

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

BUDGET SESSION

STARRED

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Friday, the 18th April, 2008

Rate of Inflation in the State

Shri M. M. DANGGO

**Shri CONRAD K. SANGMA
(Minister in-charge, Finance)**

*19. Will the Minister in-charge,
Finance be pleased to state :-

(a) The present rate of inflation in the
State ?

(a) Sir, the rate of inflation as per
figures indicated by Government of India
around 7%, which would also be the
approximate rate of inflation for the State.

(b) Whether the available rate is
conducive to the growth of the
economy of the State ?

(b) No Sir, the norm for rate of
inflation that is considered conducive to
economic growth is 3-4%.

(c) The Anti-inflationary measures
adopted by the State Government to
peg inflation at the desirable rate ?

(c) Sir, the State Government has set
up Monitoring Committees in the State and
Districts levels to review the matter. Steps
have been initiated to tighten the PDS to
ensure that subsidized commodities reach
the target groups and to enforce control
orders under the Essential Commodities
Act.

Implementation of Schemes

Shri M. M. DANGGO

Dr. DONKUPAR ROY
(Chief Minister in-charge, Forest
and Environment)

*20. Will the Minister in-charge, Forest
& Environment be pleased to state :-

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| (a) The various schemes that are being implemented in the State under the Forest Department ? | (a) As per statement placed on the Table of the House. |
| (b) The total number of beneficiaries of such schemes - district wise ? | (b) The total numbers of beneficiary oriented schemes is as per statement placed on the Table of the House. |
| (c) The total annual expenditure incurred by the department in implementing such schemes ? | (c) The total annual expenditure during 2007-08 on such beneficiary oriented schemes is as follows :- |
| | (i) Under National Afforestation - Rs. 421.81 lakhs |
| | (ii) Under National Bamboo Mission - Rs. 485.72 lakhs |
| | (iii) Under Management of Gregarious
flowering of Bamboo - Rs. 171.00 lakhs. |
| | (iv) Under Ex-Gratia Assistance
for Elephant Depredation - Rs. 49.81 lakhs. |

Promotion of private investment

Shri M. M. DANGGO

**Shri CONRAD K. SANGMA
(Minister in-charge, Power)**

*21. Will the Minister in-charge, Power be pleased to state :-

(a) Whether it is a fact that the promotion of private investment in power sector will improve the fiscal health of the State ?

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) If so, the additional income expected to be generated from such promotion ?

(b) The additional income expected to be generated will be known after the Detailed Project Reports are finalized. However, the State will get 12% free power from Hydro Projects. 1% of the project cost, 1% free power at 1 paise per unit will have to be contributed by the developer for social development of the local area, environmental sector and green cess.

Wild elephants

Shri M. M. DANGGO

**Dr. DONKUPAR ROY
(Chief Minister in-charge, Forest and Environment)**

*22. Will the Minister in-charge, Forest & Environment be pleased to state :-

(a) Whether the department has conducted any census on the number of elephants in the State ?

(a) An estimate of elephant population was conducted during the period 20th February, to 26th February, 2008.

(b) If so, the total number of elephants in the State at present ?

(b) The census figures are under scrutiny and compilation.

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| (c) Whether the department is aware of the fact that the cases of depredation of wild elephants have increased in the recent years ? | (c) The Department is aware of the variations in the depredation cases caused by elephants in the past. However the number of cases fluctuates year to year and therefore one cannot say that the number of cases of depredation by elephants in the State is increasing. |
| (d) The total amount of compensation being paid to the next of kin of such kind of victim/victims ? | (d) During the five year period from 2002-03 to 2006-07, for 24 cases of death due to wildlife depredation an amount of Rs.24 lakhs were paid as ex-gratia assistance to the next of kin of the victims. |

Present position of coffers

Shri M. M. DANGGO

**Shri CONRAD K. SANGMA
(Minister in-charge, Finance)**

*23. Will the Minister in-charge, Finance be pleased to state :-

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| (a) The total amount of coffers that the present Government inherited from the previous Government of 2003 upto 2008 ? | (a) Sir, Treasury Bill Holdings on the 19 th March 2008 with Reserve Bank of India is Rs.339.51 Crore (Three Hundred Thirty Nine Crore and Fifty One Lakhs) |
| (b) The position of the State coffer at present ? | (b) Sir, the latest financial position of the State as indicated by Treasury Bill Holdings as on the 9 th April, 2008 is Rs.456.94 Crore (Four Hundred Fifty Six Crore and Ninety Four Lakhs) |