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ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



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**Address by**

**Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik**  
**Hon'ble Governor of Assam**

**FEBRUARY SESSION**

**Assam Legislative Assembly**  
**10<sup>th</sup> February, 2014**

**Respected Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly,**

I am happy to address this august House during the February Session 2014 of the Assam Legislative Assembly. I take this opportunity to extend my greetings to you all. I would be placing before you the policies and programmes of my Government. I am confident that our collective efforts would take Assam forward on the path of peace and prosperity.

The State has witnessed major changes in various fields during the past more than a decade. The security scenario has improved with a number of insurgent groups joining the mainstream. There is a general realisation today that only engagement in the democratic process can enable diverse groups to fulfil their aspirations where violence can not provide any solution. This realisation on the part of several insurgent groups that the government is working for all-round betterment of the people could show the way to other groups. I am sure that the remaining groups who are still involved with insurgency will understand the sentiments of

the people of the State and come forward to create an atmosphere that is conducive for peace and progress of Assam.

During the last decade the financial resources of the State have also shown significant improvement. Owing to enlarging of the tax base and improvement of the tax compliance there is substantial resource generation. Multi-lateral channels of funding from agencies like Asian Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency and the World Bank have been opened up.

My Government's fiscal reform measures adopted during the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05 have started yielding favourable result from 2005-06 onwards. In 2005-06 revenue and fiscal deficits were not only wiped out but became comfortably positive. This positive trend continued up to 2008-09. However, it started declining once again in 2009-10. The reverse trend is largely due to the revision of pay and pension as per Revision of Pay Rules, 2010. However, during 2010-11, the revenue deficit turned into positive once again and fiscal deficit came down to 1.91% of GSDP from 4.37% of GSDP in 2009-10. This trend of revenue surplus persisted from 2010-11 to 2012-13 and fiscal deficit continued to remain below 3% of GSDP prescribed in Assam Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management (Amendment) Act, 2011.

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My Government would continue to promote peace and growth but at the same time would take actions to ensure that the changes in the economic and security landscape of Assam are both sustainable and lasting. Our effort is to ensure that the economic growth is inclusive and that the fruits of development are distributed equitably among all sections of the society. There is need to focus on the health and education sectors for increasing the capabilities and skill development to promote employability. My Government is committed to ensure that there is no person even in remote hilly and char areas is deprived of health and education facilities. All efforts need to be made to ensure that a strong entrepreneurship culture evolves in the State. There is also need for greater participation of community in environment protection.

My Government is committed to provide a transparent and responsive administration. To achieve this it would need to gear up the administrative machinery. The rural areas, especially relatively remote locations need special attention. My Government is aware that often the best intentions may not be sufficient to bring about development and good governance unless there is strengthening of delivery mechanism. There is also need to encourage social audit of different government schemes and programmes. It would put in place proper systems for performance evaluation of government departments and would also ensure strengthening

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of the existing mechanisms for accountability. A Legislative Council in Assam has been proposed and the matter is before the Parliament.

## **LAW & ORDER SITUATION**

Our State has been fighting insurgency for more than three decades. The multi-pronged strategy adopted by my Government under the Unified Command structure in the form of sustained counter-insurgency operation against active militant groups, peace overtures for groups willing for negotiated settlement and rehabilitation of misguided youths has paid rich dividends which have been reflected in the suspension of operation agreements with as many as 13 extremist outfits. One of the major achievements of 2013 in this direction is the signing of Suspension of Operation agreement between the Governments of India and Assam, and the Ranjan Doimary-led NDFB on 29 October 2013. This is expected to go a long way in bringing permanent peace in the State. The Government is hopeful that Paresh Barua-led ULFA (I) and the NDFB (Songbijit) will come forward to solve their problems through negotiation by shunning the path of violence. The peaceful conduct of elections of North Cachar Hills (Dima Hasao), Rabha Hasong, and Mising Autonomous Councils are some of the examples which point towards improved law & order scenario in the State. A new India Reserve Battalion has also been formed.

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The police force is being modernized through creation of adequate infrastructures, procurement of various equipments and weapons and making of adequate arrangement for training on the modern trait of crime analysis and detection. Besides, Anti-Human Trafficking Units, Women Police Cells and Special Commando Force of Women have been created. It may be recorded here that a number of cases of Rhino poaching have been handed over to the CBI for faster investigation as these cases have all India ramifications.

The Criminal Investigation Department and the Bureau of Investigation (Economic Offences) have taken steps to bring a number of non-banking financial companies and other similar organizations to book and cases against them have been filed. To expand Forensic Science services, the Government have established a Regional Forensic Science Laboratory at Jorhat. Two District Forensic Laboratories have also been sanctioned which will be functioning at Bongaigaon and Silchar within a very short time.

To effectively tackle the complexities of police administration in the fast growing Guwahati City, the system of Police Commissionerate will soon be introduced for the city.

Further, with a view to provide clean and responsive

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governance and to curb the menace of corruption in administration, a new Lokayukta Act will soon be enacted in the state to replace the Assam Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayuktas Act, 1985. This Act will provide for establishment of a body to be known as Lokayukta which will deal with complaints relating to corruption against public functionaries and take effective steps to bring them to book.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSAM ACCORD**

At present there are 36 Foreigners Tribunals functioning in Assam. The Government of India has sanctioned another 64 tribunals in Assam. The total strength of tribunals in Assam would increase to 100. Efforts are being made to strengthen these tribunals by providing adequate infrastructure. The members of Foreigners Tribunals have also been instructed to expedite the process of disposal of cases and at the same time, they have been asked to ensure that no genuine Indian citizen is harassed.

The Assam Police Border Organisation is working towards preventing the entry of fresh/re-infiltrations into the State. Four immigration check posts are also functional in Dhubri and Karimganj Districts to check passenger traffic into the state and for deportation/push-back of declared foreigners. Moreover, there are four River Police Stations, seven River Police Out Posts, and there are three detention

centres at Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Silchar to hold the declared foreigners till their deportation. The works of Indo-Bangladesh border roads and fencing works have almost been completed. My Government is pursuing for completion of flood lighting.

The Registrar General of Citizens Registration has issued notification on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 for the updating of National Registrar of Citizens (NRC), 1951 in Assam, to be completed within a period of three years. For inclusion of names in the updated NRC, steps have already been taken to digitize the NRC 1951 and Electoral Rolls of 1966 and 1971 to facilitate the updating process.

My Government, along with the Archaeological Survey of India, have taken up the protection, preservation and development of historical monuments and Satras in Assam. The modernization of the Jyoti Chitran Film Studio Phase-III (Part-I) is in progress. The Gas Cracker Project and the Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge are under implementation. The revival of the Ashok Paper Mill has been proposed. The up-gradation of the Gauhati Medical College & Hospital to the level of a super speciality hospital is under progress.

My Government had constituted a committee to examine and recommended ways and means for preventing infiltration through the unprotected riverine areas in the

Assam-Bangladesh border. The committee has submitted its report and the same is now under consideration. The Academic and Executive Council of Jawaharlal Nehru University had resolved to approve the establishment of a chair in Assamese in the University.

## **AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE**

Agriculture is the back bone of the Assam's economy and will continue to be high priority of My Government. The net cultivated area of the state is 28.11 lakh hectares, which is 36% of geographical area of the state. The State achieved all time high production of 52.33 lakh MT rice with overall food grain production of 56 lakh MT during 2012-13. For commendable production and productivity of pulses for the year 2011-12, the State received 'Krishi Karman' Award from the Hon'ble President of India on 15th June, 2013. The State was able to retain the same Award for 2012-13 as well and is to receive it from the Hon'ble President of India in a ceremony scheduled to be held on 10th February, 2014 in New Delhi.

With the anticipated achievement of target production of 61 lakh MT rice and 64.32 lakh MT food grains with over all agriculture growth by 7% during 2013-14, my Government will lay emphasis to achieve surplus production of rice and take programmes on pulse and oilseeds to put

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forward the State towards self sufficiency during 2014-15. With the launch of Mission Double Cropping from 2012-13, its impact has been recorded significantly to reduce practice of mono cropping area and increase area under double cropping and multiple cropping. The area under double cropping is anticipated to increase up to 15.46 lakh hectares during 2013-14 against 14.06 lakh hectares in 2012-13. The Government will undertake a massive programme on double cropping, disaster management scheme and central assistance schemes of National Food Security Mission/ National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm during 2014-15. To boost up farm mechanization, 6,596 tractors, 25,606 power tillers and 608 rotary tillers were provided to the farmers group from 2001-02 to 2012-13. During 2014-15, my Government has proposed to distribute 10,000 power tillers at 50% subsidy to increase available farm power in the State.

My Govt. has undertaken an MoU with NABARD to install 1.00 lakh shallow tube wells along with Gramin Bikash Bank for providing loan to the farmers under Farm Mechanization Programme. To utilise available water resources from the rivers in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys, my Government proposes to install 16,700 diesel pumps with accessories to support summer paddy/rabi crop growers in the State for higher farm income and employment generation.

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The year 2012-13 was also marked to be exceptionally good for horticulture sector because all time high production of fruits (20.58 lakh MT), vegetables (50.05 lakh MT) and spices (3.18 lakh MT) have been recorded during the year.

### **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY**

Animal Husbandry is potentially one of the most important sectors for rapid socio-economic development of the state. Fast growth in this sector is essential not only to achieve higher productivity levels in livestock products, but also for increase in rural house-hold income. My Government has given thrust on up-gradation of cattle breeding through artificial insemination of cattle population and has been able to increase the number of artificial insemination to about 2.5 lakhs per year through schemes such as the National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding, the Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojona, and the schemes supported by the Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project.

Number of Artificial Insemination Centres have been increased more than two fold this year to 1,275 from 553 centres. A new frozen semen bull station with state-of-the-art technology is being established at Barapetta in Barpeta District. For training of the livestock farmers for greater productivity in respect of animal products, the Institute of Farm Management, Rani has been revamped and re-named

as Regional Institute of Livestock Entrepreneurship Management. Under the World Bank-aided AACP project high pedigree male goats procured from Punjab have been distributed to 80 Goat Keeper's Society (each comprising 5 members) along with 1,000 local females for up- gradation programme. Another 70 societies will be supported with 70 bucks along with 500 local females for up-gradation programme. It is proposed to support 12 SHGs in Sadiya Sub-division and 13 SHGs in Karimganj District with goat development programme. A large number of unemployed youths, farmers and SHGs are also being assisted for taking up self-employment schemes such as opening of dairy, goatery, piggery, duckery and poultry. Under dairy sector, milk processing capacity has increased from 15,000 ltrs per day in 2006-07 to 1,18,000 ltrs per day in 2013-14. Initiatives have been taken to establish five modern commercial dairy farms with 80 high yielding milch cows in each farm to promote commercial dairy farming in the state.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS & TRAINING**

The Assam Right to Public Services Act, 2012 is now under implementation in Assam except in the 6th Schedule areas. This is a unique Act which ensures (1) transparency (2) accountability and (3) timeliness in the public service delivery. The feedback received from various districts suggests that people from all walks of life are extracting the

benefit of this Act. The Government has for the second consecutive year taken initiative for preparation of Results Framework Documents under Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System. This has helped the departments to identify their prioritized targets and implement the same within the specified time ensuring the best of their performances. The Assam Administrative Staff College has been conferred with functional autonomy status by the Government. A State Training Policy has been formulated to develop capacity of the employees of various Government departments and organizations to meet the existing and upcoming challenges. The Policy is in operation since 2012.

## **BORDER AREAS**

My Government is committed to ensure safety and security of the people residing near the international and inter-state borders. Under Border Areas Development Programme, which is 100% centrally funded, schemes like construction and maintenance of roads, water supply, education, sports, filling gaps in infrastructure and security are being undertaken in the villages and habitations which are closer to the border. For the year 2012-13, the Government of India had made an allocation of Rs.34.80 crores, out of which an amount of Rs.10.32 crores have been released and schemes are under implementation. The 13th Finance Commission awarded an amount of Rs.230 crores for four

years for development of international border areas. As part of its commitment, the State Government has also taken up schemes for all-round socio economic development near the inter-state borders and setting up of Border Out Posts under Decentralised Planning and Assam Vikash Yojana. Many schemes are already completed and many are ongoing.

A large number of schemes implemented under the Border Areas Department have been completed during the year 2013 which included three major infrastructure projects, namely, construction of Udalguri-Bhairabkunda Road, an RCC bridge and 10 HP culverts on Gaharichowa to Bandarchaliha in Jorhat District and drinking water project at Ultapani in Kokrajhar District. Some major schemes under implementation are construction of road from Lama Army Camp to Dighalijuli village in Sonitpur District and from Kachugaon Sankosh PWD Road to Jamduar via Ballamjhora SSB Camp Road in Kokrajhar District and agriculture irrigation at Samuagati village in Baksa District.

Assam has boundary disputes with the neighbouring states of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. Two suits were filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the states of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. A Local Commission was set up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 25th September 2006 with Sri S. N. Variava and subsequently on his resignation Sri T. Chatterjee,



former Judge of the Supreme Court as Chairman and Sri M. Kamal Naidu, Retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh and Sri S. P. Goel, Additional Surveyor General of India, as members to identify the boundaries. The hearing of Local Commission on Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary dispute is now in the final stage. In this connection the Local Boundary Commission has visited the border areas of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in the month of November, 2013. The Local Commission for Assam-Nagaland has been adjourned and in its place two mediators have been appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The mediation is in final stage. In this regard, a Chief Secretary-level meeting between Assam and Nagaland had been convened on 15 October 2013 in presence of the mediators. The mediators have already submitted their reports to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. In this context the Chief Secretaries of both the states have also discussed the matter with the Home Secretary to Government of India on 13 December, 2013.

### **COOPERATION**

The Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management set up by my government has started academic session for the first batch of BBA (Cooperation) of 60 students from the month of July, 2013. An amount of Rs.116 lakhs has been proposed for the year 2014-15 for the purpose

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of providing financial support to the university. Steps have been taken to boost the re-organization of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies by creating another 1,777 Gaon Panchayat-level Multipurpose Samabai Samities (GPSS)/Large Area Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) co-terminus with every existing Gaon Panchayat in the State, in addition to the already existing 709 GPSS and 64 LAMPS. From 2012-13 onwards and till date, more than 800 new GPSS have been registered.

With the passage of the Food Security Act, 2013, it has become necessary to provide scientific storage facilities for storing food grains under the Targeted Public Distribution System. Since the GPSS and Wholesale Consumers Cooperative Societies are dealing in PDS items; it has become necessary to develop rural storage in the State by constructing rural godowns and marketing sheds. For this an amount of Rs.129.20 crores has been proposed for the year 2014-15.

### **EDUCATION**

My Government has taken steps to universalize Elementary Education in the State, particularly since the RTE Act, 2009 has come into force. Among the other activities two flagship programmes, viz., Mid-Day Meal and Sarba Siksha Abhijan have been implemented Elementary

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Education Department with a view to cater to the needs of the students and the teaching staffs. My Government has also decided to implement the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the state in a mission mood w.e.f. 1st January, 2014. Also, the system of Book Banks has been introduced as cost cutting measure from 2014.

Major achievements during 2013-14 include bringing down of number of 'out of school' children from 118,603 in 2011-12 to 102,518. The retention of students in Lower Primary (L.P.) schools has increased to 73.8 % against 67.5 % in 2011-12. The retention of students in Upper Primary schools has been increased to 91.6% as against 84.7% during 2011-12. The drop out rate in L.P. schools has come down to 9.7% as against 12.8% during 2011-12. The drop out rate in Upper Primary Schools has come down to 10.4% as against 15.2% during 2011-12.

As many as 8,866 Teachers Eligibility Test (TET)-qualified candidates have been appointed against regular vacancies. Another 6,157 TET-qualified candidates have also been appointed under Sarba Siksha Abhijan on contractual basis. The services of 21,300 teaching and non-teaching staff have been provincialised as per the provisions of the Provincialisation Act, 2011 as amended in 2013.

In Secondary Education sector, TET has been conducted in 2013 and 3,117 candidates have qualified.

Accordingly, 1,798 graduate teachers were given appointment in the 1st phase in provincialised secondary schools in 2013. Subsequently, the appointment for filling up of 2,323 posts during second phase is under process. Further, 123 eligible selected candidates have been appointed as Post-Graduate teachers in different Provincialised schools in April, 2013. Conducting of TET has been announced for filling up of the post of 'Post Graduate Teachers' in provincialised secondary schools.

A total number of 1,554 venture secondary schools have been provincialised and 16,109 posts thereof have been created during the year 2013. Under Anundaram Barooah Award Scheme, free Laptop computers have been provided to 29,887 students who had secured 1st division in HSLC Examination in 2013. Under the scheme of Debo Kumar Bora Memorial NASA visit 2013, this year 10 students who got the position in HSLC, High Madrassa and HS examination in 2013 have been sent to NASA, USA on 28th November, 2013.

Bicycles numbering 142,091 have been distributed to BPL girl students from Class VIII to X. Smart Class Rooms (Digital Class Rooms) have been introduced in Government Secondary Schools in Assam for the first time. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Establishment of Model Schools in 81 educationally backward blocks, works have

already started in 42 sites. Construction and running of 100-bedded Girls' Hostels in 81 educationally backward blocks is going on. As many as 231,482 students were taken for excursion trip "Gyan Yatra" at district level. Another programme of excursion trip within state and nearby states is in progress in the districts for 162,608 students. So far 2,213 students have been taken to New Delhi and Agra in 34 trips for an exposure under Gyan Bikash Yatra. Teachers numbering 310 will be trained on Foundation Course on Education of Children with Disabilities in collaboration with Shishu Sarothi and Montfort School.

My Government has also taken several steps for improvement of madrassa education. A total of 327 non-government recognized madrassas have been provincialised and 8,322 posts have been created as per the Assam Venture Madrassa Educational Institutions (Provincialisation of Services) Act, 2011 & Amendment Act, 2013. Contractual teachers on core subjects have been engaged in 68 provincialised madrassas in secondary level. Financial assistance to non-government venture madrassa institutions are being provided. For implementation of the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrassas, a fund of Rs.14.98 crores has been provided by the Government of India as 100% central assistance to 486 recognized madrassas.

In the field of Non-Formal and Adult Education, Saakshar Bharat Mission for adult literacy is being implemented in 12 districts having female literacy rate of 50% or below of it under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. With a target to achieve 80% literacy rate in non-literate population districts a total of 11,460 non-literate adults are covered under State Literacy Programme. An amount of Rs 5 lakhs has been approved for setting up of 23 literacy centres for working labour of age group 14-17 years in urban and semi-urban areas with a target of 690 non-literates during 2013-14.

In the Higher Education sector, My Government has provided grants @ Rs.1 crore each for infrastructure development to 45 provincialised colleges. The State Universities have also been provided infrastructure development grants ranging from Rs.2.20 to Rs.5 crores. To meet the growing demand of technical persons and to fulfil the aspiration of the meritorious students of the State and also to provide quality technical education, the Government has proposed to establish seven new Engineering Colleges at Dhemaji, Diphu, Golaghat, Karimganj, Nagaon, Nalbari and Udalguri. Construction of 21 new polytechnics is going on. For upgradation of the Jorhat Science College to Jorhat Institute of Science & Technology, Rs.22 crores has been approved. A new university in the field of technical education, viz., the

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Assam Science & Technology University has been established at Guwahati. To promote gender equity and access to higher education, a Women University is being constructed at Jorhat. To catalyze a faster growth of IT education in the State, an Indian Institute of Information Technology has already been set up at Guwahati under PPP mode and academic session has started from August, 2013.

### **ENVIRONMENT & FOREST**

The department has changed its modus operandi from that of state management of natural resources to that of a participatory management with the involvement of local population. During 2013-14, a total area of 5,480 Ha. has been covered by plantation. At present three Nos. of Externally Aided Projects, i.e., World Bank funded project "NaRMIL (Natural Resource Management Integrated Livelihood Project)", Assam Bio-diversity Project with assistance from French Development Agency and Japan International Co-operation Agency funded project for development of forestry training institutes of the State are going on. During 2013-14 under Assam Project on Forests & Bio-diversity Conservation, 4,320 hectares plantation has been created. Further 40 vehicles, 100 motorcycles and 700 SR bikes have been purchased and distributed amongst field officials and staff.

My Government has given much emphasis on

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conservation and protection of Rhinoceros, Tiger, Elephant and other wildlife of the State. The population of these animals are increasing. The number of Rhinoceros was 1,672 in 1999 which has increased to 2,544 in 2013.

Sophisticated arms like SLRs have been provided to field level staff to counter the poachers in Kaziranga National Park and other areas. Under 'Indian Rhino Vision 2020', a total of 18 Rhinos were translocated to Manas National Park from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaziranga National Park. Translocated and rehabilitated Rhinos have given birth to five calves in Manas National Park. Recently the Government has planned to translocate Rhinos to Burhachapori and Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuaries. Power to use fire-arms and immunity from prosecution to Forest officers has been given under Sub-Section 2 of Section 197 of Cr. PC. This has given a big morale boost to the field staff engaged in wildlife protection.

My Government has also decided to raise the 4th Assam Forest Protection Force battalion to enhance the protection of forests and wildlife.

### **EXCISE**

My Government is committed to enforce the laws on prohibition of various drugs and illicit liquor in the state.

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During the financial year 2012-13, the amount of Excise revenue collected was Rs.567.90 crores which is Rs.64.68 crores more in comparison to the previous year. Rs. 383.57 crores have been collected as VAT on liquor. Up to November, 2013 the revenue collected is Rs.379.75 crores and the VAT collected is Rs.279.38 crores. Since consumption of illicitly prepared liquor is a major cause of health hazard, 18,650 cases have been detected till November 2013 in the current year. The state Anti-Drugs & Prohibition Council, an autonomous body run with financial assistance from State Government as grant in-aid has been working to create awareness among the masses against the drug abuse and alcoholism.

## **FISHERIES**

My Government has been consistently emphasizing for growth of this sector as it plays an important role in the economy of the state and is providing livelihood and employment opportunities to a sizeable section of the society. In the year 2012-13 total fish production in the State has reached 254 thousand ton which is 4.5% higher than that of the previous year. Considering its huge potentiality, the Government has increased the plan allocation from Rs.1,7.52 crores in 2007-08 to Rs. 7,6.87 crores in 2013-14. Some of the remarkable achievements made during the year 2012-13 includes development of 2,148 hectares water area for

scientific fish culture, benefit to 16,843 individual farmers and 920 SHGs under various departmental schemes, commissioning of three fresh water prawn hatcheries in Kamrup, Cachar and Dhubri Districts for the first time in the state, and establishment of hygienic fish markets in Cachar, Nagaon and Nalbari Districts. An additional amount of Rs.10 crores has been allocated under State Plan for a few more fish markets. New District Meen Bhawans have been established in Darrang, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts. A new office building for Assam Fisheries Development Corporation Ltd. has been established at Guwahati.

## **FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES**

My Government is providing subsidized foodgrains and kerosene oil under the Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Under AAY, a total number of 7.04 lakh poorest of the poor families are benefited who are provided with 35 kg rice each per month at Rs.3 per kg. Under Randhanjyoti Scheme, families belonging to BPL category especially widow, women member of the self help groups or any other female member of the BPL families are provided single bottle LPG gas burner, regulator and rubber pipe free of cost. The 5th phase of Randhanjyoti Scheme is in the process of implementation benefitting 11,408. The APL Scheme has covered 40.92 lakh

families/card holders, BPL Scheme 12.02 lakh families and C. M's Anna Surakhya Yojana 12.60 lakh families. Computerization of PDS with a data base of beneficiaries and computerization of complete supply chain is going on in all the districts and sub-divisions of the state.

The National Food Security Act was passed by the Parliament and notified in 2013. The Government of India has specified that 84.17% of the population of the rural areas and 60.35% of the urban areas would be covered in Assam. The beneficiary population would be 2.25 crores in rural areas and 26.5 lakhs in urban areas. The erstwhile categorization of family card holders as APL and BPL would no longer exist. The new nomenclature under the Act would be AAY and priority household. Other features are that women be considered the heads of the households, 5 kg of rice per person would be provided to the priority households per month, and 35 kg rice would be provided to the AAY household beneficiaries. Rice would be provided at Rs. 3 per kg and wheat would be provided at Rs.2 per kg.

#### **GUWAHATI DEVELOPMENT**

Some of the major and important schemes and projects undertaken include a Rail-based MRTS Project to reduce the traffic congestion and to provide an efficient transportation, and a proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.

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Global tender for selection of consultant of feasibility study and preparation of DPR has been floated and pre-bid conference was held on 20 November, 2013 for intending bidders which was attended by 21 consultancy firms from different countries including USA, Spain, Germany and Korea. Sewerage Project for Guwahati City has been cleared by Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs.1178.75 crores. A comprehensive drinking water network system is under construction through three projects namely, Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM), assistance under Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency. The work of drainage project for Noonmati Basin is under progress. A multi level car parking in front of MMC Hospital is under construction and one more has been proposed to be constructed at Shraddhanjali Kanan.

#### **HANDLOOM, TEXTILES & SERICULTURE**

The Handloom sector employs more than 25 lakh handloom weavers and allied workers and is second only to agriculture sector in terms of providing employment. Handloom is the cultural heritage of Assam and hence, it is imperative to protect and promote this sector. The Government has been implementing various schemes both under State Sector and Centrally Sponsored by providing assistance, especially to BPL families under Chief Minister's Assam Bikash Yojana, Economic Upliftment Package and

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Cluster Approach Projects besides other programmes. The Government has sanctioned setting up 11 Yarn Banks during the year 2013-14 with an expenditure of Rs.4.69 crores. A Handloom Trade Centre is being established at Dibrugarh with an involvement of Rs.9.91 crores under NEC scheme.

In sericulture sector, Assam has the pride of producing the golden yellow natural silk - the Muga in the entire world. Assam contributes 99% Muga silk production in India. These natural silk have socio-economic attachment with the people of Assam. Hence, special thrust on integrated development plan strategy is given keeping Eri and Muga culture as one of the component. The Annual Plan Budget has been increased from Rs.10 crores in 2012-13 to Rs.39.67 crores in 2013-14. A Sericulture College is being established at Titabor and a Sericulture Museum at Khanapara.

The Sericulture Department has been included in RKVY schemes from this year. A second Cocoon Bank with the assistance of Central Silk Board is being established in Lakhimpur, where Eri and Muga cocoons will be purchased directly from the farmers to save them from middlemen and traders.

## **HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE**

I have the pleasure to say that My Government has made impressive progress in delivery of high quality, affordable health care in the state. Health care indicators

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like Maternal Mortality Ratio has come down from 490 in 2001-03 to 347 in 2011-12; target for the year 2013-14 is 238 per lakh live birth. Similarly, Infant Mortality Rate has come down to 55 per 1000 live births, at a rate of 3 points in the last three years. Target for the year 2013-14 is 44/1000 live birth. In 2013, institutional delivery recorded 78.5%. The recorded fully immunized children increased from 31.6% in 2005-06 to 78.2% in 2013. 'Sneha Sparsha' is a scheme launched in 2013-14 aimed to extend financial assistance for specialized treatment of children below 12 years of age afflicted with some serious ailments. Hospitals are provided with 258 types of drugs for free distribution. Under referral/emergency management service in the state 100 smaller ambulances and 100 Dolee (Palki) have been introduced to provide services in inaccessible areas. 102-Inter facility medical ambulance service introduced with 200 new ambulances and 250 existing ambulances. As many as 40 Model Hospitals have started functioning w.e.f. 1st February, 2014. Construction works of Assam Hills Medical College & Research Institute, Diphu has already started. Government has also accorded approval for Kokrajhar Medical College. In case of Dhubri and Lakhimpur Medical Colleges, formal proposals for land acquisition have already been taken up. The Tezpur Medical College has been inaugurated on 30th January 2014.

Modern central sterile supply department, burn unit, lecture hall complex and a multipurpose hall of 500 sitting

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capacity have been added in the Gauhati Medical College & Hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2013. Although adult HIV prevalence in Assam is among the lowest in India, the annual new HIV infection was estimated at 2,408 in 2011, which is among the highest in the Northeastern States. At present four Antiretroviral Therapy Centers are functioning in four medical colleges. One more center is proposed for Jorhat Medical College during 2013-14. To create awareness about HIV/AIDS among students, 1,000 schools have been covered under the Adolescence Education Programme during 2012-13. Another 1,000 schools have been proposed to cover under the programme during 2013-14. My Government has decided to make blood freely available to the people living with HIV/AIDS. The Assam Tele Radiology Project is being rolled out in the Regional Diagnostic Centers in 11 districts. There are proposals to expand services in another 14 districts in the year 2013-14. State has started the process of implementing the Tele-Medicine Project in the Pediatrics and Gynecology Departments of Chirang Civil Hospital and Cardiology Department of Lakhimpur Civil Hospital to be connected with respective departments of Gauhati Medical College.

#### **HILL AREAS**

My Government is firmly committed to the welfare and all round development of the hill areas and has already transferred more autonomy to the Autonomous Councils of

Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills (Dima Hasao). During the current year an amount of Rs.516.09 crores has been allocated for the hill areas under State Plan, TFC Award and Additive Plan (Hill Areas Development Programme). The Government has also decided to establish Assam Hills Engineering College and Assam Hills University in the hill areas of the state. Some recently completed major schemes in the hill districts include construction of RCC bridges on DLHS Road, CPDMDK Road and BBDC Road, completion of Borjan Composite Irrigation Scheme and Phumenn Phangso Irrigation Schemes in Karbi Anglong district under NLCPR. In Dima Hasao district, implementation of toned milk supply scheme at Mahur is noteworthy.

#### **INDUSTRY & COMMERCE**

In this sector, our effort is for a balanced economic development and generation of employment opportunities. Special emphasis has been given for setting up micro, small and medium enterprises, which will enhance employment opportunities. Some of the initiatives undertaken include the Assam Gas Cracker Project in Dibrugarh District, which will give direct employment to 800 persons. Steps have been taken to set up a plastic park where more than 500 downstream industries on Gas Cracker Project can be established benefitting about 1.5 lakh youths.

To facilitate the border trade with Bangladesh, a Border Trade Centre has been made operational at Sutarkandi in Karimganj District. Two more have been proposed in Dhubri District to be set up at Mankachar and Golokganj. An International Trade Facilitation Centre is being set up on Stillwell Road near Jagun in Tinsukia District. Works of Mega Food Park is in progress at Nathkuchi. During 2012-13 and 2013-14, Assam Pavilion has been adjudged the best State Pavilion and awarded Gold Medal in India International Trade Fair.

#### **INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The process has been started to set up two Community Radio Stations at Tezpur and at Lakhimpur College during the year 2013-2014. Under Mukhyamantrir Shabdajyoti Achoni, a new scheme, 137 public address system kit will be provided to all the secondary and higher secondary level government and provincialised schools in 2013-2014. The scheme has been launched at Titabor on 7<sup>th</sup> January last. To keep pace with the modern technology, My Government has taken steps to set up Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Photo & Film Archive & Research Centre. Laxminath Bezbaruah Government Institute of Mass Communication & Printing Technology & Research is also on the pipeline. It has been proposed to set up an Assam Information Centre at Mumbai to showcase Assam and to disseminate information about

the state. Initiative has been taken to install several numbers of LED display board in important locations of Guwahati during 2013-2014. The Department has been regularly producing documentaries, quickies, Audio Spot, Tele-Serials, a weekly 'Raijor Batori' and two monthly journals, viz., 'Asoma' and 'Assam Information' apart from bringing out several coffee table books during 2013-2014.

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

My Government is committed to promote IT in a big way. We have been able to make considerable progress in the IT and ITeS sector in the past couple of years. The IT Department is implementing the state-wide rollout of the e-District project in 21 districts from February 2014. It will ensure the delivery of government services by the district administration electronically in the major local languages. The e-District will connect the DC Office, the Sub-division Office and the Circle Offices of the state with the citizens through Public Facilitation Centers in these offices and the Common Service Centers. The District e-Governance Societies are being constituted under e-District project to manage, supervise and implement various e-governance projects at district level.

A State Data Centre is being established in the Assam Secretariat Complex at Dispur. It will host and manage the e-Governance applications of the state and will enable

various departments to host their services/applications on a common infrastructure leading to ease of integration and efficient data management. The Assam State Wide Area Network will connect the State Data Centre with all the district headquarters and block offices.

The IT Department has initiated a new scheme 'ICT at College' to provide ICT infrastructure in 50 colleges of the state. Each college will be provided with e-Classroom and digital classrooms with smart boards and video conferencing, Wi-Fi Hotspots, MIS for student life cycle management and employees payroll. The IT Park at Guwahati is being setup through Public Private Partnership (PPP) over a hundred acres located near the LGB International Airport, Guwahati.

## **IRRIGATION**

The Irrigation Department has so far covered 8.32 lakh hectares up to March 2013 out of the state's ultimate irrigation potential of 27 lakh hectares. Of these, 2.54 lakh hectares have been created by completing five major and 11 medium projects, and 5.76 lakh hectares by completing 1,296 minor schemes. During 2012-13, 9,485 hectares additional irrigation potential was created. The work programmes for 2013-14 under irrigation include three major schemes, Dhansiri, Borolia and Burhi-Dihing funded by Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Program and 52,779 hectare potential has been created up to March 2013. Dhansiri and Borolia projects

are targeted to be completed within 2015-16 to achieve balance potential of 46,909 hectares requiring an amount of Rs.304.70 crores. The Budget Allocation during 2013-14 Rs.148.53 crores to achieve potential of 15,059 hectares. Under Assam Bikash Yojana, reconstruction of Rupahi (medium) is going on with the estimated amount of Rs.2.47 crores to revive lost potential of 5,668 hectares. Expenditure incurred up to March 2013 is Rs.2.44 crores with 99% progress. The reconstruction of flood damaged Bordikorai major irrigation project is in progress and till now 30,300 hectares lost potential have been revived with an expenditure of Rs.30.55 crores.

## **LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT**

Under the Building & Other Construction Workers' (RE & CS) Act, 1996, Rs. 274.38 crores have been collected as cess, a major amount of which is being expended for the welfare of the construction workers of the unorganized sector. In this respect more than 26,300 beneficiaries have already been registered. Out of these beneficiaries 41,151 workers have been covered under the 'Janashree Bima Yojana' for which already an amount of Rs.41.15 lakhs have been deposited with L.I.C.I. There were 116 industrial conflicts of which 58 have been settled, 13 were sent for adjudication and 45 are being conciliated upon. Non-tax revenue earning in the year 2013 is to the tune of Rs.92.74 lakhs in respect

of Assam Shops & Establishment Act, 1971. Through job mela, 780 youths got appointment. The mission mode project on computerization of employment exchanges is taken up by Government of India and it is nearing completion in Assam. During the year 2013, 291 new factories have been registered. As many as 15,329 new employment have been generated in the factories of the State. Mock safety drills numbering 25 were conducted in the hazardous factories of the State during the year 2013. Fifteen new ITI's are under construction while 10 more are being taken up for construction during the current year. Thirteen new ITI's are under construction under MSDP for welfare of minorities.

#### **LEGAL METROLOGY (WEIGHTS & MEASURES)**

The Department of Legal Metrology (Weights & Measures) is enforcing different provisions of the relevant Acts and Rules to safeguard the interest of the consumers. During the current year, up to November, 2013, the revenue collected is Rs 216 lakhs while 497 cases were registered.

#### **LEGISLATIVE and JUDICIAL**

The Assam State Legal Services Authority has organised 49 Lok Adalats in 2013. As many as 111,622 cases were taken up of which 60,934 were disposed off. MAC cases disposed off numbered 2,508 and the amount awarded was Rs.29.17 crores. Between January 2013 and

January 2014, 206 legal awareness programmes were organised of which 166 were by using Multi Utility Vehicle (Bus). Of 1,800 cases referred, 600 were settled through mediation in the year 2013. As per resolution adopted in the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices Conference, 2013, to double the number of existing courts, the State Government has, under its consideration, a proposal to sanction 62 new courts as per request made by the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, in order to provide speedy justice to the litigants. One of the priority area of My Government is to provide security to women from sexual offenses. As a measure to secure that objective, the State Government is considering setting up of 14 Fast Track Courts exclusively to deal with cases relating to sexual offenses and crimes against woman in the State.

#### **MINES & MINERALS**

My Government has been taking measures for exploration and development of the mineral wealth of Assam. The geological investigation works carried out has resulted in establishment of workable reserves of cement grade limestone, coal, china clay, glass-sand, sillimanite and granite. On the other hand, exploration works carried out by public sector units, viz., Oil India Ltd. and ONGC have helped in the production of crude oil and natural gas in Assam. In order to encourage and ensure systematic,

scientific and environment compliant mining practices in respect of the minor minerals of the state, Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2013 have been enacted on 16th March, 2013. There has been significant contribution in the revenue earning of the State in the form of royalty collected on the production of crude oil, natural gas, coal and limestone. The royalty earned in the year 2012-13 was Rs.1,617.55 crores.

### **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IMPLEMENTATION**

My Government has implemented various schemes for implementation of 'Assam Official Language Act, 1960'. Manuals, hand-books and administrative glossary, 'Chalanta Abhidhan', etc., are distributed free of cost to government, semi-government offices, schools and colleges to encourage use of official language in the official works. Seminars and workshops are also being held in different places of Assam to create public awareness for the use of official language. A journal named 'Prayog' is published on a regular basis, and signboards and hoardings have been installed at district level Government office premises.

### **PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

My Government has been implementing various flagship programmes for the socio-economic development of the rural people. During 2013-14, under Mahatma Gandhi

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 40.78 lakh rural households have been provided with Job card, 198.32 lakh mandays have been created and Electronic Fund Management System (e-FMS) has been started. Under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), target for 2013-14 has been fixed at 167,729 houses and these have been sanctioned. All these houses are under construction stage. Moreover, 64,305 incomplete houses of previous years have been completed during 2013-14. The unit cost of IAY house has been enhanced from Rs.48,500/- to Rs.75,000/- and the programme will now be covered by social audit. Houses are allotted in the name of the women of the BPL household.

Under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), the degree of multiple disability has been reduced from 80% to 30% as criteria for selection of beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Disable Pension Scheme. Under Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), two more districts namely, Chirang and Baksa have been included. The process of merging DRDAs with Zilla Parishads is under consideration.

Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), 44 development blocks have been covered. Recently 19 more blocks have been approved by Government of India to consider as intensive block. So far 3,835 new self-help groups have been promoted, 6,608 old self-help groups have

been revived and strengthened, 1,859 village organisations have been formed and 4,000 self-help groups have received revolving fund.

The Socio-economic and caste census (SECC, 2011) is in progress and it would be completed within the next couple of months. Draft list has already been published in most of the districts and process of disposal of claims and objections is going on.

### **PENSION & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES**

My Government has taken initiatives to ensure timely payment of pension to the pensioners. The rate of interest on GPF is enhanced from the existing 8% to 8.6% w.e.f. 1st December 2011 to 31st March 2012 and 8.8% for the financial year 2012-2013 in conformity with the rate fixed by the Government of India. Pension Adalat was held for Kamrup District on 19th, 20th and 21st August, 2013 and 423 long pending pension cases were settled. Government has allowed opening joint bank account operated by a pensioner with his or her spouse through public sector banks. Government has decided to issue identity cards to all the retired State Government employees. Orders have also been issued empowering Administrative Departments, Heads of Departments and Heads of Offices of districts to issue Provisional Pension/Provisional Family Pension and DCRG to all retired Government employees.

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### **PRINTING & STATIONERY**

The modernization of Assam Government Press is going on. During the fiscal year 2013-2014, Rs.3 crores and Rs.2 crores have been allocated under Plan Budget for purchase of printing machinery and for construction of building respectively for Branch Government Press to be set up in Lakhimpur District. Further, Rs.4 crores and Rs.1 crore are also allocated through supplementary demand during the current financial year for construction of building for Branch Press to be set up at Titabor, Jorhat district and for purchase of printing machinery.

### **PUBLIC ENTERPRISES**

The department has successfully carried forward the public sector reform measures initiated under the Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Programme financed by the Asian Development Bank. The PSU-based Training Needs Analysis has been done through consultants for implementation of improvement of performance, accountability and supervision of the State PSUs. Awards have been given to the three best performing PSUs and four Managing Directors for their remarkable achievements. The department provided a common platform to all State PSUs through holding the SLPE-Day on 9th October, 2013. In the current and the future years the Department proposes to

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continue the existing innovative schemes like execution of MoUs, strengthening of IT Infrastructure of PSUs for improvement of their Management Information System and computerisation of accounts, ISO certification, technical up-gradation of PSUs and study on challenges in implementation of Performance Management System and Performance Related Pay.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING**

Providing safe drinking water and sanitation in the rural areas of Assam are given high priority by my Government. During the current year, so far 1,600 partially covered and 773 quality-affected habitations have been benefitted by piped water supply schemes and spot sources. Achievement for coverage of Arsenic affected habitations is 37 out of 208 targeted habitations. These also include one Fluoride affected habitation and 735 Iron affected habitations. In addition, 583 rural schools and 854 Anganwadi Centres were provided with safe drinking water. Mega piped water supply schemes taken up under World Bank assistance in Kamrup Metro, Jorhat, Hailakandi, Morigaon, Bongaigaon, Sonitpur and Sivasagar districts would benefit a large number of people of the state.

In sanitation sector under the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, against the earlier sanctioned projects, during 2000-2008, till December, 2013, in the state, 17,57,785 (79.18% of

project target) of individual household latrines for BPL households, 4,44,745 (39.25 % of project target) for APL households, 34,302 units (98.64% of project target) of school toilets and 11,133 (66.15% of project target) of Anganwadi toilets have been constructed.

Till date, 31 Gaon Panchyats have been awarded the Nirmal Gram Puraskar for achieving Total Environmental Sanitation under the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan. The remaining BPL households, eligible APL households, schools and Anganwadi centres are proposed for coverage with sanitary latrines.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

PWRD is implementing many schemes for improvement of road network in Assam with funding from Government of India, World Bank, NABARD, Asian Development Bank and State Resources. From 2001 to 2013, PWRD has completed 21,000 km of BT road and 3,300 RCC bridges. Moreover, 5,000 km BT road and 1,400 RCC bridges are under construction.

Under PMGSY, total 15,908 km of roadwork and 2,549 RCC bridges were sanctioned before 2010 and further 1,184 km of roadwork and 350 RCC bridges have been sanctioned during 2013-14. Special initiative has been taken for conversion of existing timber bridges into RCC bridges

and construction of roads in the interstate border under the Chief Minister's Special Package. Special packages have been sanctioned for Barak Valley and Dhemaji district.

Further, special emphasis has been given for improvement of State Highways and Major District Roads in the State. In this regard Government of India, World Bank and Asian Development Bank have been approached for funding and World Bank and Asian Development Bank have already sanctioned \$400 million and Rs.462.51 crores respectively for improvement of about 660 km of State Highways and Major District Roads.

## **POWER**

My Government has been focusing on the development of power sector in the state since 2001. As a result of augmentation of power infrastructure the peak demand of the state has increased from 758 MW in 2001 to 1300 MW in 2013 and the present off peak demand has increased to 900 MW. The average power availability from own source and central sector allotment in the peak and off peak period are 950 MW and 750 MW respectively. The Assam Power Distribution Corporation Limited (APDCL) is drawing 100 to 115 MW from 1st unit of ONGC Tripura Power Company Limited, Palatana from January 2014. The 1st Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station unit of 250 MW is expected to be

commissioned within this year. Our Government has provided Rs.150 crores in the last couple of years to APDCL for purchase of high cost power from open market to partially meet the shortfall and also to reduce the burden on consumers from additional tariff increase. It may be noted that North East region at present is power deficient especially in non-hydro season and APDCL has to purchase power from outside North East region. But power import restriction on ER to NER transmission corridor sometimes compel APDCL for forced load shedding for non availability of traded power. The Government has taken up the matter with the Central Government to allow to draw optimal quantum of traded power to ease the power shortage problem. In the last six years the State has taken up rural electrification works in a big way under RGGVY. The electrification works in 8,112 un-electrified villages and 12,589 partially electrified villages have been completed. The electrification works of the remaining villages is likely to be completed within March, 2014. Project amounting to Rs.1,000 crores has already been sanctioned for strengthening transmission and distribution network in the state under Trade Development Fund. Asian Development Bank funded Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Programme is also under implementation for development of transmission and distribution system. Improvement of electricity infrastructure in 67 towns has been taken up under RAPDRP at a cost of



Rs.850 crores. To improve the power supply to the state in general and Guwahati City in particular construction of a sub-station at Mirza near Guwahati at a cost of Rs.190 crores is going on in full swing and is likely to be commissioned by March, 2014. Detailed Project Report of 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project for an estimated cost of Rs.1,490 crores has been submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for Techno Economic Clearance. Further, test run of the 3 MW stage-II of Myntriang Small Hydro Electric Project has been done successfully. APDCL has also been declared as the Nodal Agency for development of solar energy in the state of Assam.

## REVENUE

My Government has reduced the Indian Stamp Duty from 5% to 2% in case of women for registration of conveyance / deed in favour of women solely or jointly with others and from 6% to 3% in case of others. For greater interest of public and administrative convenience, a new Revenue Circle in Sapekhaiti in Sivasagar District has been created. A week long Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise, a simulation drill, was held from 29th October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2012 for harnessing the strengths and capabilities of the State emergency responders, education institutions, hospitals, humanitarian agencies, etc., as they prepare to meet the urban catastrophes of the city of

Guwahati. This was the first such exercise to be held in the North East and third of its kind in India.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is implementing two projects, viz., 'Disaster risk reduction, including climate change adaptation of Guwahati in the context of dynamic growth' and 'Water resource and flood and erosion risk mitigation planning in Assam' in collaboration with Earth Institute of Columbia University, USA. These projects will help the State in making critical and integrated analysis of issues related to climate, flood, erosion, agriculture, energy, development, ecology, human health and their implications for future development. These projects will be implemented by the Earth Institute of Columbia University in collaboration with IIT, Guwahati; IIT, Delhi; North East Space Application Centre; Sustainable Urbanism International, Bangalore; Department of Water Resources and ASDMA. The Government of India has selected the Computerization of Registration (Panjeeyan) Project in Assam for the prestigious Gold Icon in the National Awards for e-Governance 2012-13 for excellence in Government process re-engineering. The project has been implemented by Revenue & Disaster Management Department. The computerization of land records has been completed in the Revenue Circles of 19 districts. Government has responded quickly in providing relief and rehabilitation

to the families affected in violence that occurred in Karbi Anglong District in the month of December, 2013 and amount of Rs.1.35 crores has been released. Also, fund has already been released to the Deputy Commissioners of Kokrajhar, Chirang and Dhubri Districts for providing Rehabilitation Grant. The Department has enhanced the monthly remuneration of the eligible Gaonburhas in the state from Rs.1,875/- per month to Rs.2,500/- per month with effect from 1st January 2014.

#### **SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES, BACKWARD CLASSES & OTHER COMMUNITIES WELFARE**

My Government has been continuously adopting suitable plan, policies and special development packages for empowerment and all round development of various socially and economically disadvantaged communities like ST, SC and OBC living in the State. During 2013-14, a total of 104,896 students (SC=41,302, ST=28,811 and OBC=34,783) were provided Pre-matric Scholarship and 115,653 students (SC=15,045, ST=62,439 and OBC=38,169) have been provided Post-matric Scholarship. The Government has assisted 10,360 SC families, 25,220 ST families and 4,500 OBC families living below poverty line (BPL) by providing them financial support for self-employment through income generating schemes. During

the current year 1,115 (SC=83, ST=490 and OBC=542) power tillers and tractors were provided through SHGs for generation of employment. In the year 2013-14, Rs.54.85 crores have been proposed for socio-economic development through 18 Development Councils of the state. During 2013-14 an amount of Rs.373.38 crores is allocated to Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) for normal works.

Under the Prime Minister's Adarsh Gram Yojana, 100 villages (50 each in Morigaon and Nagaon Districts) were taken up as model villages in the SC dominated areas and Rs.20.00 crores each has been released to the Deputy Commissioners. During 2013-14, Rs.82 crores and Rs.214.91 crores have been proposed for special development programme under Tribal Sub-Plan and Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan respectively. For training and quality research, the Institute of Research for Tribal & SC has utilized an amount of Rs.83.62 lakhs including Central grant during 2012-13 for imparting academic training, capacity building, research programme, seminar and work shop. For, 2013-14, Rs.1.60 crores has been proposed for the purpose.

#### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

My Government has given high priority to the sustainable development of Science & Technology. To encourage students in the matters of Astronomy, 219 high

quality Telescopes have been distributed to the Aryabhata Science Centres. In respect of Science City, Guwahati, possession of Government land has been taken by Assam Science Technology and Environment Council, and acquisition of Patta land is under process. The construction work will start soon. In addition to that a Hi-tech Cactus House in Assam Bio-Resource Centre at Madan Kamdev, Baihata Chariali is being constructed. Assam Remote Sensing Application Centre has already completed land use land cover mapping for eight districts of Assam along with drainage and road infrastructure.

#### **SOCIAL WELFARE**

My Government is committed to contribute towards overall development of women, children, person with disability, senior citizens and infirm people of the society. Total allocation for Social Welfare for the year 2013-14 is Rs.184.12 crores in Social Sector and Rs. 50.50 crores in Nutrition Sector in the plan budget. The Government has been implementing the flagship programme of ICDS since inception to the satisfaction of general public. This flagship programme has covered the entire state and there is at present 62,153 Anganwadi Centres including Mini Anganwadi Centres. Government has also initiated constitution of Matri Sahayok Guts who will monitor, supervise and implement various schemes relating to women and child development

including ICDS at Anganwadi level. Already 56,220 Matri Mandals have been constituted. Morning snacks have been provided to the pre-school children procuring locally available fruits.

Assistance to BPL girls has been given who marry after attaining the age of 20 years to prevent child marriage and school dropout at secondary level. Under the Mukhya Mantrir Mohila Samridhi Achari, 1,500 women SHGs have been covered by utilizing an amount of Rs. 16.85 crores in 2013-14. Schemes have also been taken up to insure life of unorganized landless labours, and Anganwadi workers and helpers. The Mukhyamantrir Jibon Jyoti Bima Achari also continued during the year 2013-14, for which an amount of Rs.750 lakhs has been released for disposal of claims. The scheme for unemployment allowances to persons with disabilities who are registered with Special Employment Exchange of the State numbering 75,000 have been provided unemployment allowances. My Government is also implementing two programmes namely, Rajib Gandhi National Scheme for Adolescent Girls, and Indira Gandhi Matritiya Sahayogi Jojana, with the assistance of the Central Government. A special programme to create night shelters for the shelterless people has been started in association with reputed NGO's at Greater Guwahati and 20 identified District Headquarters of Assam during the financial year 2013-2014.

## **SOIL CONSERVATION**

During the year year 2012-13, some major activities carried out under the Soil Conservation sector were gully control, water harvesting and distribution, land reclamation, protection of reverine land, rubber plantation, protective afforestation, soil survey works and various centrally sponsored watershed development projects. Around 12 lakh rubber saplings were planted, a coffee factory has been set up, and soil survey covered 18,200 hectares.

## **SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS**

My Government has taken initiatives to develop sports infrastructure and providing better coaching. In the year 2014-15, swimming pools and indoor halls at district headquarters are being proposed for construction. An amount of Rs.15 crores is proposed for construction of Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex in 30 Development Blocks. In 2013-14, Rs.3.76 crores have been sanctioned under Plan Budget for development of sports infrastructures including Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex. Three schemes, viz, construction of indoor stadium at Dhemaji, a complex and a youth hostel at Jonai have been undertaken under C.M.'s Special Package for Dhemaji District. Under the same package, sports infrastructures are being created in Barak Valley. For welfare of students and youth Rs.4 crores have been provided as grants in-aid to State Level Advisory Committee.

## **TEA TRIBES WELFARE**

My Government is committed to look into the need and wants of the people belonging to the tea tribes and for their all-round development. Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships have been paid to 2,40,491 students. Financial grants have been extended to 1,120 Non-Govt. Educational Institutions where more than 50% enrolment belongs to Tea Communities. Financial assistance has also been awarded to 9,932 students pursuing higher studies and to 1,470 ANM and Para-Medical trainees. A batch of 80 (eighty) youths belonging to Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes have been sponsored in the job oriented training in different Para-Medical courses including B. Sc. Nursing, GNM, etc. Of them, placement has been awarded to 22 youths those who have successfully completed the training. Placement for rest of the trainees is in process. Hostel facilities have been provided to needy boy and girl students. A batch of 45 youths have been sponsored for training in Housekeeping, Front Office Management, Bakery and confectionery, Food and Beverage etc. under Food Craft Institute (A Govt. of India) at Samaguri in Nagaon district. Another batch of 35 youths has been sponsored in Computer Accounting (100% job assured) course at Guwahati. Construction of 10 Handloom & Handicrafts Production Centres. (out of 100

unit targeted). Some recently completed projects undertaken include Library-cum-Cultural Centres (LAC-wise) in the Tea dominated LACs with the objective to create reading habit of the youths in the rural areas, completion of a modern auditorium-cum- museum and library at Dibrugarh. Construction of a modern Conference Hall at Guwahati is in process. Some other schemes undertaken for the welfare and benefit of the tea tribes include free distribution of 382,317 number of individual electric meters in the Tea Workers' quarters, distribution of power tillers to 1,515 number of Self Help Groups benefitting 10,605 families, grant of subsidy @ Rs. 1.00 (one) lakh to 100 youths for purchase of taxi against bank loan under Gramya Taxi Scheme for self employment, financial assistance for treatment of T.B., Cancer and other malignant diseases to 2,179 patients.

Total Sanitation & Drinking Water supply schemes in tea gardens are being implemented in phased manner. As of now more than 28,000 low cost Sanitary latrines and 376 water supply sources have been provided covering 248 tea gardens. Distribution of Drinking Water Filter and Solar Lamp re-started from 2013-14 and that of sewing machines for women empowerment is continuing. More self employment oriented schemes in Handloom and Textiles, Handicrafts, Tea Nursery, Beauty Parlour, etc., are under

consideration including creation of 100 Handicrafts Production Centres in tea garden areas for the benefit of the women in the rural areas, in phased manner.

## **TOURISM**

During the last Five Year Plan period, Assam Tourism had under-taken various major infrastructure developmental projects such as Food Craft Institute Building at Samaguri in Nagaon district, setting up of a five star Hotel at Guwahati, an Institute of hotel management at Jorhat, installation of a statue of Lachit Borphukan in the middle of the Brahmaputra River at Guwahati, development of a Cultural Heritage Circuit covering Sarthebari-Patbausi-Barpeta-Konora-Baghor and Sarbhog, and Untied SCA-Eco-Tourism project of Sasoni Merbeel in Dibrugarh district. Further under the Chief Minister's SELF-HELP Tourism scheme total number of 690 unemployed educated youth have been provided financial assistance for purchase and operation of tourist transport vehicle on commercial basis. Proposal for Tea Museum at Dibrugarh has already submitted to the Ministry of DONER for an amount of Rs.5.00 crore. The inflow of tourists both domestic and foreign are gradually increasing in the state. In 2007-08, the number of tourists was 35 lakhs which included 13,799 foreigners, in 2010-11, it increased to 41 lakhs of which 15,633 were foreigners.

## **URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

My Government has taken up a number of projects under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) as well as state plan which are being being executed by the Urban Local Bodies/ Development Authorities under the supervision of Town & Country Planning. At present, Town & Country Planning is monitoring implementation of 111 major infrastructure projects in 60 towns through Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities for total project cost of Rs.751.57 crores. The projects have been sanctioned for development of infrastructure like Rehabilitation Centre for Hawkers & Vendors, Truck terminus, Multi Utility building, Roads, Storm Water Drainage, Business Centre, Commercial Complex, Town hall, Recreation centre, Play ground, Water Supply project, Multi Storied Car Parking etc. Under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP), 1,961 houses have been constructed for the urban poor in 13 towns. Efforts are being made under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) to develop slum free urban area with the provision of affordable shelter to the urban poor. The scheme is proposed to be implemented in eight towns namely Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Jorhat, Tezpur, Silchar, Nagaon, Kokrajhar and Dhubri. Town & Country Planning Department has been constantly engaged in preparing the Master Plans for different urban centres of Assam. Till now 38 Master Plans have been prepared and process of preparing

another 42 master plans are in progress. Moreover, it is proposed to implement Solid Waste Management and infrastructure development projects in 24 towns under Annual Plan fund during 2014-15. In the year 2013-14, an amount of Rs.7.62 crores has been provided to the Assam State Housing Board both for General and Hill Areas against the proposed target of 945 units for implementation of the following schemes under State Plan allocation.

## **TRANSPORT**

My Government is carrying forward its social commitment in providing smooth bus services through Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC). There are 795 buses owned by ASTC and about 1200 private buses are also operating under ASTC covering interior and backward rural areas of the State. To ensure imparting training of drivers, especially of heavy vehicles two Driving Training Institutions are proposed to be set up at Kamalpur in Kamrup and in Chirang districts. The Driving Training Schools at Guwahati, Betkuchi has begun imparting training for drivers of tankers and other hazardous goods carriers. Due to serious concern of alarming rise of road accidents in the State, the Government has constituted the State Road Safety Council, Assam. The Transport Department has decided to procure 8 Traffic Interceptors and will be utilized in 8 districts of Assam for detection of violation of speed limit, rash driving

and other offences. The department has purchased 22 breath analyzers and have distributed these to the district offices. The Department is also a major source of revenue earner and has collected an amount of Rs. 232.70 crores (p) upto November, 2013 of the year 2013-2014 against the collection of Rs.229.50 crores of corresponding period in the year 2012-13.

Implementation of E-Transport project in the state covering all district transport offices i.e., 'Sarathi' and 'Vahan' software relating to driving license and registration of vehicle is in implementation w.e.f 2007 onwards. The acquisition of 228 bighas, 2 kathas, 19.3 lessa of land for upgradation and construction of helipad steps of LGBI Airport is going to be completed. Meanwhile, the cost of land acquisition of Rs.23.28 crores has already been deposited. The land acquisition of Rs.3 crores for upgradation of Mohanbari Airport has also been deposited. The implementation of High Security plates project which covers computerized registration number of vehicles including the security features thereof is expected to be completed all over Assam by end of 2014.

Considering the national focus on safe public transport for women and children, 10 low floor city buses are being provided in Guwahati city. In order to develop the infrastructure and to facilitate smooth operation of rural

connectivity buses, construction of modern bus terminus with passenger amenities at Nalbari, Chirang and North Lakhimpur is in progress. In order to decongest the traffic on the roads of Paltanbazar area of Guwahati, Multi-level Parking has been constructed, which is the first of its kind in the North Eastern Region.

The Inland Water Transport, Assam has been operating Ninety-Seven ferry services on the river Brahmaputra and Borak and in its tributaries for the purpose of public utility services. Additionally, the Deptt. is operating Commercial Services and playing an important role for development of River Tourism with the services of river Cruising facility (AC & non-AC) and floating restaurant (AC & non-AC). Construction of 20 nos 17.00 m long Floating Terminal on the river Brahmaputra under Centrally Sponsored Scheme at estimated cost for Rs.4.50 crores are going to be completed within the current financial year.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

Assam being a flood-prone State, large-scale damage owing to submergence, erosion and loss of fertile land are a regular phenomenon. My Government has been able to provide reasonable protection to more than 50% of the 31.05 lakh hectares flood prone area of the State through construction of 4473.82 km embankments, 884 anti-erosion

and town protection works, 874.97 Km drainage channels, 94 major sluices and 545 minor sluices. Schemes taken up during 11th Plan & 2012-13 & 2013-14 includes 100 flood management schemes under FMP at a cost of Rs. 1139.56 crores. Of these, 92 schemes are physically completed and eight schemes are in progress. Recently 27 No's of FMP schemes at a cost of Rs.1004.1547 Crores have been approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee on Flood Management Programme in its first meeting held on 19 December 2013. These schemes are proposed to be executed in 12th Plan.

The Department has started adopting innovative methods and technologies for construction of embankments and anti-erosion measures using eco-friendly geo-synthetic materials. In view of the critical erosion problem which has assumed alarming proportions due to changes in channel morphology and frequent bank migration, channelization of river Brahmaputra and reclamation of lost land has become highly necessary. Already 4.27 lakhs hectares of valuable land has been lost since 1954. The Department has initiated action to constitute a Group of Experts comprising of national and international experts for advising the Govt. accordingly.

Some other schemes taken up for flood mitigation include 58 schemes for Rs.204.23 crores, of which 55 schemes have been completed and works of three schemes

are being started. Moreover, seven new schemes costing Rs. 46.64 crores has also been sanctioned by the Govt. of India under SPA for the year 2013-14. Several schemes were also taken up under NEC, NABARD and RIDF. Under State Plan, 12 schemes amounting to Rs. 35.31 Crores have been taken up during the year 2007-08 to 2011-12, all of which are physically completed. Eight schemes costing Rs.42.00 crores have been approved for taking up under Chief Minister's special package for Barak Valley during 2013-14. Similar proposal for another seven schemes costing Rs.70.15 crores for Tinsukia district is under consideration. Under Externally aided Project (ADB), there are two projects i.e. Dibrugarh Sub-project with an estimated cost of Rs.80.23 crores and Palashbari Sub-project with estimated cost of Rs.172.35 crores. Works of both the sub-projects are in progress.

Hon'ble Members, I have placed before you the policies and programmes of my Government. My Government is committed to implement the policies and programmes that have been outlined. I hope that the deliberations of this House would help achieve this objective.

**“Jai Hind”**



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