



Address by

**His Excellency
Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik
Governor of Assam**

BUDGET SESSION

**Assam Legislative Assembly
1st March, 2012**

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

I am happy to address this august House during the Budget Session 2012 of the Assam Legislative Assembly. I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you all. I would be placing before you the policies and programmes of my Government. I am confident our collective efforts would take Assam forward on the path of peace and prosperity.

Assam has witnessed major changes during the past decade. The security scenario has shown significant improvement with a number of insurgent groups coming over ground. There is a general realisation today that violence provides no answers and that only engagement in the democratic process can enable diverse groups to fulfil their aspirations. This feeling has in no small measure resulted from a realisation that the government is working for the people and for their all-round betterment. I am sure that the remaining insurgent groups will understand the sentiments of the people of Assam and come forward to create an atmosphere that is conducive for accelerating the pace of development in Assam.

During the same period there has been a significant improvement in the financial resources of the State. Substantial resources have been generated by enlarging the tax base and improving the tax compliance. The plan size of the State has increased substantially from Rs 1521.28 crores during 2000-01 to Rs 9000 crores during

2011-12. Multi-lateral channels of funding from agencies like ADB, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the World Bank have been opened up. With the enhanced resources a number of schemes and programmes for speedy and accelerated development of Assam have been taken up. These are some of the reasons for the phenomenal rise of the GSDP growth rate in Assam, which is expected to exceed 8% during the current year as against the average growth rate of 1.97% during the Ninth Plan Period of 1996-97 to 2001-02.

While my Government would continue with its efforts to promote peace and growth it would simultaneously take actions to ensure that the changes in the economic and security landscape of Assam are both sustainable and lasting. It would ensure that the economic growth is inclusive and that the fruits of development are distributed equitably. For this it is necessary to increase the capabilities of people and to make them employable. There is a need not only to focus on the health and education sectors for increasing the capabilities but also to take up skill development programmes in a big way to promote employability. All efforts need to be made to ensure that a strong entrepreneurship culture evolves in the State. My Government is committed to this and would continue with its efforts to ensure that no person starves and that no person is deprived of health and education facilities.

My Government is aware that even the best intentions would not be sufficient to bring about development and good governance unless the delivery mechanism is strengthened. To achieve this it would need

to gear up its administrative machinery particularly in the rural areas and create the Assam Rural Service to serve the rural areas better. My Government is committed to provide a transparent, responsive and corruption free administration. Towards this end it would revitalise the Rajjor Paudulit Rajjor Sarkar Programme. It would put in place proper systems for performance evaluation of government departments and encourage social audit of different government schemes and programmes. It would also take up suitable measures to strengthen the existing mechanisms for accountability. A Legislative Council would be set up in Assam.

LAW & ORDER SITUATION

The multi-pronged strategy adopted by my Government of sustained counter insurgency operations against active militant groups, peace overtures for groups willing for negotiated settlement and rehabilitation of misguided youth has paid rich dividends resulting in suspension of operations agreements with various extremists outfits like, KLNLF, DHD(N), DHD(J), NDFB(P), ACMA, BCF and ULFA lead by Chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa. UPDS has signed the Memorandum of Settlement and laid down their arms. NDFB(RD) has declared an indefinite cessation of hostilities with effect from 1st August 2011. In a major development nine militant groups namely, ACMA, BCF, AANLA, STF, APA, KLO, UKDA, KRA and HPC(D) have formally laid down arms on 24th January 2012 expressing their desire to solve their problems through negotiations. My Government is hopeful that the Paresh Barua led ULFA

(Anti-Talk) faction would also come forward to solve their problems through negotiations by shunning the path of violence.

The matter of D-Voters is of concern to my Government as a large number of them have been found to be genuine Indians subsequently. Steps will be taken to ensure that genuine Indians who have been identified as D-Voters are allowed to exercise all their rights as such citizens including their right to vote. My Government has taken up various measures to modernize the state police by providing sophisticated weapons, improved security and other equipments and better mobility. A Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) project is being taken up to integrate the entire criminal administration system from the registration to the completion of the investigation. During the next year it is proposed to set up three new Police Stations and five new Out Posts. Action would be taken to ensure that police-citizen interface improves and the police become more people friendly.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSAM ACCORD

My Government is committed to the speedy implementation of the Assam Accord. It was the first to take an initiative to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) 1951 by including the names of persons from electoral rolls upto 1971 and their descendants. While updating the NRC 1951, we would ensure that no genuine Indian citizen is harassed and at the same time no foreigner's name is included in the updated NRC. My Government has constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to

examine the difficulties being faced in the updation of the NRC 1951 as well as to examine all the issues relating to the implementation of the Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. This Cabinet Sub-Committee is at present examining all the issues relating to NRC updation and holding discussions with the stakeholders. My Government has also constituted a Committee to examine and recommend ways and means for preventing infiltration through the unprotected riverine areas in the Assam-Bangladesh border and the Committee is at present deliberating on the matter.

For detection and deportation of foreigners 36 Foreigners Tribunals are functioning in the State. Assam PWD has completed Indo-Bangladesh Border Roads & Fencing works allocated to them except those relating to three bridges, which will be completed soon. My Government is also pursuing with the central agencies to complete their allocated works of Indo-Bangladesh Border Roads & Fencing as well as Flood Lighting at an early date. Protection, preservation and development of historical monuments and Sattras in Assam is being taken up. The Modernisation of the Jyoti Chitran Film Studio Phase III (Part-I) is in progress. The revival of the Ashok Paper Mill is proposed through the establishment of a Greenfield Paper Project.

AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

My Government gives high priority to the development of Agriculture. Assam has achieved a record production of 50.86 lakh MT of Rice in 2010-11, which is 15.8% higher than the achievement of 44.08

lakh MT of Rice in the year 2009-10. The Government of India has declared Assam as the best performing State in respect of improvement in Rice production in the country during 2010-11. Assam was also awarded as the best performing State amongst the category-2 States in respect of improvement in production of food grains. The Prime Minister of India handed over a cash award along with a trophy and a citation to the Chief Minister, Assam on 16th July 2011 at New Delhi.

A number of schemes have been undertaken to strengthen the Agriculture sector. In order to increase production of vegetables around Guwahati city, a special scheme has been taken up namely, Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters. The scheme for Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India is being implemented in full swing. In order to ensure food security, stress is being laid on enhancing productivity and production of food grains in Assam. Assistance would be provided to farmers and producer associations/ societies to enable them to get better prices for their produce. Extension of best practices through technology demonstrations, usage of high quality seeds and other inputs will continue to be encouraged.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) procured 23,282 MT of paddy from farmers during 2010-11. My Government has been insisting upon more procurement through FCI. During the year 2011-12, the State is likely to achieve farm power of 0.90 HP per hectare. During the 11th Five Year Plan period, the State facilitated installation of 2,00,295 pump sets and provided government assistance to the farmers for 4,240 Tractors,

12,939 Power Tillers and 912 Auto Vans for marketing. High priority is being attached to provision of agricultural credit. During the year up to December 2011, 2,44,457 Kishan Credit Cards have been issued as against 1,63,063 KCCs issued last year.

Horticulture occupies around 14% of the net cropped area and has good potential in Assam. My Government will continue to lay emphasis on promotion of high value crops like, Bhot Jalakia, Mushroom, Ginger, Cashewnut, Turmeric, Flowers, Orchids and Medicinal Plants. Modern techniques of protected cultivation will be encouraged. Emphasis would be given to the expansion of coconut and bamboo plantation and for Agar cultivation. Efforts would be made to encourage agro-processing facilities. Marketing infrastructure would be improved to benefit the farmers. The scheme for providing Auto Vans for marketing of agri-horticulture produce would be expanded. Due emphasis would be given on training of youth in the agri-horticulture sector.

IRRIGATION

An area of 7.97 lakh hectares has been brought under irrigation through a number of Major, Medium and Minor Irrigation projects. Out of which 2.44 lakh hectares have been created by completing 5 Major and 11 Medium Irrigation projects and 5.53 lakh hectares created by completing 1,242 Minor Irrigation projects. To bring in more areas under irrigation, various projects are presently under implementation with funding under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), the Command Area Development and Water

Management (CADWM) programme, the Assam Bikash Yojana, NABARD (RIDF), the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), the North Eastern Council and the State Plan. A system for realisation of irrigation service charges from the beneficiary cultivators is in place and funds have been allotted in the non-plan budget for general maintenance and repairing of already completed irrigations projects.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY

Animal Husbandry and Dairying plays a pivotal role in augmenting the income of farmers through employment generation and in providing protein based products to the people. My Government has given priority to cattle upgradation, improvement of animal healthcare services, fodder development and capacity building of all the stake holders. The number of AI Centres have gone up from 553 to 1,275 in 2010-11 with artificial insemination increasing to 2.5 lakhs. To increase availability of quality feed and fodder, 7,000 hectares of land has been brought under fodder cultivation producing 3,360 MT of green fodder. The Regional Institute of Livestock Entrepreneurship Management is being established at Rani in Kamrup (Metro) district for building the capacity of all stakeholders. For strengthening veterinary extension infrastructure in the State, 101 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries are being constructed. To facilitate doorstep delivery of animal healthcare services, 26 Mobile Ambulatory Vans are being introduced in 20 districts. Six

districts are being covered under the livestock insurance scheme to support the dairy sector.

Dairy development in Assam is aiming at the economic upliftment of the rural milk producers and providing urban consumers with quality milk at reasonable prices. Under the World Bank assisted Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project the dairy farmers are being organised into Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS) and provided with forward and backward linkages to strengthen their capacity and make them more competitive and economically viable. So far 494 DCS and 300 Milk Producers Institutions have been set up. Average milk productivity has increased from 1.04 litres per day in 2005 to 5.66 litres per day in 2011 in the milk shed districts under the World Bank project. The milk processing capacity in the State has increased from 15,000 litres per day in 2006-07 to 1,15,500 litres per day in 2011-12. A comprehensive awareness programme for hygienic production and consumption of milk has been started. Ten entrepreneurs have been selected for providing assistance to establish commercial dairy farms on a pilot basis.

FISHERIES

With the demand of fish being assured within the State and vast water resources available, fishery forms an important component of the rural economy of Assam. It has a vast potential for improving the livelihood of the poor people dependent on it. A number of schemes have been taken up to increase the fish production in the State. These include developing 1,720 hectare of water area

under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 and training 6,528 housewives in fish farming since 2008-09. A fresh water prawn hatchery has been established for the first time in Assam for introducing prawn culture with the encouraging result of a production of five ton per hectare per year. As a result of our continuous efforts the fish production has risen significantly to 2.32 lakh MT during 2010-11 from 1.90 lakh MT in 2007-08. Assam also has a good potential for ornamental fish culture. For promoting this, a separate unit for ornamental fish culture has been set up in the Directorate of Fisheries. A State Fishery Laboratory has been established for management of water quality, assessment of fish seed quality and control of fish diseases.

PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

My Government is committed to ameliorate the condition of the rural poor and has taken a number of schemes for this purpose. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) programme is under operation to provide employment to the rural poor and to create rural infrastructure like, rural roads, culverts, agri-field protection bundh etc. During this year so far wage employment of 210 lakh person days has been generated for job cardholders under this programme. Contractual engagement of 4,954 technical and managerial personnel have been made to strengthen the implementation of MGNREGA. The Management Information System has been fully operationalised to cover all the districts and over 95% of the wages are

being paid through bank or postal accounts. During the current year under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) more than 1.60 lakh dwelling houses have been constructed.

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) is being implemented in the State to provide self-employment through Self Help Groups (SHGs) and to individual Swarajgaries. Under this scheme so far 2,54,832 SHGs have been formed in the State since inception in 1999. Out these 1,65,619 are Women SHGs of which 82,976 SHGs have been provided with bank loan and subsidy since inception. This includes 7,389 SHGs that have been provided bank loan and subsidy during the current year. This scheme is being restructured as the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) from next year and would cover 42 blocks in the first phase with the remaining blocks being covered in a phased manner. The decrease of the age limit under the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAP) from 65 years to 60 years with effect from April 2011 has resulted in benefiting an additional 1.55 lakh old people in the State. Pensioners attaining an age of 80 years and above would be provided Rs 500/- per month under IGNOAP. The Socio-Economic and Caste Census for identification of BPL Households in Assam is underway.

COOPERATION

Cooperatives are an important vehicle for development in the areas of Agriculture, Cottage Industries, Fisheries, Housing, Processing, Handlooms and Handicrafts. My Government has been taking up various activities for revamping and streamlining the

activities of these cooperative societies in Assam. The Assam Cooperative Societies Act 2007 had earlier been enacted to make the cooperative societies autonomous and democratic. My Government is committed to amend this Act further to bring it in conformity with the recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee.

Effective regulation, education and training of regulators, cooperators, potential cooperators and employees of the cooperative societies as well as facilitation of cooperative societies to perform properly have been recognised as the three basic requirements for strengthening the cooperative movement. In pursuance of this, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies has completed the audit of accounts of most cooperative societies and streamlined the holding of Annual General Meetings of and elections to the cooperative societies. To ensure education and training, the Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management is being established. It is a first of its kind university dealing with the cooperative sector in the country and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad is presently engaged in designing its courses and strategic architecture. My Government would continue to strengthen the cooperative movement by reviving the cooperative credit structure as well as through strengthening of the primary agricultural cooperative societies, dairy cooperatives etc.

SOIL CONSERVATION

My Government is engaged in taking up various schemes for better management of the available land and

water resources by arresting erosion and loss of soil and increasing agricultural productivity with a view to enhance the quality of life of the people. These schemes relate to land development, paddy field development, rainwater harvesting & development, gully control works and riverbank stabilisation. The Soil Conservation Department has been designated as the nodal department for the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). 57 IWMP projects are currently under implementation in different districts and another 86 IWMP projects are being taken up. Steps have been taken for the revitalization of the Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation Ltd (APCDC). Emphasis is being given to rubber plantation in Assam. In this context, Rubber Day was celebrated on 22nd September 2011 with the distribution of good quality budded rubber stumps in the seven districts of Golaghat, Goalpara, Dhubri, Morigaon, Nagaon, Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup (Rural) to motivate people for rubber plantation.

ENVIRONMENT & FOREST

Assam is one of the bio-diversity hotspots in India. The State Bio-Diversity Rules 2010 have been framed and a State Bio-Diversity Board has been constituted to facilitate a coordinated approach for conserving our biological heritage with the involvement of research institutions, academicians, civil society and different government departments and agencies. A Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation is proposed to be taken up with assistance from the French Development

Agency at an estimated cost of 60 million Euros. The pilot project for Natural Resources Management & Integrated Livelihood under World Bank funding launched in 2007 in two Forest Divisions to usher in a new era in forest management has now been expanded to nine Forest Divisions.

A number of schemes have been taken up for increasing the tree coverage in the State. During the current financial year it is targeted to raise 11,592 hectares of plantation and 127 lakh seedlings for distribution, which is proposed to be raised to 13,000 hectares of plantation and 130 lakh seedlings for distribution in 2012-13. My Government has been taking a number of steps for conserving and enriching the forests in Assam. Developments of various Wildlife areas are being taken up through Project Tiger, Project Elephant etc. Emphasis is being given for reduction in man-animal conflict and towards this end it is proposed to erect solar powered fencing and raise 100 hectares plantation of food bearing trees. To strengthen security it is proposed to fully operationalise the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the Assam Forest Protection Force.

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

My Government has taken up various measures to reform the State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank under the Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Programme. To bring in efficiency in management of the State PSUs and to improve their service delivery, emphasis has been given on capacity

building and bringing in professionalism. Studies had been commissioned in respect of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) system and Training Need Analysis and the reports of the consultants are now being studied to improve the performance, accountability and supervision of the State PSUs. A few innovative schemes are proposed to be taken like, the Strengthening of the IT Infrastructure of some PSUs for improving their Management Information System and Computerisation of Accounts, ISO Certification, Technical Upgradation of PSUs and to Study the challenges faced in the implementation of the Performance Management System and Performance Related Pay in the State PSUs. Awards would be given to the best performing State PSUs. To reduce occupational hazards the State PSUs would be motivated to introduce proper safety measures in work places.

INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

My Government is giving priority to the development of micro, small and medium enterprises in the State. During the last five years 6,414 units in these sectors have been set up in Assam giving employment to around 46,955 persons. To facilitate growth of micro enterprises it is proposed to strengthen the block level infrastructure in Assam and adopt a special policy of providing rehabilitation packages to small, cottage and khadi industries. Special incentives are to be provided for small industrial units employing youth in sectors of Tea, Jute, Water Hyacinth, Banana, Orange, Betel Nut etc. Handicraft Training Centres are proposed to be set up in

Tea, Char, Tribal, Flood & Erosion affected areas. Multi disciplinary skills would be imparted in employable trades based on local resources. Provision of tools and machines in identified sectors to rural youth and Self Help Groups under the Mukhya Mantri Karmajyoti Achari (MMKA) would be continued.

Several steps have been taken to accelerate trade and industrial development in Assam. To provide infrastructural facilities to investors, 11 Industrial Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDC) have been proposed out of which 9 IIDCs have already been completed. Work of the Mega Food Park at Nathkuchi in Nalbari district is in progress. Implementation of the Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Ltd (BPCL) is in progress and expected to complete in 2013. Concrete steps are being taken to facilitate border trade with Bangladesh including establishment of Border Trade Centres. Construction of an International Trade Facilitation Centre has already begun in Jagun. In the Central Sector, the National Institute of Design would be set up at Jorhat, the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology at Sivasagar and the National Institute of Fashion Technology at Guwahati.

HANDLOOM, TEXTILES & SERICULTURE

Handloom weaving occupies a place of pride in the socio-cultural scenario of the State. This sector provides direct or indirect employment to around 25 lakh people and is second only to agriculture. In view of its importance a number of schemes are being taken up in this sector. Under the Assam Bikash Yojana 45,60,605

weavers have been assisted through grant of yarn and blankets during the period from 2007-08 to 2010-11. Under the Economic Upliftment Package, high quality looms, Jacquard machines and accessories as well as training is being given to groups of 20 members each for production of high quality woven fabrics. Under the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme poor weavers who are earning their livelihood from the looms are assisted with a grants-in-aid of Rs 25,000/- each. During the next year a new centrally sponsored scheme would be implemented in which weavers credit card would be issued and yarn would be provided at a 10% subsidised rate to weavers through a yarn passbook. Health Insurance Scheme and Life Insurance Scheme for Weavers are in operation.

Assam leads the nation in the production of Muga and Eri silks, which have a good market both nationally and internationally. My Government has taken up a number of programmes for Muga and Eri production with a focus on creating rural employment. To facilitate primary growers of Muga and Eri in getting remunerative prices for their cocoons, a Cocoon Bank is being established at Boko, Kamrup with assistance from the Central Silk Board. A special fund for the Golden Silk Project is being created to increase the production of Eri, Muga and Mulberry yarn along with provision of subsidy to increase the production of Muga textiles and special incentives for exporting these products. Two pilot projects are proposed to be taken up, one each at Dhakuakhana and Boko, for increasing Muga production through involvement of community institutions. It is also

proposed to establish Model Sericulture Villages in prolific Muga, Eri and Mulberry growing areas with a view to increase their production.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

My Government has taken up special measures to promote institutional delivery and immunisation with a view to bring down the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR). The Janani and Sishu Suraksha Karyakram is contributing to the reduction in MMR and IMR. The MMR has decreased from 480 in 2004-06 to 381 in 2010-11, the IMR has decreased from 61 in 2009 to 58 in 2010 and there has been a significant increase in the number of institutional deliveries in the State. Sixty-one Newborn Stabilisation Units (NSUs) have been established at delivery points to reduce IMR and another 171 NSUs would be made functional during the next year. The percentage of fully immunised children has increased from 70.23% in 2005-06 to 86.67% in 2010-11. Nutritional support is provided to pregnant women @ Rs 1000/- in two instalments under the Mamoni scheme. Under the Majoni scheme for providing security to the girl child, 1,70,501 Nos. of girl children have been extended the benefit by providing Rs 5,000/- as Fixed Deposit to each.

Special thrust is being given for improvement of the infrastructure at the District Hospitals, Sub-divisional Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHC) and the Primary Health Centres (PHC). Diagnostic Centres would be set up with modern diagnostic facilities like X-Ray, Ultrasound, ECG and Auto Analyser in all district

and sub-divisional hospitals along with strengthening of their Dental Wings. Rogi Shayak Nivas would also be constructed in all the districts and sub-divisional hospitals. Construction of 61 Model Hospitals have been taken up in rural areas of which five have been completed and the remaining are expected to be completed in 2012-13. To provide health services in the Char areas construction of 50 new Riverine PHCs have been taken up and these PHCs are at present functioning from rented houses. Emergency Response Service (Mritunjoy-108) is in operation in all the 27 districts and the number of '108' vehicles is proposed to be increased during the next financial year. The School Health Programme will be strengthened in all the districts. Assam AIDS Control Society is taking steps to prevent AIDS in the State.

My Government has given priority to medical education through establishment of new Medical Colleges and Hospitals as well as strengthening the functioning of the existing Medical Colleges. The Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, which was established in 2009, is functional and would be inducting its 2nd batch of students. The Fakharuddin Ali Ahmed Medical College & Hospital, Barpeta established in 2011 is presently running the hospital section and admission of students is expected in the next financial year. Construction works of the Tezpur Medical College are in progress. Three new Medical Colleges have been proposed to be set up at Kokrajhar, Dhubri and Lakhimpur. The upgradation of the Guwahati Medical College & Hospital (GMCH) to the level of a super

speciality hospital is under progress. A 200 bedded Cancer Hospital Building is coming up in GMCH and essential machineries for early detection of cancer like, PET-CT SCAN Machine and Medical Cyclotron are being procured. Two Nursing Colleges at AMCH, Dibrugarh and SMCH, Silchar are going to start admission as well as training during 2012.

PUBLIC WORKS

My Government has given priority to the improvement of roads infrastructure in Assam. A number of schemes have been taken up for road connectivity and for improvement of rural roads under various schemes such as, Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP), Mukhya Mantri Pakipath Nirman Achoni (MMPNA), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), Central Road Fund (CRF), Assam Bikash Yojana and Mukhya Mantri Poki' Dolong Nirman Achoni (MPDNA). Since 2001, more than 18,000 km of roads have been blacktopped and more than 5,500 km of roads are in progress. A total of 1,800 timber bridges have been converted into RCC Bridges and another 1,300 Bridges are under construction. Next year it is proposed to take up more that 500 km of state highways and major district roads for improvement, widening and strengthening and to convert more than 500 Bridges into RCC Bridges. During the current year, so far 189.31 km of national highways have been improved in Assam. During the next year it is proposed to take up development of 481.86 km

of national highways under the State Plan, 334 km under Periodic Renewal and 71.566 km under the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in the North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE). Constructions of a number of government buildings have been taken up and are in progress.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

My Government gives high priority to the provision of safe drinking water and for sanitation for all. Action is being taken to provide safe drinking water to uncovered, partially covered and quality affected habitations. During the current year 1,731 uncovered/partially covered habitations and 1,900 quality-affected habitations have been provided with safe drinking water. In addition, 894 rural schools were provided with safe drinking water. Mega Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS) with alternative safe surface water sources have been taken up for quality-affected habitations. These include the Greater Titabor PWSS to cover 308 arsenic affected and 199 other habitations, the Charigaon Integrated PWSS for 59 arsenic affected and 10 other habitations, the Composite WSS for Golaghat East and Kakodonga Development Block for 104 arsenic affected and 145 other habitations and Udmari PWSS for 60 fluoride affected and 12 other habitations. Anganwadi Centre Toilets, School Toilets and Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) for BPL and APL households are being taken up under the Total Sanitation Campaign. Jalmani Scheme is under implementation to ensure safe drinking

water in Government Schools having water quality problems.

EDUCATION

My Government is committed to the implementation of the Right of Education Act. It is taking various actions for achieving universalisation of elementary education and for improving its quality through the Sarba Siksha Abhijan. Free cooked Mid-day-Meal is being provided to around 50.52 lakh school going students of Class-I to Class-VIII covering all the Elementary Schools. Free textbooks have been provided to all categories of students of Government and Provincialised Schools up to Class-VIII. Attendance scholarship is being provided to 17,500 SC and 8,750 ST students. To improve the quality of education, the Teachers Eligibility Test has been conducted for appointment of teachers against 18,351 vacant posts in the Elementary Schools. The Assam Venture Educational Institutions (Provincialisation of Service) Act 2011 has been passed. A new scholarship is proposed for one lakh meritorious students of Lower Primary and Upper Primary Schools @ Rs 5000/- for pursuing higher education.

My Government is taking up a number of steps to improve secondary education in the State. The secondary educational institutions are being strengthened by the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RSMA) through provision of infrastructure, teachers training and quality improvements. A scheme has been taken up for engagement of three additional teachers on contractual

basis in the core subjects of English, Social Sciences and Mathematics & General Science in Government and Provincialised Secondary Schools. It is proposed to introduce the Science and Commerce streams in all Provincialised Higher Secondary Schools and Junior Colleges. Vocational education is proposed to be introduced in 1000 Secondary Schools. The National Vocational Education Qualifications Framework (NVEQF) will be implemented in the State. The Anundoram Borooah Award of providing free computers to students securing 1st division is to be extended to students securing 50% and above. The Directorate of Madrassa Education, Assam is taking up a number of measures for improving madrassa education in Assam. Adult literacy would be improved through the Saakshar Bharat Programme.

To further higher education, financial support for infrastructure development has been provided to Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Cotton University, Bodoland University and K.K.Handique State Open University. Science and Commerce streams would be started in a minimum of 30 existing Provincialised Colleges. Infrastructural development grant would be provided to existing Government and Provincialised Colleges. Four Engineering Colleges would be set up in the districts of Golaghat, Dhemaji, Karimganj and Goalpara. The Assam Science & Technical University has been established and steps have been taken to establish a Women University. To promote skills development after Class X, 21 new Polytechnics are proposed to be set up. An Indian Institute of Information

Technology and Advance Sciences is proposed to be set up in the PPP mode. The course curriculum in higher education is being reviewed to respond to the competitive and changing job market.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme now covers the entire State with 57,767 Anganwadi Centres (AWC) including Mini Anganwadi Centres and its Supplementary Nutrition Programme component is showing progress in tackling the incidence of malnutrition amongst children and women. Initiative has been taken for constitution of Matri Mondals in all the Anganwadi Centres to monitor and supervise various schemes relating to women and child development including ICDS at the Anganwadi level. The Mukhya Mantrir Mahila Samridhi Achoni would continue to be implemented to economically empower rural women. Assistance is being given to BPL unmarried and unemployed women above 45 years as well as to widows for their livelihood. A Women Development Council is in the process of being set up as an apex body to co-ordinate all schemes relating to women empowerment in the State. Two new programmes namely, Rajiv Gandhi Empowerment Scheme for Adolescent Girl (SABLA) and Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayogi Yojana (IGMSY) are being implemented.

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights And Full Participation) Act, 1995 is being implemented throughout the State through the office of the Commissioner of

Disabilities. The Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Jyoti Bima Achoni providing insurance cover to accidental deaths, injury and in certain health related matters is under operation in the State. The Aam Admi Bima Yojana giving life insurance cover to members of the economically weaker sections of the society is also in operation. A special programme has been taken up in Guwahati to provide night shelter for shelterless persons in association with NGOs and this programme is now being extended to other districts. Old Age Homes are proposed to be set up in all the districts of the State in association with accredited NGOs.

FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES

My Government has been providing subsidised rice, wheat, sugar and S.K.Oil to the people under the public distribution system (PDS). Rice is being provided at differential rates to different categories of families under PDS. Around 7.04 lakh poorest of the poor families are benefited under the Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), 12 lakh BPL families under the BPL Scheme and 40.20 lakh APL families under the APL Scheme. In addition, under the Mukhya Mantrir Anna Suraksha Yojana another 20 lakh families are being benefited. Family Identity Cardholders are being provided 21 essential non-PDS items through 10,000 Amar Dukaan shops in the State. With a view to bring in transparency, accountability and effective delivery of PDS items, the PDS Family Identity Cards/ Ration Cards would be upgraded with biometric features. Under the Randhanjyoti Scheme widows, women from BPL

families and SHG members are being given free LPG connections. The financial and managerial capability of GPSSs and LAMPs set up under the Assam Cooperative Act 1949 is being strengthened under the Mukya Mantrir Samabay Sabalikiran Yojana. The Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the 23 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum are functioning to protect the rights of the consumers.

BORDER AREAS

A Border Area Development Programme funded by Special Central Assistance is under implementation in the international borders with Bangladesh and Bhutan. It aims to provide basic amenities to the people living in these border areas by taking up schemes for supply of drinking water, construction and improvement of roads and bridges, provision of school buildings, improvement of BOPs and link roads etc. The 13th Finance Commission has also recommended an amount of Rs 230 crores for development of international border areas of Assam. For the all round socio-economic development of the people living in the Inter-State Border Areas of Assam a number of schemes are being taken for provision of road connectivity, drinking water supply facilities, health facilities, electrification of villages, educational facilities and construction of community halls. My Government is committed to provide security to the people residing in border areas and supports peaceful resolution of interstate border disputes through negotiations and mediation.

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

My Government is committed to the all round development of the SC, ST, OBC and other communities living in the State. Seven Autonomous Councils and 18 Development Councils are taking up various schemes for development of different communities in the plains area of the State. The Autonomous Councils are the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) and the Autonomous Councils for Rabha Hasong, Mising, Deori, Tiwa, Sonowal Kachari and Thengal Kachari. The Development Councils are one each for the Mattak, Moran, Chutia, Sarania Kachari, Tai-Ahom, Adivasi, Bisnupriya Manipuri, Gorkha, Moimal, Koch-Rajbangshi, Maria, Amri Karbi, Nath-Yogi, Manipuri, Mech Kachari, Barak Valley Hill Tribes and General Caste communities and one for Tai Phake, Tai Turung, Tai Khamiang, Tai Aiton, Tai Khamti, Singpho, Tangsha & Sema communities. A Development Council is also proposed to be set up for the Scheduled Castes. My Government would continue to pursue the demand for granting scheduled tribe status to Moran, Motok, Chutiya, Ahom, Koch Rajbongshi and Tea Tribe communities. A number of development schemes are being taken up through the Assam State Development Corporation for SC, Assam State Development Corporation for ST, Assam State Development Corporation for OBC and the Assam Tribal Development Authority.

TEA TRIBES WELFARE

My Government has taken up various schemes for the welfare of people belonging to the tea and ex-tea tribes. These schemes include, Family Oriented Income Generating Schemes, Post-matric scholarships, Grants-in-aid for Non-Government Educational Institutions with more than 50% enrolment from the tea community, Scheme for Financial Assistance to Non-official Organisations working for the welfare of tea tribes and schemes sponsoring educational tours. Special training has also been imparted on various construction related activities with the aid of power tools in collaboration with BOSCH, which is a multinational corporation. Fifty Skill Development Training Centres in different locations in the State are being set up for providing vocational and skill development training for promoting self-employment and employment in industry as well as in the Government. A scheme has been taken up for giving grants to deserving students to pursue higher studies in different disciplines like, Administration, Engineering, Management, Medical Science, Research etc. The youth are being promoted in sports through coaching and through exposure to national and regional youth exchange programmes.

WELFARE OF MINORITIES

My Government is committed to the welfare of minorities. A number of schemes for the economic benefit of the people living in the Char Areas have been taken up. These schemes are in the areas of Agriculture, Cottage Industry and Education. During 2010-11, Post-

Matric Scholarships have been awarded to 4,114 students and Merit-cum-Means Based Scholarships awarded to 2,177 students. Under the Assam Bikash Yojana, power tillers, power pumps and sprayer machines have been provided to people in the Char Areas. The Assam Minorities Development Board is implementing various schemes for the welfare and development of the Minorities. The Assam Minorities Development & Finance Corporation Ltd. is also implementing developmental schemes besides providing loans to the minorities. A centrally sponsored Multi Sectoral District Development Plan (MSDP) Scheme is being implemented in 13 minority concentrated districts of Assam for which an amount of Rs 703.50 crores has been allocated during the 11th Five Year Plan. Assam State Commission for Minorities is functioning in the State. The Assam Linguistic Minorities Development Board is also functioning and looking after the specific needs of linguistic minorities.

TOURISM

Tourism sector in Assam has the potential of giving a substantial boost to the economy of Assam. My Government has taken up a number of steps for creation of tourism infrastructure, facilitating growth of income generating tourism related activities and for marketing and promotion of the tourism potential of Assam. It is proposed to set up a Mega Wildlife Circuit covering the National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Reserve Forests and Bird Sanctuaries in Assam. Another Mega Circuit is proposed to cover important tourist spots at Chirang,

Barpeta, Nalbari, Guwahati, Morigaon, Nagaon and Sonitpur. Destination development is proposed to be taken up with the Sasoni Merbeel Eco-Tourism Project in Dibrugarh district and the Deepar Beel Project at Guwahati. A number of Ghats and Jetties at strategic places along the river Brahmaputra are sought to be developed. Catamaran services are proposed to be introduced in the river Brahmaputra and a luxury cruise vessel in joint venture is to start commercial operation soon. The installation of a 30 feet high bronze statue of Bir Lachit Barphukan in the river Brahmaputra at Guwahati is under progress. For development of rural tourism, an innovative scheme for providing tourists home-stay facilities in selected rural homes is being taken up.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

My Government has taken a number of steps for the promotion of the rich, vibrant and diverse culture of Assam. Schemes have been taken up to give wide recognition to social reformers and other historical persons of eminence from Assam. These include the setting up of the Sati Radhika Cultural Complex at Bordowa, the Sati Sadhini Cultural Complex at Golaghat, the Anirudha Dev Cultural Complex at Tinsukia, the Madhab Dev Kalakshetra at Narayanpur, the Sarat Chandra Sinha Memorial Cultural Complex at Chapar and the Improvement of the Ajan Peer Dargah at Sivasagar. A new campus of the Regional Government Film & Television Institute is being set up at Sila near Changsari and five Jyoti-Bishnu Prakalpas at Goalghat,

Chandrapur, Mukalmowa, Pathsala and Sipajhar. The Jyoti Bishnu Cultural University, Assam Sangeet Natak Academy and the State Institute of Drama are proposed to be set up. A State Central Library is proposed to be set up. The modernisation of nine district libraries at Guwahati, Mangaldoi, Tezpur, Barpeta, Hailakandi, Nagaon, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Golaghat is in progress.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

My Government has been taking up different schemes for providing urban infrastructure and facilities in the small and medium towns of Assam. Schemes for Rs 701.49 crores have been sanctioned under different schemes like, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), 10% Central Pool Fund provided for North Eastern States, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) and One Time Additional Central Assistance. These schemes relate to infrastructural projects like Rehabilitation Centre for Hawkers & Vendors, Truck Terminus, Multi-utility Building, Roads, Storm Water Drainage, Business Centre, Commercial Complex, Recreation Centre, Water Supply Project, Multi-storeyed Car Parking etc. These also include construction/upgradation of 8,668 houses for urban slum dwellers in 16 towns.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) is under implementation for providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed and providing wage employment to

the people living below the poverty line. Under the Assam Bikash Yojana funds have been allotted for providing road drainage sweeping machines to 31 urban local bodies. The Assam State Housing Board is implementing the Janata Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Sections and the Rental Housing Scheme for Grade III & IV Employees in the State. Out of the 56 schemes taken up so far by the Assam Urban Water & Sewerage Board for providing safe drinking water to the urban people, 26 schemes have already been commissioned or partially commissioned and 5 schemes at Chabua, Howly, Makum, Amguri and Abhayapuri are targeted to be commissioned this year.

GUWAHATI DEVELOPMENT

My Government has taken up a number of schemes for creation of critical urban infrastructure in Guwahati specifically in the areas of drinking water supply, solid waste management, slum housing, roads and drains and urban transport. It has taken up a number of Mega Projects to address the chronic problem of short supply of drinking water in Guwahati. The South West Guwahati Drinking Water Supply Project funded under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is likely to be completed shortly. The South Central Guwahati Drinking Water Supply Project with funding from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is under implementation and the implementation of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded South East Guwahati Water Supply Project is going to start soon. A Bus Rapid Transit system is being taken up with

ADB assistance from Paltanbazar to Khanapara to ease the traffic congestion as well as to improve the quality of public transport. The development of the erstwhile Jail land in Fancy Bazar and the development of the River Front as well as the Adabari Bus Terminus is proposed to be taken up in the PPP mode. My Government has taken up a comprehensive plan for the preservation and development of the Natural Water Bodies in Guwahati including the Dipar Beel, Silsako Beel, Borsola Beel and the Sorusola Beel.

TRANSPORT

The Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) is carrying forward its social commitment and providing an efficient bus service throughout the State including interior and remote areas. In addition to its own fleet of 570 buses, 1,200 private buses are operating under ASTC availing its infrastructural facilities like parking yards, ticket counters, waiting rooms etc. Last year 100 new buses had been provided to ASTC under the Chief Minister's Rural Connectivity Scheme. This scheme has been very popular and to meet further demands it is proposed to provide another 200 buses to ASTC during the current year under the Assam Bikash Yojana. 182 buses provided under JNNURM are plying in Guwahati city. To ease the problem of congestion a Multi-level Car Parking is being constructed in the premises of ASTC Paltanbazar with funds under NLCPR. During the next year it is proposed to procure another 300 new buses and improve 40 old and dilapidated bus stations and yards.

My Government is now giving priority to road safety through enforcement of laws and creating awareness. With a view to imparting training to drivers, two Drivers Training Institutes are proposed to be set up at Kamalpur and Chirang. The Inland Water Transport has been operating 98 Ferry Services on the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. River tourism is being promoted by introducing a Floating Restaurant with river cruise facility on the river Brahmaputra at Guwahati. During the next year infrastructure development of 28 Ferry Services, introduction of 10 Water Taxi on the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers as well as renovation and modification of old vessels are proposed to be taken up.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

My Government accords high priority to the development of Science & Technology and for the spreading of scientific temper in the State. 219 Aryabhata Science Centres are popularising science and technology in 219 development blocks. To facilitate science and mathematics education in the schools in rural areas, 260 science and mathematics facilitators have been engaged in 130 selected High and Higher Secondary Schools. The National Children's Science Congress, the National Science Day and the National Technology Day are being celebrated in all the districts of Assam. Works of the Jorhat Planetarium cum Science Centre are nearing completion and those of the planetariums at Kokrajhar, Nalbari and North Lakhimpur are under construction. Fourteen Automatic Weather Stations have been installed at selected locations in collaboration with ISRO for

timely forecasting of weather. The Assam Energy Development Agency (AEDA) has electrified 700 villages covering more than 30,000 households in 19 districts of Assam.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Assam State Wide Area Network (ASWAN) is being set up linking each block head quarters and sub-divisional head quarters to the district head quarters and finally to the state head quarters. So far 264 PoPs (Points of Presence) have been made operational. Action will now be taken to provide horizontal connectivity so that various government offices at different levels are incorporated in the ASWAN network. More than 3,800 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been set up from which ICT enabled service delivery would be provided in respect of a range of services to the people of the villages and towns where they are located. The State Data Centre would be operational by the end of this year.

The e-District Project under which electronic delivery of services were being given on a pilot basis in the districts of Goalpara and Sonitpur leveraging ASWAN and CSCs, will now be extended to the remaining districts in a phased manner. The Assam Online Portal and the Secretariat Less Paper Office Project are in an advance stage of implementation. A Rural ICT Livelihood Framework is proposed to be taken up under which farmers will get information about weather, current market status, soil status etc. A Knowledge Cloud Project is also proposed to be taken up for benefiting students, teachers and the research

community by giving them access to various knowledgeable information.

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Fixed Loudspeaker System (FLS) is disseminating information relating to the policies and activities of the Government and spreading the message of peace and integrity to the grassroots level. Awareness is also being created among the people regarding peace, unity, harmony and national integration as well as regarding various welfare schemes of the Government through interalia street plays by the cultural wing of the Directorate of Information & Public Relations. Information Hubs are proposed to be set up in every district headquarters with all modern IT and electronic facilities along with books, journals, newspapers and manuals as well as digital libraries. The Lakshminath Bezbaruah Institute of Mass Communication and Printing Technology is proposed to be set up. Special schemes have been taken for journalists like the Journalists Medical Welfare Fund, the 3% Interest Subsidy Scheme for housing loans and the scheme for provision of land.

HILL AREAS

Two Autonomous Councils are functioning in the hill districts of Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong for the development of hill areas. During the current year an amount of Rs 417.42 crores has been allocated to these Autonomous Councils under the State Plan, the Additive Plan (Hill Areas Development Programme) and TFC Award for the implementation of various schemes. An

amount of Rs 8.50 crores has been allocated for the Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) and an amount of Rs 7.50 crores have been allocated under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India. Agriculture, infrastructural development activities and health and education are identified as areas of priority. The Assam Hills Medical College and Research Institute is to be set up at Diphu. It is also proposed to establish the Assam Hills Engineering College and Assam Hills University in the hill areas of Assam.

POWER

My Government is committed to make quality and reliable power available to all households and industrial units in Assam. It will take all measures to promote efficiency in generation, transmission and distribution to reduce the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses and to increase the Plant Load Factors (PLFs). The reform of the institutional structure would be continued to facilitate this process. After commissioning of the 100 MW Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Project (HEP), 37.2 MW Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Project and the 4 MW Champamati Small HEP it is proposed to further enhance the generation capacity of the State through taking up new Thermal and Hydro Electric Projects. For this, it is proposed to set up a 500 MW Thermal Generation Plant at Margherita and a 150 MW Hydro Electric Project at Lower Kopili. The ongoing Namrup Replacement Power Project would be completed expeditiously. All assistance would be extended for early completion of the 750 MW Power Plant being set up by

NTPC at Bongaigaon and the 240 MW Hydro Electric Project over the Killing river.

The transmission and distribution network in Assam has been strengthened by taking a number of schemes under the Accelerated Power Development & Reforms Programme (APDRP), the Restructured-APDRP, the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), the ADB funding, the Assam Bikash Yojana and the Chief Minister's Power Supply Assurance Mission. As a result the transmission and transformation capacity of the Assam Grid has increased from 700 MW in 2005 to 1433 MW at present and the AT&C losses reduced from 42% to 27% in the last five years. Rural electrification is being taken up under RGGVY and a scheme for providing solar energy is being implemented for remote and inaccessible villages. The Input Based Distribution Franchisee (IBDF) Scheme for handing over selected 11 KV Feeders to franchisees to reduce theft and increase revenue would be continued. The balance works of providing two CFLs to 10 lakh BPL families free of cost and distribute free solar lantern to one lakh deserving students would be completed during the year.

Assam needs substantial power for its industries, its agriculture and to provide larger employment opportunities and adequate livelihoods to its people. For this purpose we would like the Lower Subansiri HEP to be completed but we would also like the Government of India to take suitable measures so that the downstream areas are not adversely affected.

MINES & MINERALS

My Government has taken a number of actions for the development of mineral resources in the State. The geological investigations carried out so far have resulted in establishment of good reserves of limestone, coal, china clay, glass sand, sillimanite, granite and iron ore. A number of schemes are being undertaken at present. These include the detailed exploration of limestone deposits in Dima Hasao district, investigation of coal deposits in Karbi Anglong, Sivasagar, Dibrugarh and Dhubri districts, investigation of iron ore deposits in Kamrup district and hydro-geological investigation of groundwater resources in Kamrup district and greater Guwahati area. The Assam Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. would be setting up two large cement projects in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with nationally reputed companies. Exploration licences and mining leases for minerals and petroleum are being granted to various public sector and private sector organisations. Non-tax revenue in terms of royalty, rent, fees etc is also being realised from the licensees and the lessees.

LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

My Government has given high priority to imparting vocational skills to the youth and for increasing their employability. 23 ITIs out of the 28 ITIs in the State are being completely upgraded under two schemes namely, the Centre of Excellence Scheme and the Public Private Partnership Scheme. 98 trades and 237

modules have been started in the ITIs for imparting Short Term Modular Employable Skills. Steps have been taken to establish seven new ITIs in Assam at Kajalgaon, Suklai, Boko, Ghilamara, Karimganj, Ledo and Titabor. Mini ITIs are being set up in 11 uncovered blocks and 13 more ITIs are being established under the Multi Sectoral Development Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. A Skill Development Mission has been set up for taking up skill-oriented programmes. To ameliorate the unemployment problem, an Employment Generation Mission has been set up and so far 10,319 Nos. of unemployed youths have been provided with gainful self-employment. Various labour welfare legislations are being enforced to protect the right of the workers and to ensure welfare benefits reach them. The Janashree Vima Yojana has been launched to provide social security to all the registered beneficiaries under the Building and Other Construction Workers (RE&CS) Act, 1996. The Child Labour (P&R) Act 1986 is being strictly implemented to prevent the employment of children in hazardous and non-hazardous occupations.

WATER RESOURCES

The annual ravages caused by floods have resulted in large-scale damages due to submergence, reduction in fertile land and loss of land due to erosion. To mitigate this problem a number of schemes have been taken. These include 85 schemes taken up under the Flood Management Programme (FMP) for Rs 798.27 crores which are nearing completion as well as 17 schemes under FMP for Rs 341.54 crores and 13 schemes under

NABARD-XV for Rs 50 crores that are under implementation. An ADB funded project namely, Assam Integrated Flood and River Bank Erosion Risk Management Project has also been started with a project cost of Rs 700.912 crores having one sub-station each at Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Palashbari. For better functioning of the flood management works some new ideas for flood control measures have been taken up like, the use of Geosynthetic materials in the form of Geo Bags and Geo Textiles for bank protection works. The recently completed, first of its kind in the country, mega project in Matmara area of Lakhimpur district is an example of this. The on going protection works in Rohmorja area of Dibrugarh district is another example.

Latest space technologies like Remote Sensing and Geographic Information system have also been adopted for understanding flood, erosion and other related problems of the river Brahmaputra. Pending the setting up of the North East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA), my Government wants the immediate revamping and strengthening of the Brahmaputra Board to enable it to tackle the emergent problems of floods and erosion being faced in Assam.

SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS

My Government has taken a number of steps to nurture excellence in the field of sports by developing sports infrastructure, providing coaching and equipments as well as holding tournaments. New stadiums are proposed in the district headquarters at Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Nalbari, Karimganj and Sonitpur as well as in

sub divisions where such facilities are not available presently. Development of play fields, sports infrastructure and other sport facilities at the village and block level in rural areas is being taken up under the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) in keeping with the State Sports Policy. More than one lakh players participated in the Rural Sports Competition under PYKKA during 2011 and further coaching and training would be provided to the medal winners of these competitions. To create awareness among the youth and students it is proposed to hold youth festivals and students festivals at the university, district and State level through the aegis of the State Level Advisory Committee for Students and Youth Welfare (SLAC). It is also proposed to encourage talented and meritorious students to appear for competitive examinations under the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) through SLAC. The North East Regional Centre of the Lakshmbai National University of Physical Education has started at Guwahati. Adequate funds would be earmarked to promote NCC, Scouts & Guides and adventure sports.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS & TRAINING

My Government has taken a number short term and long term measures for revamping the administrative machinery and bringing in good governance. It is among a few States in India who are adopting the Results Framework Document for achieving a transparent and result oriented administration and has recently held a two days workshop to facilitate this process. A Public Service Delivery Bill is under preparation to bring in an effective

service delivery system in Assam. A Core Group of Administrative Reforms (CGAR) is in operation to implement the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission. A Training Policy is also under finalisation, which would for the first time cover a wide range of services under the Government. With a view to elevate the Assam Administrative Staff College (AASC) as an apex training institution and a research organisation on governance, my Government is proposing to provide functional autonomy to this institution. This institution is at present taking up various training programmes for the capacity building of officers and is also providing pre-examination coaching for civil services. An Earthquake and Risk Mitigation Centre would be set up in AASC under the aegis of the National Institute of Disaster management (NIDM).

REVENUE

My Government has taken a number of initiatives to modernize revenue administration with the help of Information Technology. A pilot project for e-Stamping was earlier launched in 2009 to make available stamp paper in electronic form in the two districts of Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup (Rural). It is now proposed to extend e-Stamping to the entire State. Steps are also being taken to introduce e-Panjeeyan (e-registration) in all registration offices of the State to facilitate prompt delivery of registration deeds and documents to the public. The Mouza offices of the State would also be computerised in a phased manner. My Government has waived stamp duty for agricultural loans upto Rs 50,000/-

to enable farmers to obtain such loans. All Self Help Groups have also been exempted from payment of stamp duty for the purpose of availing loan from the banks. The Assam Land Grabbing (Prohibition Act) 2011 has come into force from November 2011 to curb the unlawful activities of land grabbing. To solve the problem of rehabilitation of erosion affected families a Rehabilitation Authority is being constituted. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is taking a number of measures for better disaster preparedness.

PENSION & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

My Government is committed to the grant of timely pension to the government servants and to the staff of the provincialised schools. Suitable measures have been adopted to ensure timely settlement of pension cases. For this Nodal Officers in administrative departments, heads of department and district heads of office have been made responsible for timely processing and submission of pension cases. Orders have been issued to all concerned to issue Provisional Pension or Provisional Family Pension and DCRG to all retired employees as admissible for the initial one year compulsorily before forwarding the pension papers to the pension sanctioning authority.

EXCISE

My Government is enforcing the laws on prohibition of illicitly distilled liquor, ganja, bhang and opium. The State Anti Drugs and Prohibition Council is

creating awareness amongst the masses about the abuse of drugs and other intoxicating substances and for prevention of HIV AIDS. Two De-addiction Centres are functioning at Jorhat and Silchar. All efforts are being made to increase the collection of excise and sales revenue in Assam. During the current year upto December 2011 an amount of Rs 589.51 crores has been collected as Excise Revenue and Sales Tax on liquor, which exceeds the entire collection last year, which stood at Rs 515.48 crores.

LEGISLATIVE & JUDICIAL

The Assam State Legal Services Authority has been organizing Lok Adalats and legal awareness camps and mediations. The first academic session of the integrated five years law course under the National Law School and Judicial Academy (NLSJA) has already started from September 2011 in a temporary accommodation. An amount of Rs 100 crores has been approved for the Phase-I construction works of this Academy and work would start during the current year.

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

Joi Hind

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