up to review and monitor the implementation of various schemes, especially Flagship Programmes, Twenty Point Programme (TPP) and MPLAD Scheme.

Legal Metrology

50. The Legal Metrology Department regulates the use of weighing and measuring instruments by implementing the Legal Metrology Acts and Rules so as to safeguard the public in general and the consumer in particular. The construction of the 2 Working Standard Laboratories in Shillong and Tura has been completed, and 5 other Working Standard Laboratories are under construction. Mobile Test Kits have successfully been used for Verification/Testing of Weighbridges. Publicity campaign through pamphlets, advertisements and broadcasting in the electronic media has been taken up vigorously for public awareness.

Tourism

51. To promote tourism in the State, the Government has taken steps to develop infrastructure to cater to the convenience of tourists which includes construction of Tourist Lodges, Guest Houses, Wayside amenities and Restaurants. Infrastructure following traditional and ethnic pattern has been set up in some districts for promotion of rural tourism. These projects have been designed and conceptualized to provide a glimpse of typical village life for visiting tourists. As part of the Tourism Mission, this sector is also focusing on capacity building and

training in areas of hospitality courses. Such training for youth in the age group of 18 - 35 years is being provided through the Institute of Hotel Management, Food Craft Institute and other reputed training partners. Financial assistance has been given for major festivals of the State to showcase the unique culture, tradition and local art and craft. This year for the first time, a Kite flying Festival was organized at Shillong. Government intends to make this festival an annual event and encourage more local Kite fliers to participate. The Government will continue to invest in infrastructural development for tourism while promoting and encouraging private participation in the tourism business.

Public Health Engineering

52. Government is committed to providing adequate safe drinking water & sanitation facilities to all the inhabitants of the State. In 2012-13, 580 Habitations, 1,528 Schools and 828 ICDS centers have been targeted for completion. In addition, 269 Stand Alone Water Purification Systems in Rural Schools having water quality problems have been installed. The Jowai Water Supply Scheme is nearing completion and is expected to be commissioned by the end of this month. Implementation of the Greater Shillong Water Supply Project (Phase-III) is progressing. Works for augmentation of Tura Phase I & II Water Supply Scheme have commenced.
53. Meghalaya continues to perform well in the implementation of the Total Sanitation Campaign which has since been renamed as the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan. It is gratifying to note that 365 villages were awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskar during 2012-13.

Urban Affairs

54. Urban centres are considered to be the hubs of economic activity and engines of growth in any economy. Infrastructure needs of cities and towns therefore become important not only for giving citizens a better quality of life but also to sustain economic activity. Among the works taken up in the State, work of Storm Water Drainage at Shillong, augmentation of water supply for Greater Shillong Phase II, Solid Waste Management System at Tura and Nongpoh are making good progress. Construction of ISBT at Tura at the cost of ₹ 45.32 crores and Re-development of Polo Market at Shillong at the cost of ₹ 21.41 crores have been sanctioned and will be taken up shortly. The short term scientific landfill site work at Marten is likely to be completed by September 2013. Out of 120 buses sanctioned for Public Transport at Shillong, 100 buses have been procured and operationalised. Proposal for installation of Intelligent Tracking System in the public transport has been submitted to Government of India.
55. About 65 % of the work for construction of 600 Dwelling Units for Urban Poor at Shillong Phase-I and II has been completed. With the objective of 'Slum Free India', Rajiv Awas Yojana, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been launched to create affordable housing for urban poor for Shillong city.

Education

56. Investments in education are an investment in the next generation. The provisions of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 become effective from April 2013. The

Government is taking steps to ensure all the provisions of the Act are complied with, taking local situation under consideration. Besides notification of appropriate orders and finalisation of the requisite rules, schematic activities relating to improvement of infrastructure and training of teachers are being implemented on the basis of GIS and school data at field level. A detailed plan and budget has been formulated for plugging infrastructure gaps and will be submitted to Government of India for funding support. Imparting diploma to all eligible and qualified teachers at the elementary level has been taken up in collaboration with the National Institute for Open Schools (NIOS) and the training through distance method for 7,822 teachers will commence from April, 2013. Provision of free textbooks for children of all Government and Government aided schools will be continued.

57. Mid-day Meals are being provided to 5,40,000 students of elementary schools. Steps will be taken to ensure that kitchen sheds in all schools are completed within this financial year. Kitchen devices have been provided for 700 new Lower Primary and Upper Primary Schools. The School Health Programme in collaboration with the Health Department will be continued on regular basis.
58. The Government is committed in improving the quality of teachers and learning outcomes in the State. The assistance to all categories of Adhoc Aided Schools has been enhanced to enable better salaries to teachers. Further, infrastructure for scaling up training capacity for all section of teachers is being put in place. Teachers Training Institutes (TTI) at the block level and a B.Ed College at Jowai shall be set up.

59. The scheme for construction of Residential Schools will continue so as to cover all the blocks. Initiatives have been taken to provincialise certain colleges based on their performance and their importance for the rural student community. Hostels for students from rural areas are being set up in the major towns. Outlays for college excursions have been significantly enhanced so as to provide maximum opportunities for our students to observe and study other cultures and practices.
60. I am also happy to inform this House that the foundation stone for the permanent NIT campus at Sohra was laid by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development on the 12th October 2012. The NIT has now become operational in its temporary campus. With regard to the Private Universities, the Government will ensure their proper functioning by putting in place appropriate regulatory measures.
61. Steps have been taken to ensure timely release of scholarship to students. The system for online management and disbursement of all scholarships has been partially completed. The ongoing Post Matric Scholarship to SC/ST students has benefited 4580 numbers of students in the previous year. This is in addition to scholarships for minority students, students from border areas and scholarships from NEC.

Health & Family Welfare

62. Meghalaya has come a long way in improving the health facilities and health status since attaining statehood. Coverage and reach to the people have increased over the years but the

State still has many challenges and a long way to go and achieve the desired result of health for all. Upgradation of CHCs to Hospitals and setting up of more PHCs and Sub-Centres has helped strengthen facilities and outreach. The Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) has been launched recently to cater to the medical needs of all citizens. Enrolments are currently on and I would appeal to the eligible citizens to take advantage of the scheme and get themselves enrolled. The scheme provides protection to households from financial liabilities arising out of hospitalization up to ₹ 1,60,000/- per household, with the premium being only ₹ 31 per family per year. In addition, the State shall be introducing an assistance scheme to partially defray medical expenses for critical diseases.

63. The process of setting up of Medical College on PPP mode at the site of Reid Provincial Chest Hospital Shillong has commenced with the signing of Concessionaire agreement and award of contract. Finalisation of EOI is in progress for the Government Tura Medical College. The construction of Cancer Wing in Civil Hospital Shillong is in progress.
64. Maternal & Child Health programme and Family Welfare Programme to cater to the needs of pregnant women and children and to seek improvement in their health status have been taken up. It has targeted to reduce IMR to below 30 per 1000 live births and MMR to below 100 per 1000 live births. Therefore a mechanism has been devised to increase Ante-natal care & Post Natal Care coverage with activities like improvement of facilities in the Health Institutions, provision of additional manpower and up-gradation of skilled health care

providers for providing quality services. Mother & Child tracking System has been introduced so that all pregnant women receive their full Ante-Natal care check-ups and post natal care including a safe motherhood intervention as outlined under the JSY. To strengthen Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Response, training of doctors and staff has been conducted regularly. For reducing the prevalence of common ailments among school going children, School Health check-up programmes are initiated by the District from the CHC level. In order to reduce out of pocket expenditure among the hapless and the poor, essential medicines are procured in adequate quantity and made available to all sections of society including those under BPL and APL. A State-of-the-art 12 bedded ICU facility will be set up at Civil Hospital Shillong in 2013-14. A Blood Component Separation Unit has been established at Pasteur Institute to provide different components of bloods to different hospitals. Health Melas will be organized as usual in different locations in order to provide immediate medical care to the people in the State, since the response to these health melas have been very encouraging. Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committees have been constituted in 5975 villages with the objective to motivate the community on good habits of health, hygiene practices and sanitation. Emergency Response Services related with medical, fire, police emergency cases etc. are being operated in 41 locations of the State. Upgradation of equipment infrastructure & development of District Hospitals at Nongstoin, Nongpoh, Williamnagar and Tura is currently underway. The 100 bedded hospital at Tura has been equipped with the latest State of the Art ICU and

further augmentation of facilities like OT and diagnostic laboratory will be taken up soon. An Infertility Clinic at Ganesh Das Hospital will be set up in 2013-14.

Social Welfare

65. Government will continue to implement various schemes and programmes for Women and Children, the physically handicapped, juvenile delinquents, and for the aged and infirm. There are 39 ICDS Projects in the C&RD Blocks and 2 Urban ICDS Projects with 5151 Anganwadi Centres that have been providing various ICDS services. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme is being implemented to provide safe and secure environment to children who are in need of care and protection as well as those who are in conflict with law. Three Observation Homes, two in Shillong and one in Tura for children who are in conflict with law and one Shelter Home for girls at Shillong have been set up. A State Resource Centre for Women has been set up under the National Mission for Empowerment of Women. The objectives of the SRC are to ensure economic empowerment of women, eliminate violence against women, and ensure social empowerment of women with emphasis on health and education. The Indira Gandhi Matritava Sahyog Yojana of conditional cash transfer for pregnant and lactating mothers, is being implemented on a pilot basis in East Garo Hills District. The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for empowerment of adolescent girls (SABLA) is being implemented in 3 districts using the platform of the ICDS Scheme through Anganwadi Centres. Under the Persons with Disabilities Act, grants are being provided for purchase of

uniforms, books, conveyance allowance to 910 specially abled students and unemployment allowance to 67 physically handicapped persons.

Vocational training for 58 physically handicapped and scholarships for 1222 physically handicapped students are being continued. Financial assistance is being provided for medical treatment of 454 aged destitute persons. 72 Voluntary organizations that are involved with Orphanages and welfare activities for children in providing food, shelter and education and a Creche for children of Government Employees are being provided with financial assistance.

19 NGOs that are working for the welfare of women in sectors such as handicrafts and training for income generating activities are being provided with financial assistance. The Chief Minister's Social Assistance Scheme is being implemented for infirm, widows and disabled persons. Rules under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 have been notified for the welfare of senior citizens. In 2013-14, Government intends to launch a new scheme for providing financial assistance to orphaned girls at the time of their marriage.

Sports & Youth Affairs

66. The State had declared the year 2012 as the "Year of the Youth". A large number of sports tournaments were conducted during the year. Youth related activities included programmes such as mentor youth programmes, work camp, career guidance, workshop, exchange programmes, integration camps and

livelihood & skill development. 34 ongoing projects have been completed and 48 projects are under progress. These have helped the Government connect with the youth and understand better their hopes and aspirations. Flood lights at J.N. Stadium Complex have been set up and will be operationalised soon. Ground No.1 Polo, Shillong will soon have a covered Public sitting gallery.

Labour

67. Imparting Employability Skills and providing career guidance to job seekers are the thrust areas in the 12th Five Year Plan through 4 (four) major schemes viz., Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), Apprenticeship Training Scheme (ATS), Skill Development Initiative (SDI) Scheme and Short-Term-Oriented Courses (State Initiative). Upgradation and strengthening of all the 10 Government ITIs have been taken up with Government funding and PPP mode. Second shift has been started in all the Government ITIs from the session commencing August, 2012. Employment Exchange Web-Portal for online registration has been launched on 10th August, 2012. For better administration of the Labour Acts, 39 posts of Labour Inspectors along with supporting staff have been sanctioned covering all the C & RD Blocks of the State.

Housing

68. In the Housing sector, the Rural Housing Scheme is being implemented to help provide shelter to the poor and houseless villagers. Government will shortly be announcing a new scheme for affordable housing in the State.

Arts and Culture

69. The preservation, conservation, promotion and development of the heritage of the State and of the myriad art forms, by way of research and documentation, promoting cultural activities and encouraging modern creative streams come within the domain of the Government. To make this possible, Government will continue its focus on infrastructure, strengthening cultural activities, providing local artistes with national and international exposure and preservation of our heritage. It is the intention of the Government to set up an International Centre for Performing Arts at Shillong.

Information & Public Relations

70. Government had launched an innovative project known as the Meghalaya Integrated Information System in some District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters. This will be expanded in coverage soon. The setting up of an Information Cell in the Directorate is also under process. Further, the Department will continue to project and promote a positive image of the State at the National and International level by taking part in the annual events at the national level. Existing schemes will continue to be implemented. Financial assistance will be provided for conducting workshops and seminars for media persons in order to enable them to upgrade their reporting skills and capabilities.

General Administration

71. The creation of 4 new districts in 2012 has brought into sharp focus the urgent need to upgrade office and residential infrastructure there. Government has therefore taken up

construction of a District Office Complex and a District Residential Complex in each of the new districts. These will provide for the requirements of these districts in a planned manner.

72. The construction of the Governor's Guest House at Tura is making good progress. This will fulfil a long standing demand from Garo Hills. The Meghalaya House at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is now fully functional and has helped to considerably ease the pressure on accommodation. The Meghalaya House at Russell Street, Kolkata will be commissioned later this year.
73. There has been a long felt need for a State Guest House at Shillong. Government intends to take steps to address this need.
74. The State Government will continue to look into the welfare of Ex-servicemen (Veterans), widows and their dependants and also destitute Ex-servicemen. A Sainik Rest House cum Office outlet of the Directorate of Sainik Welfare is being taken up at Shillong. Government is also actively considering the construction of a Sainik Rest House cum Office of Zila Sainik Welfare Office at Tura. Other proposals for 2013-2014 include grants for winners of Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Awardees and enhancement of World War II Veterans pension.

Personnel

75. Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI) is the nodal training and capacity building agency of the Government. For the year 2013-2014, MATI in partnership with national and international training agencies, proposes to conduct training programmes for officers at all the levels in Government starting

from the top management to the cutting edge levels, with a focus on leadership, project preparation, appraisal and management, service delivery, innovation, ethics and good governance. Continued focus will also be laid on capacity building in the areas of Disaster Management, Right to Information Act, Finance and Accounting and office procedures with the aim of making the administration more efficient and outcome oriented.

76. It is the resolve of Government to tackle corruption at all levels. It has accordingly presented a Lokayukta Bill. There have been some misgivings about some of the provisions, but a closer reading of the Bill would allay some of the apprehensions. Government will however table amendments, as required, to make the Act a strong and effective tool for tackling corruption at all levels. It is also the intention of Government to link this initiative with its proposed initiative of social audit on concurrent basis.

Revenue & Disaster Management

77. Preparedness to cope up with any disaster situation is a high priority for the Government. For this purpose, the Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) at the State and District levels constitute the nerve-centre. EOCs have already been set up at the State level and in the seven erstwhile Districts. The priority in the coming year will be to set up EOCs in the four new Districts, and also to equip, strengthen and fully operationalise the existing EOCs. The National School Safety Programme, a pilot project of NDMA, is being implemented in the two

Districts of East Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi. A fresh State Disaster Management Plan is being prepared with the assistance of IIT, Guwahati. A similar exercise will be taken up at the District level as well in the coming year. Capacity Building activities on disaster management are being implemented. The activities include training of disaster management preparedness, mock drills, street plays etc.

Election

78. General elections to the 9th Meghalaya Legislative Assembly were conducted by the Elections Department successfully during the months of January-February 2013 under the guidance and superintendence of Election Commission of India. The State has 100% photo and EPIC coverage. The numbers of voters were 15.03 lakh which was 2.7 lakh more than 2008 elections. The number of electors enrolled within 6 months prior to the elections was 1.07 lakh which was a record. The elections were peaceful and the voter turnout was an impressive 88.06 % despite some adverse conditions in certain parts of the state, and this is directly attributable to the effective maintenance of law and order, the intensive campaign under the Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation Programme or SVEEP and the strong desire of all citizens of the state to exercise their basic and fundamental right to franchise.
79. The elections to the Lok Sabha would be due during the first half of next year and all necessary steps will be taken for the conduct of a free, fair and peaceful election.

Law

80. A separate Meghalaya High Court will be functioning very soon. Separation of Judiciary from Executive has already been effected in East Khasi hills district and in the other districts it will be done in a phased manner as soon as Judicial Officers are available after mandatory training. The purpose of establishing Special Court at Nongstoin for rape cases has yielded results and six persons have been convicted in the six cases disposed off. All rape cases from East, West, South, North and South West Garo Hills District including the Williamnagar rape case have been transferred to the Fast Track Court at Tura. Government is also contemplating entrusting rape cases to the Fast Track Courts at Shillong and Jowai to achieve effective delivery of justice. Administrative approval for both temporary and permanent Judicial Court Buildings at Tura, Williamnagar, Nongpoh and Nongstoin has been accorded along with temporary court buildings at Jowai. Construction of these buildings will be expedited and efforts to finalise the land in other districts would be intensified.

Civil Defence & Home Guards

81. The role of Home Guards and Civil Defence in the State is to assist the Civil administration in times of emergency/natural calamities, internal security and to impart training to Home Guards and Civil Defence Volunteers. Various Search & Rescue and Personal Protective Equipment and Audio-Visual Aids have been procured and construction of barracks and classroom for 60 Trainees has been completed, which would go a long

way towards enhancing the capacity of the Department in disaster operations and Management.

Prisons

- 82.** Prisons sector plays a vital role in the field of criminal justice where emphasis is laid on the reformation of offenders through various programmes initiated by the Department. The main thrust of Government during the current year is to operationalise the Nongpoh Jail. Schemes for further improving the security in existing jails will also be implemented.

Printing & Stationery

- 83.** During the year 2012-13, the Govt. Press at Shillong successfully phased out the outdated and conventional system of printing and replaced it with modern and sophisticated plant and machineries. The Government Branch Press at Tura is expected to achieve the same during 2013-14. The newly established Government Branch Press at Jowai is now fully functional. As part of the modernization process of the Presses at Shillong, Tura and Jowai, the first ever CTP (Computer to Plate) machine was installed at Shillong during 2012-13 and the Presses at Tura and Jowai were further upgraded with the introduction of more sophisticated plant and machineries both at the Press and post Press levels. Further upgradation and improvement will be undertaken in 2013-14.
- 84.** Hon'ble Members, this is the first session of this august House after the elections and I have provided a brief overview of some of the plans and programmes of my Government for the coming year. I am confident that the Hon'ble Members of this

august House will participate fully in the initiatives taken by the Government, so that the dreams and aspirations of the common man are realised and the State can proceed from strength to strength in its efforts to develop in all respects.

JAI HIND

KHUBLEI

MITELA

THANK YOU