



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

**BUDGET SPEECH OF FINANCE MINISTER
2012-2013**

BY
SHRI TARUN GOGOI
CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM

12TH MARCH , 2012

CONTENT

1 Economic Environment	:	1
2 State Finance	:	2
3 Consolidated Sinking Fund etc.	:	4
4 Assam Financial Corporation	:	4
5 Fourth Assam State Finance Commission	:	5
6 Externally Aided Projects	:	6
7 Institutional Finance	:	7
8 Annual Plan	:	8
9 Price Rise & Civil Supply	:	9
10 Internal Security	:	10
11 Freedom Fighters	:	12
12 Judicial & Legislative	:	12
13 Border Areas Development	:	12
14 Assam Accord	:	13
15 ST, SC & Backward classes	:	13
16 Autonomous & Development Councils	:	14
17 Hill Areas	:	15
18 Minority welfare	:	15
19 Tea Tribes	:	16
20 Education	:	17
21 Sports & Youth Welfare	:	20
22 Art & Culture	:	20
23 Health & Family Welfare	:	21
24 Public Health	:	23
25 Social Welfare	:	24
26 Agriculture	:	25
27 Irrigation	:	27
28 Animal Husbandry, Dairy Dev.	:	28
29 Fisheries	:	29
30 Panchayat & Rural Development	:	30

31 Co-operation	:	32
32 Water Resources	:	33
33 Soil Conservation	:	34
34 Public Works	:	35
35 Power	:	36
36 Mines & Minerals	:	37
37 Employment	:	38
38 Industries & Commerce	:	39
39 Handloom & Sericultutre	:	40
40 Information Technology	:	41
41 Science & Technology	:	42
42 Urban Development	:	43
43 Guwahati Development	:	44
44 Environment & Forest	:	45
45 Tourism	:	46
46 Transport	:	47
47 General Administration	:	48
48 Pension & Public Grievances	:	49
49 Information & Public Relation	:	50
50 Disaster Management	:	51
51 Revenue Reforms	:	52
52 Public Enterprices	:	53
53 - 55 New Schemes	:	54
56-60 Taxation & Revenue	:	55
61 Budget Estimates	:	56

Honourable Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the budget estimates for the financial year 2012-13.

1. Economic environment :

1.1 Before I proceed to present my budget proposals, I would like to apprise the Honourable Members of this august House about the overall economic environment and financial position of the State.

1.2 The growth rate of GSDP in the State during the 9th Plan period was 1.51 % which increased to 5.33% during the 10th Plan period. Due to special developmental initiatives of our Government the State has been able to achieve an annual average growth rate of 6.86% during the 11th Plan period and is expecting a growth rate of 8.42% (advance estimates) by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan. If we can maintain the present trend of accelerated growth rate with the help of the multiplier effects of progress already achieved, then we can hope for a projected growth rate of around 9.38% during the 12th Plan period. Agricultural growth rate of the State was negative during the 9th Plan period. This improved steadily during the 10th and 11th Plans. With projected average growth rate of 4.81%, we have been able to achieve the national target of 4% agricultural growth rate during the 11th Plan. This achievement is all the more remarkable if we take into account the fact that the actual projected national growth

rate of agriculture during the 11th Plan period 3.06% against the target of 4%. The agriculture growth rate is expected to be 5.01% during 12th Plan period. Assam's average annual growth rate in the industries sector during 11th Plan period has been projected to be 4.45% which is expected to rise to 4.65% during 12th Plan period. Similarly, against the projected average growth rate of 8.86% during the 11th Plan period, the service sector in the State is projected to grow at an average annual rate of 12.50%.

1.3 As per advance estimates the GSDP of the State in terms of constant (2004-05) prices for 2011-12 will be Rs.80465.13 crore as against Rs.74214.94 crore in 2010-11 (Quick Estimate) signifying a growth rate of 8.42%. As per advance estimates, the growth rates in agriculture and allied sectors, industry and services sector during 2011-12 are expected to be 6.43%, 7.19% and 9.74% respectively. As per advance estimates for 2011-12 the per capita GSDP of Assam at current prices is expected to be Rs.37,481/- as against Rs.34,201/- in 2010-11 (quick estimate). The per capita income of Assam on the basis of NSDP (current price) for 2011-12 is estimated to be Rs.33,633/- against Rs.30,569/- in 2010-11 (quick estimate).

1.4 On the price front the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of agricultural commodities in Assam (base 1993-94=100) stood at 272 in 2010-11 as against 249 in 2009-10 and 221

in 2008-09, displaying increases of 9.24% and 12.67% respectively. The all India WPI (base: 2004-05) for all commodities increased from 130.81 in 2009-10 to 143.32 in 2010-11 showing an increase of 9.56%.

1.5 The average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for working class population (base: 2001=100) in Assam during the first ten months of 2011 has been calculated at 174 as against 162 for the corresponding period of 2010.

2. State Finances:

2.1 Hon'ble Members of this august House are aware that after years of financial distress my Government has been able to restore fiscal stability. Since April 2005, the State Government did not have to resort to overdraft even for a day. The basic financial parameters of revenue and fiscal deficits have improved.

2.2 The remarkable financial turnaround of the State became distinctly visible from 2005-06. In that year, for the first time we could achieve the unique distinction of posting primary, revenue and fiscal surpluses. In subsequent years also we have been able to maintain the trend of fiscal stability as measured by these parameters. In 2010-11, we had ended the year with a modest revenue surplus of Rs 58 crore. The fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio in 2010-11 was also only 1.91%, well below the FRBM target of 3%.

2.3 Debt Position: The Twelfth Finance Commission recommended 28% and 15% as the acceptable levels of debt-GSDP ratio and the ratio of interest payment to total revenue receipts respectively. The Assam FRBM (Amendment) Act, 2011 and the 13th Finance Commission recommendations prescribed 28.2% as the prudent limit of Debt-GSDP ratio for Assam in 2010-11. The outstanding debt liabilities of Assam as per 2010-11 (BE) stood at 27.8% of GSDP, which is well within the prescribed limit. Assam is one of the best performing States in this regard. As per 2011 population census, the per capita debt of Assam is Rs.8,180/-, which is well below all India average of Rs.15,040/-. State finances at present are in quite comfortable position. Therefore the State could afford to borrow only Rs.800 crore as against the permissible limit of Rs.3,509 crore of open market borrowing during 2010-11. In view of our comfortable financial position, I have decided not to resort to any market borrowing at all during the current financial year. In addition to this, I have steadily brought down the ratio of interest payments to revenue receipts from 12.54% in 2005-06 to 8.31% in 2010-11. This is well below the 15% limit prescribed by the 12th Finance Commission.

2.4 Government Guarantees: Many State level PSUs and Cooperative Institutions had failed to repay their bank loans. Most of these defaulted loans were backed by State Government guarantees. To honour the Government

guarantees invoked by the Banks and Financial Institutions, the State Government liquidated large amounts of Government guaranteed debts. This has resulted in reduction of the outstanding government guarantees from Rs.1272.93 crore in 2005-06 to Rs.247.05 crore in 2010-11.

3.Consolidated Sinking Fund and Guarantee Redemption Fund:

3.1 Government of Assam constituted a Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF) with the Reserve Bank of India to facilitate future redemption of outstanding loans of the State Government. Under the revised scheme, State Government is to contribute to the CSF on a modest scale of at least 0.5 percent of the outstanding liabilities as at the end of the previous year. The Corpus comprising the annual contributions by the State Government as well as the interest accruing to the Fund has been kept outside the General Revenues of the Government. The Fund is administered by the Reserve Bank of India subject to such directions and instructions as the Government may issue from time to time. The State Government has been contributing to the CSF regularly. Till date we have not withdrawn any money from the CSF which is like an insurance to meet any difficult financial situation in the future.

3.2 Similarly, to liquidate future contingent liabilities arising out of Government guarantees, the State Government constituted a Guarantee

Redemption Fund in September, 2009. The State Government is going to make a contribution of Rs.19.12 crore to this fund during this financial year. Necessary provision has also been made for our contribution in the next financial year.

4. Rejuvenation of Assam Financial Corporation:

4.1 Assam Financial Corporation (AFC) had been incurring losses since 1992-93 and the accumulated loss stood at Rs.86 crore at the end of 2004-05. IDBI / SIDBI had stopped refinance facilities long back. Non-Performing Assets stood at Rs.37.20 crore at the end of 31.03.2005. AFC also defaulted in redeeming its SLR Bonds.

4.2 The AFC has since been revived by the State Government by giving budgetary support of Rs.74.25 crore as grant-in-aid. Subsequently, State Government provided Rs.10 crore for micro finance scheme, Rs.5 crore as share capital contribution and Rs.4 crore for venture capital fund to AFC. Its authorized capital has been raised from Rs.20 crore to 150 crore. In the Budget for 2012-13, I propose to provide Rs.10 crore as equity contribution and Rs.40 crore as soft loan to AFC. The soft loan may be deployed to finance Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Tea Sector, Tourism, Plastic Processing, Health care, Micro Finance and such other needy sectors at reasonable rates of interests.

5. Fourth Assam State Finance Commission:

5.1 Fourth Assam State Finance Commission (FASFC), which was constituted in April 2010 under the Chairmanship of Sri P.K. Bora, IAS (Retd.) former Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, had submitted its Preliminary Report covering the period 2011-12 to the Government on 25.03.2011. On 18.02.2012, the Commission submitted its Final Report covering the period from 2012-13 to 2015-16. The Commission has in its Preliminary Report recommended that 14 per cent of the net proceeds of State taxes, other than Entry Tax, Entertainment Tax and Electricity Duty amounting to Rs.674.60 crore shall be the quantum of the Divisible Pool (DP) for distribution among PRIs and ULBs during 2011-12. On the other hand, the Final Report of the Commission recommended that 15 percent of the net proceeds of State taxes, other than Entry Tax, Entertainment Tax and Electricity Duty, amounting to Rs.4165.62 crore shall form the Divisible Pool (DP) covering the four years from 2012-13 to 2015-16. The Commission has felt that because of the large number of GPs, their individual share of the 15 percent tax devolution recommended by the Commission will be relatively meagre. The Commission has, therefore, recommended an untied fund of Rs.3 lakh per GP per year from 2012-13 to 2015-16. The total cost per year on this account is Rs.66.06 crore and this is in addition to the 15 percent tax devolution.

5.2 On request from the Commission, State Government has further extended the term of the Fourth Assam State Finance Commission (FASFC) for two months from 1st March, 2012 to 30th April, 2012 for submission of report as per additional Terms of Reference relating to appropriate staffing pattern and corresponding revised pay structure for the employees of Local Bodies (PRIs and ULBs) and also appropriate recommendation with regard to provincialisation of the services of the employees of the Local Bodies having reference to the provisions of the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution.

6. Externally Aided Projects:

6.1 Prior to 2003-04 flow of funds to Assam compared to other States under Externally Aided Projects (EAP) was very meagre. However, after 2003-04 flow of funds to the State through various EAPs has been increasing substantially. We are now implementing the following projects:

- i) World Bank funded Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP) - Rs.1023 crore approximately.
- ii) ADB funded Assam Governance and Public Resource Management - Sub-Programme II - Rs.437.90 crore approximately.
- iii) World Bank funded Economic Reform Technical Assistance Project (Assam PWD Computerisation Project)- Rs 10 crore approximately.

- iv) ADB funded Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Project - Rs.119.47 crore approximately.
- v) ADB funded Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Programme- Project-I - Rs.1603 crore approximately.
- vi) JICA funded Greater Guwahati Water Supply Scheme - Rs.1500 crore approximately.
- vii) ADB funded Assam Integrated Flood and River Erosion Risk Management Program - Rs.750 crore approximately.

6.2 Four new externally aided projects have also been approved which we are going to implement from the next financial year. The projects are:

- (i) Assam Project on Forest and Bio diversity Conservation to be funded by French Development Agency- Rs.366 crore approximately.
- (ii) World Bank funded Assam State Road Project- Rs.1950 crore approximately.
- (iii) ADB funded Assam Urban Infrastructure Development - Rs.1080 crore approximately.
- (iv) Extended World Bank funded Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP) - Rs.468.75 crore approximately.

7. Institutional Finance:

With growth and expansion of the State economy, demand for financial services has also increased significantly. However, about 65 % of the State population still remains financially excluded. Financial literacy and inclusion are

the needs of the hour. The CD ratio of Assam has hovered around 40%, which is well below the national average of 76%. The State needs 800 more bank branches so as to reach the national average of bank to population ratio. I chaired a special meeting of the State level Bankers' Committee in June 2011. The meeting was attended by the CMDs of major participating banks. This was followed by a visit to Guwahati by the Reserve Bank Governor in November 2011. He also attended a special SLBC meeting. I was assured that the banks will do their best to improve the CD ratio and expand the branch network. I am happy to inform the august House that agricultural advances in Assam, which were hovering around 12% for many years, had crossed the national average of 18% for the first time in 2009. It has further increased to 19% by December 2011. Last year I released Rs 19.6 crore to Assam Cooperative Apex Bank as State share for revival of the short term Cooperative Credit Structure as per Vaidyanathan Committee recommendations. In next year's budget I have provided Rs 20 crore for One Time Settlement of the outstanding dues of several Cooperative institutions to the Apex Bank.

8. Annual Plan:

8.1 I would like to apprise the Honorable Members that apparently due to elections to a few states, Assam's 2012-13 Annual Plan discussions have not yet taken place and hence the Plan size is yet to be finalized. However, with

a view to facilitating implementation of Plan schemes from the beginning of the next financial year, I have decided to present a detailed tentative Plan outlay of Rs 10,203.48 crore including Rs 2565.86 crore from State's own resources, in 2012-13 budget as against Rs 9000 crore in 2011-12. This is an increase of 13 percent. I hope that after my discussion with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, the Annual Plan size for the next financial year will be further augmented. Emphasis has been given on providing the required State shares under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes so that they can be fully implemented in the State. An amount of Rs 1050.99 crore has been provided as State shares. Evaluation and monitoring of various State and Centrally sponsored schemes in the State are being done by the Evaluation and Monitoring Division of Planning and Development Department. This will be further intensified in the next year.

8.2 Necessary budget provisions have also been made for 13th Finance Commission grants, NEC, NLCPR, EAPs and Funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes that are routed through the State budget. In addition to the State Plan, various infrastructure projects are also being taken up under Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority and the Trade Development Fund created with the proceeds of Entry Tax.

9. Price Rise, Civil supplies and Consumer affairs

9.1 Vigorous steps are being taken to check the price rise of essential commodities. During last year 34,248 MT of APL rice, 39,602 MT of BPL rice and 24,641 MT of AAY rice have been distributed amongst 19.06 lakh BPL and AAY families and 40.20 lakh APL families. The PDS network is further being strengthened for effective distribution of other essential commodities like sugar, kerosene, wheat, foodgrains etc. Initiatives are also being taken to enhance the storage capacity of godowns by 6.82 lakh MT.

9.2 Mukhya Mantrir Anna Suraksha Yojana for supply of 20 kg of rice per family at Rs 6 per kg to 20 lakh APL families just above the BPL bench mark will be continued during 2012-13. An amount of Rs 100 crore has been provided in 2012-13 budget for implementation of this scheme.

9.3 Other ongoing schemes namely Antodaya Anna Yojana, Randhanjyoti, Village Grain Bank and Mukhya Mantrir Samabay Sabalakaran Yojana will continue to be implemented during 2012-13.

9.4 It gives me immense pleasure to say that people have been largely benefited due to introduction of the scheme of 'AAMAR DUKAN' and 'JAGO GRAHAK JAGO'. This innovative scheme envisages supply of essential non PDS,

MRP based food items through 10000 selected FP shops in the State.

9.5 Initiatives are being taken for effective implementation of innovative schemes like State Consumer Helpline for Consumer Grievances, Biometric smart family identity cards and reticulated LPG cooking gas/grid in multi-storied apartments. Efforts are also on for further strengthening of the State and District level Consumer Redressal Forums. State Government has already taken up steps for computerization of PDS network in the State from FCI godowns to the consumers with biometric based smart cards combined with GPS and GIS based tracking of vehicles carrying food-grains to ensure doorstep delivery of food grains to consumers. A proposal of Rs 200 Crore has already been submitted to Government of India.

10. Internal security

10.1 The multi-pronged strategy of sustained counter-insurgency operation against active militant groups, peace overtures to groups willing for negotiated settlement and rehabilitation of misguided youths have paid rich dividends in containing militancy. These initiatives carried out under the Unified Command Structure has led to suspension of operation (SoO) agreements with several extremist outfits such as Arabinda Rajkhowa led ULFA (Pro talk group), NDFB (Progressive), DHD (Nunisa) and NDFB (RD).

10.2 Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) has been signed with UPDS which resulted in laying down of arms by the outfit. Peace negotiation with DHD(J) has been finalized and signing of MoS will take place shortly. 101 militants hailing from NDFB (RD), ULFA (AT), KPLT, DNDF and other militant groups have surrendered and joined the mainstream. In another significant development, 9 militant groups – the Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam (ACMA), Birsa Commando Force (BCF) already having SoO agreement with the Government, as also All Adivasi National Liberation of Assam (AANLA), Santhal Tiger Force (STF), Adivasi Peoples Army (APA), Kuki Liberation Organization/Army (KLO/KLA), United Kukigam Defence Army (UKDA), Kuki Revolutionary Army (KRA) and the Hmar Peoples Convention (Democratic) (HPC-D) – have formally laid down arms on January 24, 2012 expressing desire to solve their problems and grievances through negotiation. Top priority will be given for rehabilitation of militants who have surrendered arms or have come forward for ceasefire.

10.3 Efforts are being made to rationalize and strengthen the existing Foreigners Tribunals with necessary manpower and infrastructure.

10.4 Under the Modernisation of Police Force (MPF), DIAL 100 PROJECT for Guwahati City Police Control Room has been completed and is ready for commissioning. Installation of 291 CCTV Cameras in Guwahati City is going on. Sufficient number of vehicles has also been

provided. A Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) project is being rolled out to integrate the entire criminal administration system. It is further proposed to augment the State Police Force so that every Police Station has strengths of 80 in urban and 40 in rural areas. All vacant posts of constables and driver constables are being filled up. Steps are being initiated to strengthen and develop the Crime Investigation Unit. Efforts will also be made to revamp and strengthen the Anti-Corruption Organisations viz: Director Vigilance and Anti-Corruption, C.M's Vigilance Cell and Lokayukta Assam.

10.5 Necessary steps will be taken to create new police stations, police outposts and fire service stations as per requirement. Existing vacancies of firemen and fire tender drivers will be filled up expeditiously and new posts will be created where required. Steps will also be taken next year to create adequate number of anti-human traffic units, one regional forensic science laboratory at Jorhat and 2 district mobile units of forensic science at Silchar and Bongaigaon.

10.6 The scheme of improvement of jails will continue in the current year. A new jail is proposed to be constructed at Hailakandi and the jail under construction at Udalguri will be commissioned during 2012-13.

10.7 For improvement of housing facilities for police personnel and their families in the Districts and for providing health, educational and recreational facilities in the police reserves,

I have asked the Home Department to give a detailed action plan with DPR implementable within a period of 3 years. Arrangements for necessary funds to execute the action plan have been made.

11. Freedom Fighters:

The State Freedom Fighter's Pension has been enhanced from Rs.5,000/- pm to Rs.8,000/- pm with effect from 1/3/2011. This enhancement is also applicable to widows and unmarried daughters of Freedom Fighters availing such pension.

12. Judicial and Legislative

12.1 My Government has accorded Administrative Approval for construction of Assam National Law School and Judicial Academy (NLSJA) at Amingaon, Guwahati. The First Academic Session of the integrated 5 years Law Course under the NLSJA has already started from September, 2011. My Government has established 6 (six) Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals (MACT). New Family Courts at Barpeta and Dhubri and one Additional Family Court in Kamrup District and 2 Additional Special Courts (CBI) at Guwahati have been set up. State Government has opened the District & Session Judge's Court at Udalguri and Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate's Court at Gossaigaon during the current financial year 2011-12.

12.2 Efforts are being made to popularise the Alternate Dispute Redressal Mechanism throughout the State for settlement of various legal issues. 12 Mediation Centres have accordingly been set up in 10 districts.

12.3 Honourable Members will be happy to know that following our decision to have a Legislative Council in the State, in-principle financial concurrence have also been accorded. I have moved Government of India for their approval to create the Legislative Council.

13. Border Areas Development

13.1 Several schemes for road infrastructure, drinking water, health and educational facilities, electrification of villages, construction of community halls etc. are being implemented under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP). The Specific Areas fund has also been introduced to supplement our efforts towards development of such areas.

13.2 An amount of Rs 100.85 crore has been provided for border areas development under 2012-13 Annual Plan.

14. Assam Accord

Implementation of several Assam Accord related projects namely, completion of Indo-Bangladesh border roads and fencing as well as flood lighting works, protection, preservation and development of historical monuments and Sattras in Assam, modernization of the Jyoti Chitrabon film studio and revival of the Ashok

Paper Mill will be given high priority in the financial year. Funds will be provided accordingly.

15. SC, ST, Backward Classes and welfare Other Communities

15.1 My Government is committed to continued empowerment and all round development of the socially and economically disadvantaged communities living in the State. We have proposed Rs 70.11 crore for the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and Rs 183.72 crore for the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) in 2012-13 budget as against Rs 63.16 crore and Rs 163.16 crore respectively in 2011-12.

15.2 For educational development of SC, ST and OBC students the pre-matric and post-matric scholarship schemes will continue this year with an allocation of Rs 5 crore and Rs 54 crore respectively.

15.3 It is proposed to assist families below the poverty line (BPL) through financial support for self-employment. During 2012-13, Rs 20 crore is proposed to be allocated for SC BPL families, Rs 65 crore for ST BPL families and Rs 8.5 crore for OBC BPL families for enhancing their self-employment opportunities.

15.4 Special schemes for construction of scavengers' colonies will be continued. In addition, special area development of

dominated villages will be continued through Prime Minister's Adarsh Gram Yojana.

16. Autonomous Councils and Development Councils

16.1 I have been giving high priority for smooth and effective functioning of the six Statutory Autonomous Councils. Against Rs 152.96 crore in 2011-12, in 2012-13 budget I have proposed Rs 169.77 crore for them with the following break-up:

- i. Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council – Rs 32.31 cr
- ii. Mising Autonomous Council – Rs 45.90 cr
- iii. Tiwa Autonomous Council – Rs 31.31 cr
- iv. Sonowalkachari Autonomous Council – Rs 19.72 cr
- v. Thengalkachari Autonomous Council – Rs 19.70 cr
- vi. Deori Autonomous Council – Rs 20.83 cr

16.2 In addition to the above 6 Autonomous Councils my Government set up 18 Development Councils for socio-economic development of different communities in the State. We will ensure efficient functioning of these bodies by giving them suitable financial, administrative and infrastructural support. An amount of Rs 40 crore has been proposed for

these Development Councils in 2012-13 bud as against Rs 24 crore in 2011-12.

16.3 It is heartening to note that Bodola Territorial Council (BTC) has made rapid progress in various spheres of development. We have given full support for creation of administrative and other infrastructure including Bodoland University, Medical College and an Engineering College in BTC area. In 2012-13 budget I have proposed an amount of Rs 330.47 crore under State Plan as against Rs 298 crore in 2011-12. In addition to this I have proposed Rs.12 crore as Non-Plan administrative grant to BTC.

17. Hill Areas

17.1 With the return of peace and normalcy in two Hill districts are now poised for accelerated economic development. I am firmly committed to extend all necessary help and support. Steps have been taken to transfer more autonomy to both the 6th Schedule Hill Districts Autonomous Councils. The construction works of Assam Hills Medical College and Research Institute in Diphu is going on. The Government of Assam has taken resolution for establishment of Assam Hills Engineering College and Assam Hills University in the hill areas of Assam. Construction of Joisingdoloi Auditorium Hall in Diphu in KarbiAnglong district has been completed.

17.2 Under Annual Plan 2012 -2013, Rs.314.

crore and Rs 143.03 crore have been proposed for the KarbiAnglong Autonomous Council and DimaHasao Autonomous Council respectively. The corresponding figures for the current financial years are Rs.286.61 crore and Rs.130.80 crore. In addition to this Rs 12 crore and Rs 15 crore will also be given as administrative grants to KarbiAnglong Autonomous Council and DimaHasao Autonomous Council respectively.

18. Minority Welfare and Char Areas

18.1 The Multi-Sectorial Development Plan (MSDP) was launched by Government of India during the 11th Five year Plan period with an allocation of Rs 703.50 crore for undertaking developmental works in 13 minority concentrated districts in Assam. Several projects have been taken up under MSDP to create infrastructure in education, health, drinking water and social welfare sectors. This also includes construction of 13 ITIs, 24 hostels and 1 polytechnic. It is proposed to set up one ITI each in the development blocks having minority concentration over the next five years for skill development of youths belonging to minority communities. Other measures taken for minority welfare include Girls' Hostel in rural/urban areas, distribution of solar hand light, pick up van/auto, pump sets, training on computer and scholarships to poor students etc.

18.2 An amount of Rs 33 crore has been provided for minority welfare under 2012-13 State Annual Plan.

18.3 Various developmental and welfare schemes have been taken for improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in char areas. During 2012-13, major focus will be on improving connectivity, popularization of non-conventional sources of energy, health care, increasing agricultural productivity, cottage industry and education. Power tillers, power pumps and sprayer machines are also being provided to people living in such areas under the Assam Vikash Yojana.

18.4 An amount of Rs 40.70 crore has been provided for Char areas development under 2012-13 Annual Plan.

19. Tea Tribes

19.1 Fifty Skill Development Training Centres will be strengthened by providing improved tools and equipments covering all vocational trades comparable with the ITIs for the benefit of youth from tea tribes. Around 5000 unemployed beneficiaries shall be targeted for skill development under various trades in 2012-13.

19.2 A new scheme namely Gramya Taxi proposed to be taken up with a subsidy of Rs 1 lakh per beneficiary against procurement of Auto Rickshaws and Auto Vans. Around 300 unemployed youths shall be covered in 2012-13.

13. Other Family oriented Income Generating Schemes that will be given priority are Nursing Training, Handloom and Handicrafts.

19.3 The WASH (Water Sanitation and Health), a scheme for providing safe and hygienic toilets and drinking water supply to the poor tea tribe families, will be extended to 5 more districts.

19.4 An amount of Rs 23 crore has been provided for Tea tribes welfare under 2012-13 Annual Plan.

20 Education

20.1 The emerging world economy is becoming more and more a knowledge economy. A strong foundation of quality education will be a prerequisite to survive and prosper in the emerging knowledge economy. My Government has therefore accorded very high priority in revamping and reforming the education system in the State. This reform process has started right from elementary education to the higher and university level education, with special focus on training of teachers.

20.2 We have successfully completed Teachers Eligibility Test for the Lower Primary and Upper Primary schools as mandated by Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009, and I am confident that we will be able to recruit 28000 meritorious new teachers before the coming Bohag Bihu festival. This is for the first time that the teachers' recruitment process is being

carried out in a completely objective and transparent manner. Further recruitment of teachers as per RTE Act and TET will be conducted annually.

20.3 In order to improve the standard and quality of elementary education, I have earmarked Rupees 50 crores to start a new scholarship scheme for the elementary students. While entitlements of the child to free textbooks, uniforms and mid-day meals are being taken care of. I have decided to provide footwear to our primary school students in the next financial year along with uniforms, for which I have earmarked Rupees 22 crore.

20.4 Provincialisation of eligible educational institutions at all levels, which will include Sanskrit tols and madrassas will also be taken up from next year. This will require around 1500 crore additional fund annually. In order to help those teachers who will be out-side the scope of provincialisation we have decided to introduce the Financial Assistance Scheme for educational institutions which was discontinued last year. This will include Sanskrit tols and madrassas also. I have kept Rupees 300 crore in 2012-13 budget for this purpose.

20.5 In order to enhance the employability of our students we will introduce National Vocational Education Framework in all secondary schools with a view to mainstreaming vocational education.

20.6 From the next financial year, we shall conduct TET for Secondary schools also so that appointment of teachers at secondary level becomes completely objective and transparent. In tandem with our effort to strengthen the educational environment in the state, we have taken a decision to introduce Science and Commerce streams in all the High schools. As a first step, in the next Financial Year, we will introduce Science and Commerce streams in 500 existing High schools and Higher Secondary schools where these streams are not available. Adequate budget provisions have been made to provide for required number of qualified teachers, science laboratories and other infrastructure.

20.7 In addition to the Anando Ram Baruah award for the students who secured 1st division with a laptop, we will also give one computer to each student who scores 50 percent or more marks in HSLC and Madrasa examination examinations as a special package of Chief Minister. I have earmarked 50 crore for this new scheme.

20.8 In our colleges and universities we are imparting education mostly in traditional subjects. I have been emphasizing introduction of new and relevant subjects such as information technology, bio-technology, nano-technology, performing arts etc. in our colleges and universities. I have decided to create at least 1600 new faculty positions in our

universities and colleges for this purpose. the first time in the entire country we have decided to launch a Higher and Technical Education Mission in order to infuse new vigour and dynamism to these sectors. I have allocated Rs. 25 crore in next year's budget to start the Mission immediately.

20.9 Earlier, I had proposed the establishment of new Engineering Colleges at Kokrajhar, Karimganj, Dhemaji, Goalpara, Nagaon, Nalbari, Udalguri, Golaghat and conversion of the Technical Institute in Guwahati into a full-fledged Engineering College. Accordingly I have already sanctioned the proposals of Kokrajhar, Karimganj, Dhemaji and Golaghat. I have allocated adequate budget provision to sanction the remaining 4 colleges also in the next financial year. The construction activity of 21 new government engineering colleges and 12 new government medical colleges as announced earlier will start soon. During the current session a bill to establish Women's University in Jorhat will also be introduced. The Cotton College State University will start functioning soon. To strengthen the Khandique State Open University, Assam Science and Technology University, Kullu Bhaskar Varma University of Sanskrit and Ancient Studies and Bodoland University necessary provisions have been kept in 2012-13 budget.

20.10 A rejuvenation plan for Guwahati and Dibrugarh University will be drawn in the next financial year. They have been asked to submit

time-bound DPR's for the purpose. The demand for pension benefits to the teaching community of Dibrugarh and Guwahati University will be considered after amending the relevant Acts of both the universities with a view to achieving UGC norms for teacher: students and teaching: non-teaching staff ratios. I propose to invest Rs. 1000 crore as a special package of Chief Minister in the next 5 years to improve the infrastructure and standard as well as range of education in our higher educational institutions, including the State Universities. An amount of Rs. 80.50 crore has been provided in 2012-13 budget for this purpose.

20.11 I also propose to set up an Indian Institute of Management in Assam through public-private partnership.

20.12 In 2012-13 budget, Rs. 893.84 crore is allocated under General Areas Annual Plan for Education.

21 Sports and Youth Welfare

21.1 It is proposed to improve the sports infrastructure facilities in the State and to renovate and modernize the Sports Infrastructure under Sports Authority of Assam. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 10 crore has been proposed. It is proposed to earmark an amount of Rs. 60 lakh for holding coaching camps in different levels and for purchasing sophisticated equipments. An amount of Rs. 40 lakh has been proposed for awarding

Sports Scholarship to encourage talented sportspersons to excel in the National International Competitions. To dissuade youth from indulging in harmful habits drug abuse, alcoholism, anti-national and social activities etc. it is proposed to engage them in more creative, interesting and productive activities. For this purpose Yuva Bhawan with hostel facility is under construction in Guwahati.

21.2 An amount of Rs.88.60 lakh will be provided for development of play fields under Panchayat Yuba Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKA) Scheme. The State Government will also actively encourage the National Service Scheme, National Cadet Corps and Bharat Scouts and Guides through the educational institutions.

21.3 An amount of Rs 12.19 crore has been provided for Sports and Youth Welfare under 2012-13 Annual Plan.

22 Art and Culture

22.1 It is proposed to set up a State Institute of Drama at Nagaon and a State Sangeet Natak Akademi as well as a State Sahitya Akademi at Guwahati during 2012-13. It is proposed to set up Jyoti Bishnu Prakalpas in all Blocks of the State in a phased manner. Ten such Prakalpas are proposed to be set up in the next financial year. Auditoria in the lines of Rabindra Bhawans are proposed to be set up in

districts in a phased manner. An amount of Rs.2 crore has been earmarked for setting up of Ajan Phakir Khetra at Guwahati. It is proposed to constitute an Artist Welfare Fund for which an amount of Rs 2 crore has been allocated in 2012-13 budget. A Scheme for giving incentives to set up Mini Cinema Halls in Block Head Quarters will be started.

22.2 Protection, preservation and development of archaeological sites and monuments will continue to receive high priority. The State Directorate of Archaeology has already conserved 96 archaeological sites and monuments. An amount of Rs.25 crore has been proposed for development of archaeological sites, monuments and the Sattras during the financial year 2012-13.

22.3 It is proposed to construct a State Central Library in the State Capital. To purchase books for the district, sub-division and rural libraries, an amount of Rs.16 crore has been proposed.

23 Health and Family Welfare

23.1 Last few years have seen major progress in the Health Sector. The sector will continue to get focused attention during 2012-13 also. The latest Annual Health Survey Report reveals significant improvements in the Health Sector. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has been brought down to 381 from 480 in 2004-2006. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has also been falling continuously. It recorded a drop of 3 points

from 61 to 58 in 2010 as compared to 2009. This is equal to the national average drop recorded across the country. However, in spite of the significant achievement in MMR reduction, the state continues to have the highest MMR in the country. IMR is also above the national level of 47. As such, we have decided to take some pro-active measures to bring them down by 2016 to the national level. In order to achieve this, we have decided to achieve 100% institutional delivery and ensure providing adequate medical attention to the new born and provide better children care at both institutional and non-institutional level.

23.2A major initiative under the banner of JananiSishuSurakshaKaryasuchi (JSSK) has been launched in the State which enjoins providing absolutely free health care to all pregnant women including free drugs, diagnostics and consumables etc. required for delivery or surgery. Under this programme, absolutely free treatment to all children upto 1 month of age including drugs, diagnostics and treatment will be provided. 2012-13 will also witness completion of all Sick Neonatal Care Units (SNCU) and New Born Stabilization Units (NBSU). With these two initiatives we are confident of achieving a major reduction in MMR and IMR.

23.3We have initiated construction of 60 Model Hospitals of which we propose to operationalize at least 20 Model Hospitals in the Financial Year 2012-13. A corpus of Rs. 50 crore will be

constituted in order to give helping hand to all poor children suffering from major diseases such as Blood Cancer or those requiring Heart Transplant, Bone Marrow transplant, Kidney transplant etc. We have allocated an amount of Rs. 5 crore for this purpose.

23.4Considering the services rendered by "Mrityunjay" 108 during the time of emergency, we have decided to replace all the old 280 vehicles with a new fleet as the running of the old vehicles has become un-economical. To fight the malaria menace, Rs. 30.00 crore has been earmarked for distribution of LLIN bed-nets to the BPL families.

23.5Introduction of technology in health care like 108 and 104 has added tremendous value to the health care benefits being provided to our people. In 2012-13, we shall introduce Tele-Radiology services in the districts to bring radiology services to the doorstep of the people. In continuation of our initiatives to help the poor and needy I have made provision to give one time grant of Rs.1 lakh to the widows of persons who died of HIV-AIDS.

23.6We will also start functioning of Tezpur Medical College during the financial year 2012-13. Fund for Assam Hills Medical College, Diphu has also been sanctioned and we hope to start construction within the next 3 (three) months. Medical Colleges coming up at Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Lakhimpur and Nagaon Districts will witness beginning of actual

construction activities next year with adequate budget provision having been made for the purpose. We also have new GNM schools set up at Jorhat, Kamrup, Chirang and Bongaigaon Districts. A modern state of the art children's hospital will be constructed in Guwahati.

23.7 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs. 584.82 crore has been allocated under the General Areas Annual Plan.

24 Public Health

24.1 During the last decade Assam has witnessed significant improvement in rural water supply. A long term strategic plan (2011-2022) is being envisaged for addressing quantity and quality related issues for ensuring safe drinking water to all rural households.

24.2 Highest priority has been accorded to sustainability of drinking water sources and systems by adopting measures like water conservation and rainwater harvesting, revival of traditional sources like ponds and installation of new water supply facilities to replace and rejuvenate the schemes which have outlived their utility.

24.3 A total of 3853 uncovered/partially covered habitations and 3494 quality affected habitations are targeted to be provided with safe drinking water facilities during the year 2012-13. A total of 591 rural schools have been provided with safe drinking water facilities

during the year 2011-12 till 2012 January. 2644 more rural schools are targeted to be provided with safe drinking water facilities during the year 2012-13. For sustainability of water sources, rain water harvesting structures are being taken up in 2000 rural primary schools and 500 institution buildings. We have accorded highest priority to tackle water quality problems, especially fluoride and arsenic contamination. Several other major schemes have also been taken up with alternative safe surface sources as a long term measure. National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) will be implemented in the State with full vigour.

24.4 The Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which was launched as a reform initiative in rural sanitation is being implemented in a demand responsive manner. Presently, all districts are implementing the TSC programme within an overall project cost of Rs. 928 crore. Till date, 13,90,805 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) for BPL households, 33,661 School Sanitation Blocks, 39 Community Sanitary Complexes and 10,917 Anganwadi Toilets have been installed all over the State under TSC.

24.5 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs. 125.70 crore has been allotted under the State Plan including Rs. 50 crore as State share against NRDWP and TSC.

25 Social Welfare

25.1 For all round development of Women & Children, it has been decided to constitute "MatriMandal Got" in each AnganWadi Centre (AWC) including Mini AWC, totaling 57,7 under the ICDS Programme.

25.2 It is proposed to constitute "MatriSahay Got" of 7 beneficiaries each, which will be elected by the MatriMandalGots in AWCs including Mini AWCs. One mother will function as 'MatriMitra' who will be the leader of "MatriSahayak Got".

25.3 It has been decided to continue ongoing "MukhyaMantrirMahilaSamridhiAchari" in next financial year also. Women Development Council will be set up as Apex Body to coordinate all schemes relating to women of the State. This council will also function as State Mission Authority for Empowerment of Women under the National Mission for Empowerment of Women.

25.4 The Rajiv Gandhi National Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SABLA) and Indira Gandhi MatritvaSahayogYojana (IGMSY), which started last year, will continue next year also.

25.5 A special programme to create night shelter for shelterless people has been taken in partnership with reputed NGOs in Great Guwahati who are working in the field of night

shelter and it is proposed to extend it to 20 (twenty) districts next year.

25.6 To ensure better standard of life for the senior citizens of the State, it is proposed to construct and maintain Old Age Homes in all the districts of the State in association with accredited NGOs working in the field of empowerment of senior citizens of the State. A State Council has been notified for senior citizens to advise Government for undertaking Schemes for all round welfare of Senior Citizens. It is also proposed to enhance the benefit from Rs. 700/- to 1000/- per beneficiary per year under the "Health care for the Aged" Scheme.

25.7 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 201.94 crore has been allocated for Social Welfare under the State Plan. This includes Rs 113.21 crore as State share against Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

26 Agriculture

26.1 The State achieved a record production of 50.86 Lakhtonnes of rice in the year 2010-11. The State was declared the Best Performing State in respect of improvement in rice production in the country and production of food grains amongst category 2 States during 2010-11. This fetched the State a cash award of Rs 2 Crore from Government of India on 16.07.2011.

26.2 During 11th Five Year Plan, the State provided assistance to the farmers for installation of 2,00,295 Pump Sets procurement of 4,240 Tractors, 12,939 Power Tillers and 912 Auto Vans.

26.3 In order to increase production of vegetables a special scheme named "Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters" has been launched. A society called SAMETI is being constituted to disseminate modern technology at the grass root level.

26.4 My Government has given high priority to agricultural credit through financial institutions. I have already raised the State interest subsidy on crop loans to 3% and enhanced the loan limit for interest subvention from Rs 20,000 to Rs 35,000. During the year 2011-12 more than 2,87,000 Kissan Credit Cards, which is a record till date, have already been issued upto January, 2012 with sanction of loan amount of Rs 724.74 Crore. As already mentioned agricultural credit in Assam has increased to 19% surpassing the national average of 18%.

26.5 My Government will continue to lay emphasis on promotion of high value crops like bhutjolokia, mushroom, ginger, cashew nut, turmeric, flowers, orchids and medicinal plants. Modern techniques of protected cultivation will be encouraged. Efforts will be made to encourage agro processing facilities. Marketing

infrastructure will be improved for providing better facilities to the farmers.

26.6 My Government has set a target to cover 5 lakh hectares under the programme "Mission Double Cropping". I propose to distribute 1000 tractors and 2000 power tillers to small and marginal farmers at 50% subsidy during 2012-13 under Special Package.

26.7 In the next financial year, I propose to establish a Horticulture College in Nalbari District. I also propose to launch five new schemes namely, Mukhya Mantri Gramin Bharal Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Bisesh Bojar Asoni, Mukhya Mantri Suoni Gaon Yojana, Mukhya Mantri mukhi Utpadan Prosar Asoni and Mukhya Mantri Udyan Prosar Asoni. Funds have been made available for these schemes.

26.8 As regards Assam Agriculture Competitiveness Project, negotiations with the World Bank have been held for Additional Financing of 75 Million US Dollars. Assam Agricultural University will be given all support to improve its infrastructure, R&D facilities and dissemination of technology to the grass root level.

26.9 My Government's effort will continue for sustainable growth of Agri-Horti Sector of the State for improving the livelihood of the farming community.

26.10 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 585.72 crore has been allocated for this sector under the General Areas State Plan.

27Irrigation

27.1 We are committed to create more Irrigation potential in the State by implementing several Irrigation schemes under Major/Medium and Minor Irrigation Sectors.

27.2 Four ongoing major and medium Irrigation projects are targeted to be completed under AIBP during the financial year 2012-13 to yield irrigation potential of 33,700 Ha. The resumption of reconstruction of the Rupahi and Bordikorai Irrigation projects are targeted to be completed within this financial year to restore the entire lost potential of 5,668 Ha and 34,000 Ha respectively.

27.3 Under Minor Irrigation sector, work going on in full swing to complete 270 ongoing schemes under Accelerated Irrigation Beneficiary Programme (AIBP) to achieve 29,600 Ha under Irrigation potential. To bring more areas under Irrigation, a large number of schemes are being implemented under NABARD (RIDF), State Non-lapsable Central pool of Resources (NLCPR), Command Area Development Water Management Programme (CAD & etc.

27.4 The area under Irrigation is expected to increase by 64,900 Ha during 2011-12.

27.5 We have proposed to allocate an amount of Rs 392.58 crore for Irrigation sector under General Areas Annual Plan 2012-13.

28Animal Husbandry, Veterinary and Dairy development

28.1 Animal husbandry and dairy farming is an integral part of rural economy with huge self-employment potential. In Assam there is vast scope for development of this sector. Therefore my Government has given it high priority.

28.2 To supply the Artificial Insemination Centres with quality semen, a state of the art semen production facility is being set up at Barapetta.

28.3 For capacity building of all stakeholders engaged in veterinary service delivery system, a Regional Institute of Livestock Entrepreneurship Management is being established at Rani in Kamrup (Metro) district. For strengthening veterinary extension infrastructure in the state, 103 new veterinary hospitals are being constructed.

28.4 In order to facilitate doorstep delivery of animal healthcare service to farmers, 26 Mobile Ambulatory Vans shall be introduced in 20 districts of the State.

28.5 In consonance with the objective of transforming the State from a milk deficient to a milk surplus state, integrated and focused efforts will be made to enhance milk production in selected locations. Similarly, to make the state a meat surplus state, it is proposed to increase production of meat through breed upgradation of small ruminants like goats and pigs.

28.6 Institute of Veterinary Biologicals will be upgraded to GMP & ISO standard to cater to the needs of North Eastern states. For capacity building of persons engaged in Animal Health Service delivery system, an Officers' Training Institute will be set up and Rs. 3.50 crore is expected to be utilized for this purpose during 2012-13.

28.7 As an initiative to improve infrastructure facilities, 80 veterinary hospitals and veterinary hospital complexes will be reconstructed during this year.

28.8 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 58.5 crore has been allocated for this sector under General Areas Annual Plan.

29 Fisheries

29.1 My Government has been taking a number of steps to make the State self-sufficient in fish production. Women empowerment is one of the priority areas. About 6,528 rural women

beneficiaries have been assisted under fish seed raising program.

29.2 For creating mass awareness on scientific fish farming, we have been organizing intensive awareness drives at block level which will continue this year also.

29.3 It is proposed to construct hygienic fish markets in various districts of the State to serve the producers and consumers. Construction work of a hygienic fish market is presently under progress at Chullungin Nagaon District.

29.4 Important schemes proposed to be taken up in the next financial year include new pond construction under Fish and Fish Seed Farming (*Amar pukhuri Asoni*), Reclamation of derelict water bodies (*Swaniyojan Asoni*), Fresh water aquaculture development through Fish Farmers Development Agency, Fishery Extension and Training, Development of Beel/ Open Water Fisheries (*Matsya Gandha Asoni*), Women Empowerment programme, one time assistance to the Fishermen at the time of lean period under *Matsya Mitra Asoni*, National welfare fund for fisherman, Extended Phase of World Bank funded AACP, one State Ornamental Fish Aquarium at Guwahati and schemes under RIDF.

29.5 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 44.32 crore has been allocated for this sector under General Areas Annual Plan.

30 Panchayat and Rural Development

30.1 It is proposed to consolidate and augment effective measures for alleviation of rural poverty through better livelihood opportunities enhanced social security net and improved Information Technology (IT) enablement.

30.2 Under MGNREGA Scheme, it is proposed to create around 600 lakh mandays this year. From the present rate of 95% payment of wages through Bank Account to the job card holders under the scheme, it is proposed to make 100% payment through Postal and Bank Accounts this year. For this purpose, it is proposed to migrate to bio-metric identification of the job card holders. More schemes aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities like plantation, fisheries and other income generating schemes (IGS) are proposed to be taken up in the next financial year.

30.3 It is proposed to synergize Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) with the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) programme to provide better sanitation facilities to the IAY beneficiaries along with income generating plantation schemes under the individual beneficiary component of MGNREGA.

30.4 Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) is being re-structured as the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) from the next financial year. NRLM aims at mitigating poverty through skill development and placement of rural youth in jobs and better access to self

employment and institutional finance through strong Women Self Help Groups (SHGs). The Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission Society (ASRLMS) has already been registered to implement the program in a Mission mode. 42 blocks are proposed to be covered under NRLM in the next financial year.

30.5 As a special package for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and erosion affected families, an amount of Rs.5,000/- and two bundles of GCI sheets is proposed to be provided to each such family in the next financial year. Under the Chief Minister's Jeevanjyoti Swa-niyojan Yojana, 12,000 youths will be organized as Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and provided subsidy for taking up economic activities for self-employment in 2012-13.

30.6 Socio-Economic and Caste Census for identification of BPL Households is already underway in the State. The Census is being carried out by using Tablet PCs and database of 2011 Census for accuracy and transparency.

30.7 It is also proposed to expedite filling up of existing vacancies to overcome the constraint of manpower in the field. The 4th State Finance Commission is expected to give its report and recommendations for an appropriate staffing pattern for the three tiers of PRIs by 30th April, 2012.

30.8 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 900.26 crore has been allocated for various rural development programmes under General Areas Annual Plan. This will facilitate flow of corresponding central funds with a multiplier effect depending on the ratio of Central share to State share.

31Cooperation

31.1 The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives highlighting the contributions of cooperatives to socio-economic development particularly their impact on poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration. The Government of Assam also proposes to give renewed impetus to the development of cooperatives in the State.

31.2 I am happy to say that having got assent of Her Excellency the President of India, The Assam Cooperative Societies Act, 2007 has been notified on 4th February, 2012. The new Act will give renewed fillip to our efforts to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of Cooperative Societies. As a part of Government of India's package for revival of Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure, an amount of Rs.19.65 crore has already been provided by the State Government. Release of the Central share of Rs 118.68 crore is awaited. For Revival of Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure also, the State Government will work

out a strategy and roadmap which will include revival of Assam State Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank (ASCARD Bank). An amount of Rs 20 crore has been kept in 2012-13 non-plan budget for one-time settlement of outstanding dues of various cooperative institutions to the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank.

31.3 I am very happy to inform the House that we have kept our commitment to the people of the State and began the work on operationalisation of the first ever Cooperative Management University in the country in the form of Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, Sivasagar. This University is being developed under the academic guidance of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

31.4 It is proposed to have at least one Gaon Panchayat Samabay Samiti (GPSS) in each Gaon Panchayat area for distribution of PDS items. I request all members of the House to come forward and help in the formation and registration of new GPSS, particularly in those Gaon Panchayats which do not have a GPSS and are being serviced by the GPSS located outside their Gaon Panchayat areas.

31.5 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 13.86 crore has been allocated for this sector under General Areas Annual Plan.

32 Water Resources

32.1 We have taken initiatives for construction of embankments and anti-erosion measures using new technologies. Protection of Rohmat area in Dibrugarh District which is still going is a shining example of innovative anti-erosion and flood control measures. We are moving ahead to adopt such new technology in most of the proposed work under the 12th Five Year Plan.

32.2 We have adopted latest space technology such as Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) for understanding flood, erosion and other related problems in river Brahmaputra with the Technology support from North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC), Shillong and ARSAC, Guwahati. The use of space technology for flood and erosion control will be further intensified in the coming year.

32.3 The Water Resources Department will strengthen to maintain a network for collection and transmission of Flood Data and to adopt data from advanced Doppler Radar Weather Stations to be installed in the North East region by the Government of India.

32.4 Already 52 schemes with an estimated cost of Rs. 7200.42 Crore has been recommended by the State Technical Advisory

Committee and these are proposed to be taken up during the 12th Five Year Plan. Successful implementation of the schemes will reduce the fury of erosion in the erosion prone areas considerably.

32.5 A scheme with provision of strengthening of embankment of river Subansiri along with necessary protection measures is proposed to be taken up during the 12th Five Year Plan.

32.6 Capacity building and research and development are indispensable for successful implementation of a project. Equally important is dissemination of experience and know-how gathered from adoption of new technology to similar other projects. Necessary steps will be initiated towards this end along with upgradation of existing River Research Station.

32.7 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 680.67 crore has been allocated for this sector under General Areas Annual Plan.

33 Soil Conservation

33.1 The important activities and programmes earmarked for 2012-13 includes land development, protection of riverine land, protective afforestation, gully control works, land reclamation and water distribution, cash

crop development, nature conservation, functional buildings and approach roads, watershed projects relating to Integrated Watershed Management Programme.

33.2 During this year, provision has been made for large scale rubber plantation with budget support of Rs. 1 crore.

33.3 Further, it is also proposed to take reclamation and use of degraded land Panikhaiti - Digaru area with a financial outlay of Rs. 10 crore

33.4 The Scheme of Bio-Diversity conservation of Basistha-Bahini Watershed with objective of checking soil erosion and reduction with a view to minimizing the impact of flash flood in Guwahati city shall be continued in the next financial year also with NEC assistance.

33.5 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 22 crore has been allocated for this sector under General Areas Annual Plan.

34 Public Works

34.1 During the last 11 years, I have given priority to road connectivity. Significant improvement in rural roads has been achieved by implementing various schemes such as MPMGSY, AACP, (Mukhyamantrir Pakipath Nirman Achan), Assam Bikash Yojana, NLCPR, RIDF, NEC, etc. Since 2001, more than 18000 Kms of roads have been

blacktopped and work on black topping of additional 5500 Kms is in progress. Steps have also been taken to convert timber bridges into RCC ones. Already 1800 timber bridges have been converted into RCC bridges and 1300 more RCC bridges are under construction.

34.2 More than 500 Km of State Highway and Major District Roads have been taken up for improvement, widening and strengthening during this year. Further, atleast 500 timber bridges are proposed to be converted into RCC bridges.

34.3 Under SARDP-NE 236 km of National Highway have been completed till current financial year. Improvement and new construction of additional 586 km of National Highway and State Highway connecting district headquarters is in progress. In the next financial year 120 Km of NH-37 and NH-52 will be strengthened and developed to 10 m carriage-way with a cost of Rs 300 crore. Construction of road connecting the district headquarter of Dhubri with Gauripur and construction of 61 Km of road along Indo-Bhutan border with an approximate cost of Rs 295 crore will be started.

34.4 My Government has given importance to improving the traffic safety on the roads. To achieve this, major bypasses on National Highways are under construction such as Guwahati University by-pass, Tinsukia by-pass, Silchar by-pass, Mohanbari-Chabuaby-pass,

Makumby-pass, Katlicheraby-pass in addition to Lakimhpurby-pass where preliminary works are in progress. The construction of Hailakandiby-pass will also be started in the next financial year.

34.5 To make the buildings more eco-friendly, the Public Works Department Building Wing has introduced Green Building concept in major new building projects undertaken by it by way of incorporation of latest materials and technologies. In the next financial year construction of Integrated Directorate Complex will be started at Guwahati for which the land has already been earmarked and preliminary works such as earth filling, boundary wall etc. have already been undertaken

34.6 In 2012-13 budget, an amount of Rs 965.17 crore including Rs 40 crore for border roads and bridges has been allocated for PWD Roads and Bridges under General Areas Annual Plan. This will be supplemented by flow of funds from Trade Development Fund, NLCPR, NEC and other sources. PWD Building wing has also been provided Rs 18 crore under 2012-13 Annual Plan. Rs 410 crore and Rs 25.69 crore will be provided under Non-Plan for repair and maintenance of PWD (Roads) and Building Wings respectively.

35 Power

35.1 The peak demand for power in the State has increased significantly in the last decade.

Against the present peak demand of 1150 MW, the total power available is around 820 MW including State's own generation of around 280 MW and share of around 540 MW actually received from Central sector Generating Stations against allocations of 780 MW. The State is facing an average deficit of around 300 MW. In spite of purchase of around 150-200 MW of power during peak hours at a high cost, there still remains a deficit of 100-150 MW.

35.2 The implementation of the 2 Central Sector Projects namely 726 MW Pallatana Power Project of ONGC in Tripura and 750 MW Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station of NTPC are at advanced stages. These two projects are expected to be partially commissioned by December 2012 which will contribute significantly to the power availability position in the State. After full commissioning of the project it will be possible to substantially meet the demand for power on receipt of State's full share of 600 MW. The State Government will also provide all necessary support to NHPC for implementation and commissioning of their 2000 MW Lower Subansiri Hydro Electric Project.

35.3 The 37 MW Lakwa Waste Heat Project under Assam Power Generation Company Ltd. (APGCL) has been commissioned in December, 2011. It is proposed to start the construction of the Lower Kopili Project within 2012 after getting clearance from Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

35.4 The implementation of the 100 M Namrup replacement power project is going in full swing and is expected to be commissioned within next financial year.

35.5 Under Rajiv Gandhi Grammin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), 74 Un-Electrified and De-Electrified Village intensification of 11046 already Electrified Villages and 760139 number of BPL Services have been achieved till 31/1/2012. The scheme is likely to be completed by 2012.

35.6 After successful completion of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) project has been taken up in 72 towns of the State at a cost of Rs.816.28 crore to minimise the loss of power. In addition to the adequate funds have been provided for strengthening of the power infrastructure in the State. With the completion of these projects it is targeted to bring down the distribution loss from 25 % to 19.5 % by 2017. It is proposed to implement the Enterprise Resource Planning and Smart Grid Pilot Project for modernisation of APDCL.

35.7 The Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Programme with a total cost of 1603 crore is being implemented by ASEB with financial assistance of USD 200 million from ADB to strengthen power transmission capacity, improve access to electricity, enhance efficiency

and quality of power supply etc. in the State. The State Government will provide necessary counterpart funding for the project. Steps are also being initiated to bring awareness to achieve higher energy conservation and efficiency in the power sector.

35.8 An amount of Rs. 456.11 crore including Rs 268 crore for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) have been earmarked in 2012-13 Plan budget. Besides, Rs 100 crore has been provided in 2012-13 non-plan budget as budgetary support for pension fund of the ASEB employees. For improvement of Transmission and Distribution System necessary funds will be made available from the Trade Development Fund. With a view to reducing our dependence on outside power sources, ASEB has been asked to submit DPR for power generation projects to be funded by Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA).

36 Mines and Minerals

36.1 Initiatives are being taken for effective investigation works of groundwater resources and minerals like limestone, coal, iron ore, silimanite etc within the State. Efforts are on to set up mineral based industries particularly cement plants in joint venture. Steps are also

being taken for extensive exploration and development of petroleum sector.

36.2 I would like to apprise the Honourable Members of this august House that due to policy change by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the State is losing heavily in its royalty revenue. As per CAG's report the State has lost Rs 850 crore in oil royalty in 2009-10 also. There has been corresponding loss of revenue realization of VAT and Entry Tax on crude oil. Loss on this account in 2009-10 was Rs 18 crore. This situation has arisen because of non-payment of oil royalty to the State by ONGCL on their discounted sale price to the three IOC refineries. I have taken up the matter strongly with Government of India.

36.3 In 2012-13 we expect to receive Rs 18 crore as royalty on oil and natural gas and Rs 35.52 crore as other royalties.

37. Employment and Skill Development

37.1 We have taken up various schemes for imparting skills to our youth to enhance their employability. It is proposed to undertake district wise skill gap study so as to ascertain the demand - supply position of skill formation in Assam. It is proposed to increase the intake capacity in the ITIs from 23600 to 103000 seats during the 12th Five Year Plan. The State has constituted a Skill Development Council and a Board as an advisory body.

37.2 With a view to promoting skill development and employment generation on a self-sustaining trade and industry oriented basis, I propose to enlist the support and participation of the leading Corporate Houses as well as leading Trade and Industries Federations. With their participation I propose to set up a single window Skill Development and Employment Generation Authority which will subsume the other existing State Government Societies, Authorities and Corporations in this field.

37.3 The Unorganized Workers Social Security Assam Rules, 2010 have come into force. The State Government will take up various welfare schemes for workers engaged in the Informal Sector. Under the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996, the Assam Building and Other Construction Welfare Board has collected about Rs.110 crore as cess so far. A major amount of this will be spent for welfare of the construction workers of the Unorganized Sector. In this respect, 11013 beneficiaries have already been registered till 31-01-2012. Minimum Wages have been fixed/revised for 106 scheduled employments at Rs.130 per day.

37.4 The Regional Boiler Testing Laboratory has been set up at Guwahati at a cost of Rs.243.20 lakh and this has started functioning.

38 Industries and Commerce

38.1 In view of various constraints impeding the growth of major industries in the State, I am

giving special emphasis on the development of micro, small and medium level enterprises (MSME) throughout the State for generating rural income and employment.

38.2 For this purpose, I propose to commission a special study for "Resource Mapping" to promote skill building amongst rural youth in each district. Training on specific trades which are not covered by the ITI or Polytechnic Institutes will be imparted through multidisciplinary training centres set up in each block. These trainings will be carried out in association with public and private sector industries.

38.3 Industrial scholarships will be offered to suitable rural youth shortlisted after primary training for specialised skill building courses.

38.4 It is proposed to tie up with Rashtriya Gramin Vikash Nidhi (RGVN) by floating a Mutual fund to provide micro credit to promising women and youth entrepreneurs in rural areas. In this connection I would like to mention that the State Government has already given Rs 10 crore to Assam Finance Corporation for intervention in micro finance with a view to bringing down the rate of interest at the tail end of the micro financing chain.

38.5 A special package will be provided for infusing 'good production practices' through special consultancy and modernisation measures in the traditional and indigenous industries such as fire cracker industries.

Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Amal Prabha Dasin each and every district so that her ideals are spread to every nook and corner of the State.

(xx) State Government will provide Rs 60 lakh for completion of the Harikrishna Hemoprobha Deviprobha Memorial Polyclinic at Panbazaar Guwahati.

(xxi) Like Gyanjyoti Scheme for students, teachers will also be taken on exposure visits to reputed educational institutions.

(xxii) Government is contemplating to give rewards and commendation letters to the best performing teachers.

(xxiii) Computers will be provided as incentives to students securing 50% or above marks in the HSLC Board and Madrasa examinations from next year.

(xxiv) State Government will continue to send its officers abroad for training and exposure visits.

(xxv) A special package of Rs 100 crore will be made available for all round development of flood ravaged Dhemaji district. Ex-gratia grant of Rs 1 lakh will be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the recent floods in Dhemaji district. Moreover, rehabilitation grant of Rs 10,000/- and 25,000/- will be given in case of damage of kutcha and pucca houses respectively.

(xxvi) It is proposed to set up a Children's museum to be named after Rajiv Gandhi and

a school for meritorious students coming from poor families.

(xxvii) It has been decided to generate electricity for the State Secretariat from solar power. This will be extended to the District offices also.

(xxviii) Financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh will be given to Srimanta Sankardev Sanskriti Samaj for completion of their cultural project at Puri.

(xxix) It is proposed to set up a separate office at Guwahati for the 18 newly constituted Development Councils in the State to provide necessary manpower.

(xxx) It is proposed to set up "Assam Food Development Corporation".

Necessary provisions have been made in 2013 budget for implementation of the above mentioned schemes.

55. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, we all are indebted to Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, Dr. Bhup Hazarkia and Dr. Indira Goswami for their outstanding contributions in the fields of literature, art and culture. I am glad to inform this august House that I have decided to buy two befitting memorials for Dr. Bhup Hazarika and Dr. Indira Goswami. I have also decided to preserve the literary works of Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. Necessary steps will be taken to preserve and promote the works of legendary folk singers.

Pratima Pandey Baruah also in a befitting manner. Necessary funds will be made available for the above projects.

Taxation and Revenue

56 Motor Vehicle Tax

Collection of revenue by the Transport Department till February, 2011-12 was Rs 270.83 crore which is 26% higher than the corresponding period of the previous year. It is estimated to go up to Rs 300 crore by the end of March, 2012. For 2012-13, I have estimated a receipt of Rs 335 crore. An amount of Rs 1 crore is expected to be generated from the 1 % Road Safety Cess on Motor Vehicles, which was introduced with effect from 1st September of 2011. Collection of this Cess will be continued in the next financial year also. Vigorous enforcement drives against the violators of the M.V. Act and Rules, which has already been undertaken, will be continued in the next financial year also. All DTOs have been asked to issue demand notices to the tax defaulters for speedy recovery of arrear dues. This recovery drive will be continued in the next financial year also.

57 Excise Duty

57.1 Excise is an important source of revenue for the State Government. However, I have taken due care to check the unhealthy use of

alcohol and prevent the sale of illicit liquor, even if it means loss of revenue.

57.2 During the current financial year up to December 2011, an amount of Rs 353.93 crore has been collected as excise revenue in comparison to Rs 322.22 crore collected during the entire previous financial year of 2010-11. Revenue collection from excise till 31st March 2012 is expected to go up to Rs 480 crore if the present trend continues. Revenue collected from State excise in the next financial year has been estimated at Rs 530 crore.

57.3 Various license fees charged on liquor licenses have been enhanced during the current financial year along with enhancement of various pass fees. An auction system was introduced from 2011 for settlement of court cases in spirit shops. To plug leakage of revenue a system of affixing holograms on liquor bottles has also been introduced. To prevent and detect production and sale of illicit liquor four Task Forces were constituted in June 2011 to carry out raids under the command of one Deputy Commissioner of Excise each. During the current financial year 15,425 excise cases were detected up to September, 2011.

57.4 The State Anti-Drugs and Prohibition Council, an autonomous body under the Excise Department, will be given all necessary help and support so that they continue their effort to create awareness among the masses against abuse of drugs and other intoxicants.

substances in order to have a healthier society.

58 Land Revenue, Stamps and Registration

58.1 Process of land revenue collection through Mouzadars will be computerized in a phased manner and efforts will be made to introduce facilities for online payment of land revenue.

58.2 For collection of Stamp duty on various conveyance deeds, e-stamping was introduced on pilot basis in Kamrup and Kamrup Metro districts in collaboration with Stock Holding Corporation of India. This system has proved very user friendly and eliminated the problem of shortage or non-availability of stamps of any denomination. The e-stamping will, therefore, be rolled out throughout the State in the next financial year.

59 Commercial Taxes

59.1 The Finance (Taxation) Department is responsible for collection of major share of tax revenue of the State. It contributes more than 80% of the State's own tax revenue. During 2010-11 the Department collected Rs 5185.59 crore as against the target of Rs 4498 crore and the percentage of collection against the target was 115% and the growth of collection against the corresponding collection of Rs 4404.91 crore during 2009-10 was 18%.

59.2 For the current financial year, 2011-12 the State Government fixed a target of Rs 5684.62

crore. The provisional collection of Department up to January 2012 is Rs 52466 crore as against Rs 3833.18 crore corresponding to the same period of last year showing a growth rate of 37%. This is 92% of the target for the full financial year. Considering the present trend of collection it is expected that we shall be able to exceed the target fixed for the current financial year.

59.3 The Assam Value Added Tax Act, 2003 was introduced in Assam with effect from 1st March 2005. VAT collection during 2010-11 was Rs 3229.44 crore as against Rs 3952.20 crore during 2009-10 and the growth of VAT collection in 2010-11 over 2009-10 was 22%. During the current financial year provisioned VAT collection up to January 2012 is Rs 4114.67 crore as against Rs 2937.13 crore for the corresponding period of last year. The VAT collection growth up to January 2012 is 40%.

59.4 As promised in the last budget online filing of tax return facility has been introduced with effect from 01-02-2011. At present registered dealers whose annual gross turnover exceeds Rs. 1 crore are allowed to file return electronically. Now it is proposed to lower down the said limit to Rs. 40 lakh with effect from 01-04-2012.

59.5 I have also introduced the facility of payment of tax by the dealers through three banks, namely, SBI, IDBI and Union Bank of India. After introduction of this facility dealers

can now deposit taxes online. It is encouraging to note that during the current financial year about 55% of the revenue collection has come through the electronic route.

59.6 The process of e-filing of data for goods brought by the road transport has also been introduced w.e.f. 01-11-2011. In this new system, all road transporters have to compulsorily file details of goods carried by them. In the new system, a Vehicle Tracking Number (VTN) is generated. Use of the VTN has greatly reduced the waiting time at the checkpoints and significantly reduced tax-evasion and other irregularities.

59.7 Online data entry for the goods brought through Railway has also been introduced w.e.f. 01-01-2012. The composite check post constructed at Srirampur has already started functioning.

59.8 In order to further facilitate payment of tax by the dealer, I propose to introduce the following new measures in next financial year:

- a) E-registration of all dealers.
- b) Online issuance of statutory Form 'C' and 'F'.
- c) To include more banks for e-payment.

60 Tax Proposals

60.1 Hon'ble Members are aware that Government of India and the states are moving

towards introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) by replacing Union Excise Duty, State VAT and a few other State and Central taxes. Therefore, at this stage I do not propose a major change in the existing tax regime. Moreover, the global economic slowdown is likely to have some impact on the national and state economies also, necessitating some stimulus to investment and production. The price rise of various commodities has also adversely affected the common men. I have, therefore, decided to present a Tax Free Budget without imposition of any new tax and reduction on taxes of certain items to give boost to investment and production in the State.

60.2 There has been a demand from a number of industries to abolish entry tax on plant and machinery and raw materials for industries. Abolition of entry tax on these items cannot be considered at this juncture of time. However, to give some relief to industries, I propose that Small Scale Unit having investment upto Rs.5 crore in plant and machinery shall now onwards pay only 0.25% on import of plant and machinery while medium scale industry having investment upto Rs.10 crore on plant and machinery shall pay entry tax @0.5% on import of plant and machinery. Industries having investment more than Rs.10 crore in plant and machinery shall pay tax on the said items at the reduced rate of 1% only. These measures would encourage the local industries. The abolition

in manner up to 40 - 50 kms beyond the present Greater Guwahati area.

43.5 To comprehensively address the issue of providing an efficient public transport system, my Government is planning to initiate the exercise of setting up a Metro/Mono Rail system in Guwahati city, for which, work of detailed feasibility study shall be taken up in the next financial year.

43.6 An amount of Rs 693.51 crore has been provided under 2012-13 General Areas Annual Plan for Guwahati development.

44 Environment and Forest

44.1 It is proposed to undertake 5000 hectares plantation, 90 lakhs seedling distribution, full operationalization of the 2nd and 3rd battalions of the Assam Forest Protection Force for protection of forests, wildlife, hills and wetlands. Construction of office building, staff quarters, maintenance and improvement of 100 km of forest roads, 30 culverts and provision of amenities to forest staff by installation of electricity, drinking water facility etc. will also be given priority.

44.2 The Assam Forest Development Corporation Limited will be created during the next financial year for better management and marketing of forest produces in the State.

44.3 The Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation, with financial assistance from the French Development Agency, will be taken up for implementation the next financial year. The total project cost estimated at Rs. 366 crore over a five year period.

44.4 Under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assistance, Capacity Development Project is proposed to be taken up for training Forest officials. This will include development infrastructure of Existing training institutes Guwahati and Makum.

44.5 Emphasis will be given on reduction man-animal conflict. Towards that end solar power fencing will be erected. 100 hectares plantation of fruit bearing trees will be raised. Additional fund provision from the Government of India is also expected for development various wildlife areas through Project Tiger Project Elephant etc. during 2012-13.

44.6 Expeditious action has been taken to fill up the existing vacancies which not only meet fresh and additional manpower for forest protection but also the much needed employment to the unemployed youth.

44.7 An amount of Rs 145.82 crore has been provided under 2012-13 General Areas Annual Plan for this sector.

45 Tourism

45.1 Major emphasis has been placed on development and promotion of tourism. This smokeless industry with the highest employment-capital ratio is the fastest growing industry in the world. With restoration of peace and normalcy in the State, high priority has been accorded to creation of tourism infrastructure and other related facilities to attract larger number of foreign as well as domestic tourists.

45.2 Development of several Tourist Circuits viz.

(i) Holongpar-Lachit Maidam-Cinnamara-garampani-Nambar Circuit, (ii) Sarthebari-Barpeta-Patbausi-Konora-Sarbhog Pilgrim Circuit and (iii) Alipukhuri-Batadrawa-Samaguri Satra-Barbheti circuit development have been taken up. Sukupha Complex in Jorhat, development of tourist destinations viz. Sasoni Merbeel Eco-Tourism Project in Dibrugarh district and Deepar Beel at Guwahati have been taken up recently. Initiatives are on for setting up of Mega Wild Life circuit covering all the National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries of Assam. Work on installation of a statue of Beer Lachit Borphukan in the middle of the Brahmaputra river at Guwahati is progressing well. Civil works on construction of the already sanctioned Institute of Hotel Management at Jorhat has also started. Radio Taxi Service in Guwahati under Assam Bikash Yojana Scheme will be introduced shortly. Innovative scheme for Home stay facilities in rural areas will be

taken up. Steps have also been taken to promote Assam Tourism through various means and through active participation in national and international tourism events. Recently Assam participated as the Theme State in the 26th Surajkund craft mela in Haryana from 1-12 February, 2012. This was a grand success. International Tourism Carnival is proposed to be organized in next winter to showcase the tourism potential of Assam.

45.3 An amount of Rs 42.75 crore has been provided under 2012-13 General Areas Annual Plan for tourism. This will be supplemented by additional funding from the Central Government, NEC, 13th Finance Commission Grant and other sources.

46 Transport

46.1 Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) has 570 buses of its own and 1200 private buses are operating under its banner. JNNURM buses have been provided as buses in Guwahati city. A Multi-Level Parking has been constructed at Assam Paltanbazar Station and it will be commissioned shortly. An amount of Rs.50 crore has been provided in 2012-13 Annual Plan for purchase of new buses and construction of Yatri Niwas.

46.2 We are focusing on road safety through enforcement of laws and road safety awareness. Two Driving Training Institutions are proposed

to be set up at Kamalpur and Chirang. Computerization of DTO Offices with software 'Vahan' & 'Sarathi' has been activated in 26 districts. The process for installation of High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) for all the vehicles is being started.

46.3 Land acquisition for Dibrugarh Airport for upgradation of infrastructure in the Airport has been taken up.

46.4 IWT Assam is operating 98 ferry services on Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. In addition to running its commercial services, IWT plays an important role in development of "River Tourism" by introducing floating restaurants and river cruises. An amount of Rs 5.10 crore has been provided under 2012-13 Annual Plan for inland water transport.

47 General Administration and Personnel

47.1 Works for construction of Assam Bhawans at Vellore, Chennai, Shillong and Bengaluru are going on. Expansion work of Assam Bhawan Mumbai is nearing completion. Construction of Assam Bhawan at Gurgaon, Haryana and at Salt Lake, Kolkata are also under consideration.

47.2 Initiatives have been taken to rejuvenate the Sainik Board. For Sainik welfare, 9 new Ex-servicemen contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) polyclinics have been established. It is further proposed to set up Sainik Rest House and

ZilaSainik Board in every district headquarters and construct a War memorial in Guwahati.

47.3 To expedite filling up of vacancies and various departments of the State Government have decided to waive the requirement Finance-SIU approval, except for appointment elementary school teachers, drivers and grade IV posts. Finance Department will however, place in place a mechanism to prevent drawal salary by anyone not appointed against sanctioned post.

47.4 Five new administrative districts - 3 in KarbiAnglong and 2 in DimaHasao- are going to be set up.

48 Pension and Public Grievances

The Assam Service (Pension) Rules, 1969 and Assam Services (GPF) Rules, 1937 have been amended after introduction of the New Defined Contributory Pension Scheme for all employees joining State Government services on or after 1/2/2005 in line with Government of India scheme. Several steps are also being taken to facilitate strengthening of the Directorate Pension and prompt disposal of pension cases.

49 Information and Public Relations

It is proposed to set up a Digital Photo and Film Archive to be named after Dr Bhupen Hazarika. For this Rs 1.5 crore has been provided in the

next year budget. Information Hub with all modern amenities in every district headquarters and an Integrated Transmission Network are also proposed to be set up. Installation of Fixed Loud Speaker System (FLS) in 300 locations will be taken up. Efforts will be made to establish one Assam Information Centre in Mumbai besides taking up renovation works of Assam Information Centre at New Delhi and Kolkata. Publication of the newspaper "RaijorBatori" has been resumed from January 2012 and will be continued. People at large have welcomed this step. Publication of informative books on Barpeta, Mangaldoi, Guwahati, Majuli, Sualkuchi and Hajo apart from publication of various other booklets and folders are being undertaken. Adequate fund has been earmarked against schemes for welfare of Journalists.

50 Disaster Management

50.1 I have always maintained that erosion is a much bigger problem than floods. Since 1954 the State has lost nearly 4 lakh hectares of fertile land due to erosion by the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries. The State government has been taking up with the Government of India for including erosion in the list of calamities eligible for assistance under National Disaster Response Fund and State Disaster Response Fund. Till our demand is accepted by Government of India, the problem of erosion will continue to be handled within the

limited resources of the State. As a step in the direction the "Rehabilitation Authority Erosion Affected families of Assam" is being constituted. Under a special package of Chief Minister, erosion affected families will be given Rs 5000 in cash and 2 bundles of CGI sheets.

50.2 Disaster management will be further institutionalized. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is taking various activities to meet the challenges disaster management in the State.

50.3 Initiatives such as Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment report for Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Dhemaji districts, Risk Index map and safety audit of schools and hospitals of Guwahati city, Integration Emergency Help Line Nos., Preparation of State Disaster Management Plan etc are expected to be completed within this year. The Flood Early Warning System, presently being implemented in 8 districts, is proposed to be extended to more districts during the next financial year. Efforts are now being made to network with various local, national and international organisations for sound disaster management planning.

50.4 The 13th Finance Commission has provided Rs. 25 crore for the period 2010-11 towards capacity building initiatives in the State. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Ahmedabad have been selected for capacity building purpose.

50.5 Two companies of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) have been raised for immediate repair and restoration of infrastructures damaged by natural disasters.

51 Revenue Reforms

51.1 Proper management of the land resources is a priority of my Government. During the last few years major thrust has been given on the improvement of land administration system. It is now proposed to give renewed focus on providing expeditious and citizen friendly services through updation of rules and manuals, construction of revenue offices etc.

51.2 Introduction of modern survey technology, upgradation of the Assam Survey and Settlement Training Institute, procurement of modern survey equipments, digitisation of cadastral maps, capacity building programmes etc are under progress.

51.3 Ongoing project for Computerisation of Land Records and Sub-Registrar offices will be further upgraded. A pilot project for integration of registration with mutation of land records will also be launched.

51.4 Human resources and office infrastructure in revenue offices, particularly field offices, will be upgraded. Construction and renovation of revenue circle office buildings will be given priority.

51.5 Steps will be taken for proper implementation of the Assam Land Grabbing (Prohibition Act) 2011.

51.6 In 2012-13 budget, Rs. 17 crore has been allocated under Annual Plan-General Areas for land reforms.

52 Public Enterprises:

Steps have been taken to determine Training Needs Analysis of the State PSUs and to execute Memorandum of Understanding with them for their performance improvement and accountability. Ongoing schemes include capacity building, upgradation of management skills in the PSUs, strengthening of MIS infrastructure for improvement of MIS, computerisation of accounts, ISO certification and study on Technology upgradation will be continued.

53 New schemes and programmes:

53.1 Hon'ble Speaker Sir, on 1st January 2011, announced 39 new schemes, programmes and

action plans to be taken up in right earnest by my Government. They are: -

- (i) Conversion of 500 wooden bridges to RCC bridge.
- (ii) Special focus on construction of border area roads and bridges.
- (iii) Free bicycle distribution for girl BPL students up to Class-X.
- (iv) Free yarn distribution for 10,000 weavers.
- (v) Free Mosquito net distribution to all BPL families in every constituency every year.
- (vi) Chief Minister's Mission for Higher Education for strengthening and improving of Universities and colleges.
- (vii) Introduction of Science and Commerce in all provincialized colleges and H.S. Schools in the State over the next 5 years.
- (viii) Introduction of vocational courses in 1000 secondary schools over next 5 years.
- (ix) New scholarship scheme for 50,000 students each in lower primary and upper primary level. Under the scheme Rs.5000 will be put in as fixed deposit to the meritorious students of L.P. and U.P. level.
- (x) Study tour to NASA for the first three position holders of HSLC. The scheme will be dedicated in the name of late Deba Kumar Bora.
- (xi) Setting up of Super Speciality Hospital in PPP mode with a renowned hospital of the country in Guwahati.

- (xii) 50 bedded Cancer wing with latest equipment in all medical colleges.
- (xiii) Corpus of Rs.50 crore over next five years for medical support for children below years.
- (xiv) Implementation of special package for erosion affected families (Rs.5000 and bundles of CGI sheets to each erosion affected family) over next 5 years.
- (xv) Rehabilitation package for Small cottage and khadi industry.
- (xvi) Extension of Gyanjyoti programme to colleges outside Assam and the number of students will be tripled.
- (xvii) Setting up of a separate Women and Child Commission to improve basic health parameters including MMR, IMR and malnutrition etc under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister.
- (xviii) Announcement of a citizens' charter for government of Assam in the next budget session of Assembly.
- (xix) Enactment of a new Act to guarantee public service and grievances redressal in a time bound manner.
- (xx) Amendment of Assam State Lokayukta Act to fight corruption at all levels.
- (xxi) Strengthening of the Pension Directorate and constitution of a new Pension Tribunal.

- (xxii) Launch of a new social security scheme for widows and the aged.
- (xxiii) Setting up of a Committee to examine and reduce man-animal, especially man-elephant conflict and to adequately compensate the victims.
- (xxiv) Setting up of a monitoring and evaluation committee for every department.
- (xxv) Handicraft training centres for tea, char and tribal population and for flood and erosion affected people.
- (xxvi) Special package for landless workers and daily wage earners.
- (xxvii) Crop loan to farmers at 2% interest.
- (xxviii) Distribution of tractors and power tillers at 50% subsidy and 5000 rotary tillers with all accessories at 60% subsidy for woman farmers.
- (xxix) Special focus on implementation of land Grabbing Act {The Assam Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act }, 2010.
- (xxx) Special incentives up to Rs.25 lakh for small industrial units employing local youth in tea, jute, water hyacinth, banana, orange, betel nut, bamboo, cane etc. industries.
- (xxxi) Special package for modernisation of indigenous industries like brass, bell metal, fire crackers etc.
- (xxxii) Incentives for setting up of Mini Cinema Halls in all Block headquarters.

- (xxxiii) Rabindra Bhawan auditoriums in District headquarters.
- (xxxiv) Completion of Jyoti Bishnu cultural centres in all Block headquarters.
- (xxxv) Setting up of AjanPhakirKhetra Guwahati.
- (xxxvi) Minimum support price for rice, pulses and other agricultural produces.
- (xxxvii) Setting up of more godowns, marketing sheds and cold storages.
- (xxxviii) Setting up of computerised photo and film archive in the name of Dr Bhup Hazarika.
- (xxxix) One chair in Gauhati University Ramayani Studies in the name of Dr Indira RaisomGoswami.

While announcing the above schemes, said that Rs.5000 crore will be spent over the next five years to implement them. In the budget estimates for 2012-13 I have provided 1000 crore for this purpose.

54. Apart from the above mentioned initiatives, we have also responded to various public demands in different occasions. Some of them are:

- (i) "Dr Robin Banerjee Biodiversity Award" named after the internationally renowned naturalist Dr Robin Banerjee will be instituted.

- (ii) A "Sati Joymatiaward" will be instituted.
- (iii) Financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh will be given for developmental works of Sukapha Nagar located at Natboma in Guwahati and Rengacheng complex.
- (iv) Mahatma Gandhi Skill Development Training Centre will be set up in the State and Rs 3000 crore will be provided for employment generation in the next 5 years.
- (v) Steps will be taken to increase the number of seats in the 3 years Village Health Service course.
- (vi) Steps will be taken to install a statue of Hari Narayan Barua, founder of Village Defence Organization in the State.
- (vii) Steps will be taken to include Village Defence Organization in Republic Day and Independence Day parades.
- (viii) To attract domestic as well as foreign tourists, it is proposed to set up a "Mini Assam" at Sonapur near Guwahati at an estimated expenditure of Rs 100 crore. This ambitious project will be a mini representation of the diverse and composite culture of Assam.
- (ix) It is proposed to set up a golf course in Chandrapur-Sonapur area.
- (x) Steps will be taken to set up a full-fledged Tribal Centre at Sonapur as well as a Development Authority for all round development of Sonapur area.

(xi) Steps will be taken to allot land in Sonapur area for setting up a United Nations Research Centre in the State.

(xii) It is proposed to create an "Artist Welfare Trust". Rs 2 crore has been provided in 2013-14 budget as a corpus fund of the Trust.

(xiii) In addition to the State level awards, government proposes to institute District level awards also for the artists.

(xiv) For the preservation of and research on the rich and diverse cultural heritage of different indigenous tribes and other ethnic groups of the State, steps will be taken to set up a full-fledged research centre.

(xv) Financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh will be given to Guwahati Children Trust School.

(xvi) It is proposed to introduce a Health Insurance Scheme or an Employees' Health Service Scheme for State Government employees in the line of the Health Service Scheme of the Central Government employees. The procedure for reimbursement of medical expenses will be simplified.

(xvii) Statue of Chaolung Siu-ka-phaw will be installed in New Delhi and Guwahati.

(xviii) Central government has been requested to declare "tea" as the national drink. This will be vigorously followed up.

(xix) I shall take personal initiative to organise celebration of the birth centenary of distinguished freedom fighter, Gandhian and founder of the Assam branch of Kasturba

Gandhi National Memorial Trust, AmalPrabha Dasin each and every district so that her ideals are spread to every nook and corner of the State.

(xx) State Government will provide Rs 60 lakh for completion of the Harikrishna Hemoprobha Deviprobha Memorial Polyclinic at Panbazaar Guwahati.

(xxi) Like Gyanjyoti Scheme for students, teachers will also be taken on exposure visits to reputed educational institutions.

(xxii) Government is contemplating to give rewards and commendation letters to the best performing teachers.

(xxiii) Computers will be provided as incentives to students securing 50% or above marks in the HSLC Board and Madrassa examinations from next year.

(xxiv) State Government will continue to send its officers abroad for training and exposure visits.

(xxv) A special package of Rs 100 crore will be made available for all round development of flood ravaged Dhemaji district. Ex-gratia grant of Rs 1 lakh will be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the recent floods in Dhemaji district. Moreover, rehabilitation grant of Rs 10,000/- and 25,000/- will be given in case of damage of kutcha and pucca houses respectively.

(xxvi) It is proposed to set up a Children's museum to be named after Rajiv Gandhi and

a school for meritorious students coming from poor families.

(xxvii) It has been decided to generate electricity for the State Secretariat from solar power. This will be extended to the District offices also.

(xxviii) Financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh will be given to Srimanta Sankardev Sanskriti Samaj for completion of their cultural project at Puri.

(xxix) It is proposed to set up a separate office at Guwahati for the 18 newly constituted Development Councils in the State to provide necessary manpower.

(xxx) It is proposed to set up "Assam Forest Development Corporation".

Necessary provisions have been made in 2013 budget for implementation of the above mentioned schemes.

55. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, we all are indebted to Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, Dr. Bhup Hazarkia and Dr. Indira Goswami for their outstanding contributions in the fields of literature, art and culture. I am glad to inform this august House that I have decided to bring two befitting memorials for Dr. Bhup Hazarika and Dr. Indira Goswami. I have decided to preserve the literary works of Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya. Necessary steps will be taken to preserve and promote the works of legendary folk singers.

Pratima Pandey Baruah also in a befitting manner. Necessary funds will be made available for the above projects.

Taxation and Revenue

56 Motor Vehicle Tax

Collection of revenue by the Transport Department till February, 2011-12 was Rs 270.83 crore which is 26% higher than the corresponding period of the previous year. It is estimated to go up to Rs 300 crore by the end of March, 2012. For 2012-13, I have estimated a receipt of Rs 335 crore. An amount of Rs 1 crore is expected to be generated from the 1 % Road Safety Cess on Motor Vehicles, which was introduced with effect from 1st September of 2011. Collection of this Cess will be continued in the next financial year also. Vigorous enforcement drives against the violators of the M.V. Act and Rules, which has already been undertaken, will be continued in the next financial year also. All DTOs have been asked to issue demand notices to the tax defaulters for speedy recovery of arrear dues. This recovery drive will be continued in the next financial year also.

57 Excise Duty

57.1 Excise is an important source of revenue for the State Government. However, I have taken due care to check the unhealthy use of

alcohol and prevent the sale of illicit liquor, even if it means loss of revenue.

57.2 During the current financial year up to December 2011, an amount of Rs 353.93 crore has been collected as excise revenue in comparison to Rs 322.22 crore collected during the entire previous financial year of 2010-11. Revenue collection from excise till 31st March 2012 is expected to go up to Rs 480 crore if the present trend continues. Revenue collected from State excise in the next financial year has been estimated at Rs 530 crore.

57.3 Various license fees charged on liquor licenses have been enhanced during the current financial year along with enhancement of various pass fees. An auction system was introduced from 2011 for settlement of counterfeit spirit shops. To plug leakage of revenue, a system of affixing holograms on liquor bottles has also been introduced. To prevent and detect production and sale of illicit liquor, four Task Forces were constituted in June 2011 to carry out raids under the command of one Deputy Commissioner of Excise each. During the current financial year 15,425 excise cases were detected up to September, 2011.

57.4 The State Anti-Drugs and Prohibition Council, an autonomous body under the Excise Department, will be given all necessary help and support so that they continue their effort to create awareness among the masses against the abuse of drugs and other intoxicants.

substances in order to have a healthier society.

58 Land Revenue, Stamps and Registration

58.1 Process of land revenue collection through Mouzadars will be computerized in a phased manner and efforts will be made to introduce facilities for online payment of land revenue.

58.2 For collection of Stamp duty on various conveyance deeds, e-stamping was introduced on pilot basis in Kamrup and Kamrup Metro districts in collaboration with Stock Holding Corporation of India. This system has proved very user friendly and eliminated the problem of shortage or non-availability of stamps of any denomination. The e-stamping will, therefore, be rolled out throughout the State in the next financial year.

59 Commercial Taxes

59.1 The Finance (Taxation) Department is responsible for collection of major share of tax revenue of the State. It contributes more than 80% of the State's own tax revenue. During 2010-11 the Department collected Rs 5185.59 crore as against the target of Rs 4498 crore and the percentage of collection against the target was 115% and the growth of collection against the corresponding collection of Rs 4404.91 crore during 2009-10 was 18%.

59.2 For the current financial year, 2011-12 the State Government fixed a target of Rs 5684.62

crore. The provisional collection of Department up to January 2012 is Rs 5246 crore as against Rs 3833.18 crore corresponding to the same period of last year showing a growth rate of 37%. This is 92% of the target for the full financial year. Considering the present trend of collection it is expected that we shall be able to exceed the target fixed for the current financial year.

59.3 The Assam Value Added Tax Act, 2003 was introduced in Assam with effect from 1st March 2005. VAT collection during 2010-11 was Rs 3952.20 crore as against Rs 3229.44 crore during 2009-10 and the growth of VAT collection in 2010-11 over 2009-10 was 22%. During the current financial year provisioned VAT collection up to January 2012 is Rs 4114.67 crore as against Rs 2937.13 crore for the corresponding period of last year. The VAT collection growth up to January 2012 is 40%.

59.4 As promised in the last budget online filing of tax return facility has been introduced with effect from 01-02-2011. At present registered dealers whose annual gross turnover exceeds Rs. 1 crore are allowed to file returns electronically. Now it is proposed to lower down the said limit to Rs. 40 lakh with effect from 01-04-2012.

59.5 I have also introduced the facility of payment of tax by the dealers through three banks, namely, SBI, IDBI and Union Bank of India. After introduction of this facility dealers

can now deposit taxes online. It is encouraging to note that during the current financial year about 55% of the revenue collection has come through the electronic route.

59.6 The process of e-filing of data for goods brought by the road transport has also been introduced w.e.f. 01-11-2011. In this new system, all road transporters have to compulsorily file details of goods carried by them. In the new system, a Vehicle Tracking Number (VTN) is generated. Use of the VTN has greatly reduced the waiting time at the checkpoints and significantly reduced tax evasion and other irregularities.

59.7 Online data entry for the goods brought through Railway has also been introduced w.e.f. 01-01-2012. The composite check post constructed at Srirampur has already started functioning.

59.8 In order to further facilitate payment of tax by the dealer, I propose to introduce the following new measures in next financial year:

- a) E-registration of all dealers.
- b) Online issuance of statutory Form 'C' and 'F'.
- c) To include more banks for e-payment.

60 Tax Proposals

60.1 Hon'ble Members are aware that Government of India and the states are moving

towards introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) by replacing Union Excise Duty, Sales Tax, VAT and a few other State and Central taxes. Therefore, at this stage I do not propose any major change in the existing tax regime. Moreover, the global economic slowdown is likely to have some impact on the national and state economies also, necessitating some stimulus to investment and production. The price rise of various commodities has also adversely affected the common men. I have, therefore, decided to present a Tax Free Budget without imposition of any new tax and reduction on taxes of certain items to give a boost to investment and production in the State.

60.2 There has been a demand from a number of industries to abolish entry tax on plant and machinery and raw materials for industries. Abolition of entry tax on these items cannot be considered at this juncture of time. However, to give some relief to industries, I propose that a Unit having investment upto Rs.5 crore in plant and machinery shall now onwards pay 0.25% on import of plant and machinery upto Rs.10 crore on plant and machinery having investment upto Rs.10 crore on plant and machinery having investment upto Rs.10 crore on plant and machinery. Industries having investment more than Rs.10 crore in plant and machinery shall pay tax on the said items at the reduced rate of 1% only. These measures would encourage the local industries. The abolition

concessions are expected to result in revenue sacrifice of about Rs.20 crore per annum.

60.3 At present all types of paper is taxable under the Assam Entry Tax Act, 2008. Kraft paper is mainly used as input by the industries manufacturing corrugated paper box. The item is not available in the State. Hence, the local industries have to procure these items from outside the State for which their cost of production becomes higher and they become less competitive vis-à-vis their counterparts outside the state. In order to boost local industries of corrugated paper box, I propose to exempt kraft paper from entry tax. At present there are more than 30 such units in the State and these industries are generating about 2000 jobs and these packing materials are eco-friendly. For this exemption, the State exchequer shall lose about Rs.1.5 crore annually.

60.4 Some of our neighbouring States have reduced rates of VAT on some items leading to trade diversion. Although the State exchequer will lose about Rs.3.50 crore in order to protect the local industry and trade, I propose to reduce the rate of tax of the following items from 13.5% to 5%. The items are honey, glucose, extra-natural alcohol, coal tar, pre-stressed concrete sleepers (Railway sleepers) and flush door.

60.5 Government has given tax concession and other benefits to the industries as per the

Industrial and Investment Policy, 2008 for rapid industrialization in the State. Further Government has also announced special incentives to the Industries having mega status for which a number of industries have commenced their production in the State. However, employment generation and benefit to the consumer resulting from such exemptions are not found to be commensurate to the sacrifice of revenue. Hence, it is urged upon all such industrial units particularly the local cement and iron and steel units to pass on benefit of tax exemption to the consumer of the State in the form of price reduction. Or else Government may be compelled to review its Industrial Policy and may enact appropriate provision for the benefit of consumers of the State.

60.6 In the last budget, it was proposed to increase deduction from Rs.5/- to Rs.6/- for every kilogram of tea exported through Inland Container Depot (ICD), Amingaon from agricultural income for computation of agricultural income w.e.f. 01.04.2011 for one year. Above measure had a positive impact on export of Assam tea. In order to impart continuity and stability of tea export through ICD, I propose that such deduction @6/- per kg shall continue for another one year w.e.f. 01.04.2012.

60.7 The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) is facing stiff competition from auction centres outside the State and the increase in

auction sales from the GTAC is not spectacular compared to other auction centres. In order to boost GTAC and encourage sale through auction, I propose to reduce the rate of tax on auction sale from existing 1% to 0.5% and rate of tax on sale of tea through private arrangement from existing 2% to 1%. Though it will result in loss of tax revenue of about Rs.10 crore annually, it is expected that such loss will be compensated by increase in sale of tea through auction and private arrangement.

60.8 In order to encourage tourism, which has a great scope in the State, I propose to exempt room tariff of less than Rs.1000/- from levy of Luxury tax and rationalise the rates also, which will result in a loss of revenue of about Rs. 3 crore per annum. I propose to rationalize the rates as under:-

Room Tariff	Rate of tax
Rs. 1000/- or more but less than Rs. 2000/-	5%
Rs. 2000/- or more but less than Rs. 3000/-	8%
Rs. 3000/- and above	12%

61 Budget estimates.

Now Sir, I come to the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2012-13. The five year medium term fiscal plan and other statements required to be placed in terms of the relevant provisions of the Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005 have been placed in this August House in a separate booklet.

The budget estimates of 2012-13 show a receipt of Rs.42,380.68 crore under the consolidated fund of the State. Out of this, Rs.37,662.84 crore is on Revenue Account and the remaining Rs.4,717.84 crore is under Capital Account. I have shown the estimated receipt in the consolidated fund from different sources at **Table-1**. After adding the receipt of Rs.2,43,916.06 crore under Public Account and of Rs.50.00 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate receipts amount to Rs.2,86,346.74 crore. As against this, total expenditure from the consolidated fund of the State in 2012-13 is estimated at Rs.43,151.79 crore of which Rs.36,298.86 crore is on Revenue Account and Rs.6,852.93 crore is on Capital Account. The estimates of grant-wise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund during 2012-13 have been shown in **Table-2**. Taking into account the expenditure of Rs.2,42,359.28 crore under Public Account and Rs.50.00 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate expenditure for the year is estimated at Rs.2,85,561.07 crore. Thus, estimated transactions during the year will result in an estimated surplus of Rs.785.67 crore. This, together with the opening

deficit of Rs.1,079.11 crore, the financial year 2012-13 is expected to end with an estimated closing deficit of Rs.293.44 crore.

Before I conclude, I would like to inform the August House that as per recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission and in accordance with the targets proposed in the Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill 2011, we are required to eliminate Revenue deficit and restrict Fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by 31st March, 2013. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that my budget proposals for the year 2012-13 contain revenue surplus of Rs.1,363.98 crore and Fiscal deficit of Rs.3,886.11 crore, which is 2.99% of GSDP.

With these words, Mr. Speaker Sir, I commend this budget to the House.

JAI AAI ASOM
JAI HIND