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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

BUDGET SPEECH OF FINANCE MINISTER
2013-14

BY
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CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM

11TH MARCH, 2013

Honourable Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget for the financial year 2013-14.

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 As the Hon'ble Members are aware the global economy as well as the national economy have been going through a spell of slowdown. The global economic growth came down from 3.9% in 2011 to 3.2% in 2012. Growth rate of India also slowed down from 6.2% in 2011-12 to 5% in 2012-13 as per latest estimates by CSO. This slowdown is significant when compared to 9.3% GDP growth in 2010-11. I am happy to inform this august House that the projected growth rate of Assam in 2012-13 as per latest CSO estimate is 6.88%, - which is considerably higher than the national average. Contrary to the trend elsewhere of expenditure compression to reduce fiscal and revenue deficits, our State is in a comfortable position to add further momentum to developmental activities by providing additional resources. This has been possible because of our prudent financial management which has created the required fiscal space to take the growth trajectory to even higher levels. With the new initiatives that I am going to announce today, I expect 8% growth of the State in 2013-14 and an average growth of 8.33% for the entire 12th

Plan period 2012-17.

1.3 As per advance estimates the per capita income of Assam on the basis of NSDP (current price) in 2012-13 is estimated to be Rs.42,036/- as against Rs.37,250/- in 2011-12 (quick estimate).

1.4 On the price front the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of agricultural commodities in Assam (base 1993-94=100) stood at 287 in 2011-12 as against 272 in 2010-11 and 249 in 2009-10, showing increases of 5.51% and 9.24% respectively. The All India WPI (base : 2004-05) for all commodities increased from 142.32 in 2010-11 to 156.13 in 2011-12 showing an increase of 8.94%.

1.5 The average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for working class population (base : 2001=100) in Assam for the year 2012 has been calculated at 188 as against 174 in 2011 and 164 in 2010.

2. State Finances:

2.1 Hon'ble Members of this august House are aware that our State had been facing acute financial stress till about 2004-05. Various fiscal measures adopted by the State Government had started yielding favourable results from 2005-06 onwards. Since April 2005 the State Government did not resort to any overdraft even for a day. The basic financial parameters of revenue and fiscal deficits have improved significantly.

2.2 In 2005-06 revenue and fiscal deficits were not only wiped out but became comfortably positive. In subsequent years also we have been able to maintain the trend of fiscal stability as measured by these parameters. In 2011-12, we had ended the year with a revenue surplus of Rs 927 crore. The fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio came down from 1.91% in 2010-11 to 1.43% in 2011-12, which is well below the FRBM target of 3%.

3. Debt Position:

3.1 With improvement in the fiscal situation of the State, dependence on borrowing has reduced considerably. Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that as per latest report of CAG the net debt of the State Government in 2011-12 was minus (-) Rs. 193.77 crore- which means our repayment was more than fresh loans taken by us by that amount. This is a new milestone in our fiscal consolidation.

3.2 The Assam FRBM (Amendment) Act, 2011, as per recommendations of 13th Finance Commission, prescribed 28.3% as the prudent limit of Debt-GSDP ratio for 2011-12. I am happy that our State's debt stock as a proportion of GSDP has come down significantly from 23.35% in 2000-01 to 17.28% as on 31.3.2012. This is well within the prescribed limit. The proportion of total liabilities to GSDP of Assam has also been reduced from 33.2% in 2004 to 22.7% as on 31st March, 2012. The debt burden of the State has further come down as the Government of India waived outstanding loan amount of Rs.306 crore in respect of centrally sponsored

and central sector schemes as per recommendation of the Thirteenth Finance Commission. Assam is one of the best performing States in this regard. As per population of 2011, the per capita debt and other liabilities of Assam is Rs.9359/- at the end of March, 2012-13, which is far below the all India average of Rs.18,411/-. State finances at present are in quite comfortable position. Therefore, the State borrowed only Rs.800 crore as against the permissible limit of Rs.3509 crore of open market borrowing during 2010-11 and did not resort to any market borrowing at all during 2011-12. During the current fiscal of 2012-13 also the State Government borrowed only Rs.300 crore as against net market borrowing limit of Rs.2426 crore. In addition to this, the overall debt sustainability of the State of Assam has improved over the years, as the ratio of interest payments to revenue receipts came down from 12.54% in 2005-06 to 7.56% in 2011-12. This is well below the 15% limit prescribed by the 12th Finance Commission.

4. Government Guarantees:

4.1 State Government has long since been providing Government guarantees to various State PSUs and Cooperative Institutions for investment in different sectors of the economy against loans given by Banks and Financial Institutions. Since most of the borrowing PSUs failed to discharge guarantee liabilities in time due to their weak financial conditions and became defaulters, Banks and Financial Institutions started invoking the Government guarantees. To honour the Government

guarantees the State Government had initiated a process of one time settlement with the Banks and the Financial Institutions and liquidated major amount of Government guaranteed debt on behalf of the defaulted PSUs and misguided youths. In this way, State Government was able to reduce the outstanding contingent liability arising out of Government guarantees. The outstanding government guarantees along with interest dues came down from Rs.1272.93 crore in 2005-06 to Rs.259.03 crore in 2011-12.

5. Consolidated Sinking Fund and Guarantee Redemption Fund:

5.1 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. 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 and Consolidated fund of the State Government. The Fund is administered by the Reserve Bank of India. The State Government has been contributing to the CSF regularly and as on 31st March, 2012 the total size of the corpus stood at Rs.2010.10 crore. Till date we have not withdrawn any money from the CSF which is like an insurance to meet any financial contingency in future.

5.2 Similarly, to liquidate future contingent liabilities arising out of Government guarantees, RBI allowed the State Government

to constitute Guarantee Redemption Fund from 2012-13. The State Government has made a contribution of Rs.19.74 crore to this fund during this financial year. Necessary provision has also been made for our contribution in the next financial year. However, since the Government guaranteed amount has fallen drastically during the last few years, further contribution to this fund may become redundant in the near future.

6. Fourth Assam State Finance Commission :

6.1 The final report of the Fourth Assam State Finance Commission (FASFC) covering the period from 2012-13 to 2015-16 was submitted to the Government on 18.02.2012. The Final Report of the Commission recommended, inter alia, that 15 percent of the net proceeds of State taxes, other than the net proceeds of State taxes, other than Entry Tax, Entertainment Tax and Electricity Duty, shall form the Divisible Pool (DP) amounting to Rs.4165.62 crore. After the submission of the final report, the Commission also submitted a supplementary report to the Government in April, 2012 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 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.

2 The State Cabinet approved almost all recommendations of the final report of the Fourth Assam State Finance Commission.

However, the Cabinet referred the supplementary report of the Commission to a Group of Ministers for examination and making recommendations. Accordingly, a committee of Group of Ministers has been constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Prithivi Majhi, Hon'ble Minister of Revenue & Disaster Management etc. The Group of Ministers has already started deliberation on the issues referred to it. Further actions will be taken on receipt of the GOM Report.

7. Fifth Assam State Finance Commission:

Thirteenth Finance Commission of the Central Government in its report recommended synchronization of the period of the State Finance Commission with that of the Central Finance Commission. Accordingly, State Government has decided to reduce the period of Fourth Assam State Finance Commission up to 31.3.2015 instead of 31.3.2016. Meanwhile by a notification dated 5th March, 2013, the State Government has constituted the Fifth Assam State Finance Commission covering the period 2015-16 to 2019-20, so that the Commission can submit its report to the Government by 30th April, 2014 for placing its recommendations before the Fourteenth Finance Commission of the Central Government.

8. Fourteenth Finance Commission of the Central Government :

Government of India by a Presidential Order dated 2nd January, 2013 has constituted the Fourteenth Finance Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.V. Reddy, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India. The recommendations of the Commission will cover the five year period from 1st April, 2015 to 31st March, 2020. The Commission is expected to submit its report to the Government of India by the end of October, 2014. Hon'ble Members are aware that Assam was given a good award under the Thirteenth Finance Commission. This time also we have already started work to build up a strong case for placing before the Fourteenth Finance Commission to get an even better award.

9. Annual Plan :

9.1 Hon'ble Members are aware that Assam's 2013-14 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 next financial year I have decided to present a detailed tentative plan outlay of Rs.10550.60 crore for 2013-14, which is equal to the revised outlay for the current year. This tentative figure is likely to improve after my discussion with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. The additional amount obtained after finalization of plan size for 2013-14 will be included in the plan budget by way of supplementary demand.

2.2 I would like to inform the Hon'ble members that my Government will take full advantage of the various continuing Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as the new ones which were announced by the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister on 28th February, 2013 in his Budget Speech. Necessary State share will be fully provided. The State Government will also introduce a number of new schemes under 2013-14 State Plan and discontinue some existing schemes which have served their purpose or outlived their utilities. Generation of employment, health and education will be our main thrust areas in 2013-14. Necessary additional resources will be provided by the State Government from its own resources also to make the State Plan size for 2013-14 reasonably higher than the current year's level.

9.3 MLA's Local Area Development Fund has been raised from Rs.40 lakh to Rs.1.00 crore from this year. Provision at this enhanced rate has been made for the next year also.

9.4 I had already announced that a special development package will be given to Barak valley. Planning and Development Department will prepare the development package for Barak Valley for Rs.1000 crore and submit it to me within 3 months to facilitate release of fund during 2013-14.

9.5 To avoid rush of expenditure towards the fag end of the year, I propose to fix quarterly targets of plan expenditure. If any department

fails to meet the quarterly plan expenditure target, the unspent balance will lapse and the same will be allocated to better performing departments.

10. RIDF Projects:

10.1 With a view to improving rural connectivity Assam Government embarked on a plan to convert wooden bridges to RCC bridges and to build rural roads with assistance under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), administered by NABARD. After 2005-06, projects implemented under RIDF have diversified. Besides rural roads and bridges the State Government is now implementing projects in Flood Control, Minor Irrigation, Power, Industry and Commerce, Fisheries, Sericulture, Agriculture, Cold storage, Handloom, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary.

10.2 During 2012-13, Rs. 260.95 Crore have been sanctioned under RIDF for projects that will be implemented from 2013-14. The projects are:

- | | | |
|------|---|--------------|
| i. | 17 Flood Control Projects - | Rs.74.60 Cr. |
| ii. | Construction of 100 Veterinary -
Hospital/ Dispensaries- | Rs.61.06 Cr. |
| iii. | 104 Minor Irrigation Projects- | Rs.75.83 Cr. |
| iv. | 251 Rural Godowns- | Rs.49.46 Cr. |

10.3 In the next financial year it is proposed to bring more new schemes including Cold Storage and Handloom Dyeing Units under RIDF projects and raise the sanction amount to around Rs.400 crore.

11. Externally Aided Projects

11.1 During the last few years the flow of fund to Assam under Externally Aided Projects (EAP) has been increasing significantly. In 2013-14 plan budget an amount of Rs.1105.52 crore has been earmarked for implementation of the following EAP's as below -

1	World Bank funded Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project (AACP)	Rs. 126 cr
2	World Bank funded Assam State Road Project (ASRP)	Rs. 250 cr
3	World Bank funded Assam PWD Computerization Project (APCP)	Rs. 6 cr
4	World Bank funded AACP Rural Roads	Rs. 44 cr
5	ADB funded Assam Integrated Flood & River Bank Erosion Risk Management Project (AIFRERMP)	Rs.101 cr
6	ADB funded Assam Governance Public Resource Management Programme (AGPRMP)	Rs.10 lakh
7	ADB funded Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Project (APSEIP)	Rs 349 cr
8	ADB funded Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Programme (AUIIP)	Rs.21 cr
9	JICA funded Guwahati Water Supply Project (GWSP)	Rs.208 cr

11.2 The ADB funded Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Programme and Project have been closed on February 15, 2013. The successful implementation of this programme and project by Finance Department has been widely acclaimed by the Government of India, the ADB and other multilateral agencies.

11.3 Another Externally Aided Project, namely, Assam Project on Forest and Bio-diversity Conservation for Euro 60 million i.e., 366 crore (approx.) with aid from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) is also being implemented in all the Forest Divisions covering 200 JFMCs and 28 Eco-development Committees over a period of 5 years.

11.4 These EAPs have made noticeable impact in the development of the State, particularly in sectors like Agriculture, Road Connectivity, Forest, Fisheries, Power, Flood & River Erosion Management, Fiscal Reforms, Water Supply etc.

11.5 Two more EAPs are being negotiated. They are :

- (a) ADB funded Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF-2) for US \$300 Million i.e., 1638.19 crore (approx.) for the Power Sector.
- (b) World Bank funded Assam State Public Reforms for Enhanced Service Delivery Project (ASPRESDP) in the IT Sector for US \$99.36 million i.e., 546.46 crore (approx.).

12. Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA):

12.1 Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority was created as a Registered Society, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, for funding of major and critical infrastructure projects whose project costs are Rs.50 crore and above and where State Government's investment is not less than Rs.15 crore.

12.2 Projects identified for funding under AIFA so far are:

- (i) 70 MW Lakwa Replacement Power Project (Rs.79.20 crore) and the Lower Kopili Hydel Power Project (Rs.450 crore)
- (ii) Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Ltd. For augmentation of 4(four) numbers of 132 KV Sub Station at Chaygaon, Makum, Borgaon and Hajo (Rs.134.95 crore)
- (iii) Improvement of police infrastructure including police housing (Rs. 500 crore) and
- (iv) Acquisition of land at a cost of Rs.30 crore for establishment of the Indian Institute of Information Technology near Guwahati.

12.3 Hon'ble Members will agree with me that our State is deficient in terms of basic infrastructure. With our improved financial health we are now in a position to take up large infrastructure projects with our own resources also. In the next financial year I propose to take up a few more infrastructure projects under AIFA in addition to the projects already identified. We will, however, keep our options open to tap resources from

Government of India, bilateral agencies like JICA and multilateral agencies like World Bank, ADB to supplement our resources for these infrastructure projects which I consider critically important for our State.

The projects to be taken up in the next financial year are -

- (i) Metro Rail project for Guwahati city at an estimated cost of Rs.1800 crore
- (ii) Strengthening of embankments which are 30 years or older at an estimated cost of Rs.600 crore
- (iii) Sewerage project for Guwahati city at an estimated cost of Rs.1400 crore
- (iv) Renovation of all High school and College buildings which are 50 years or more
- (v) Reclamation of Silsako Beel and other water bodies in and around Guwahati city
- (vi) Protection and conservation of Deepar Beel
- (vii) Beautification and development of Dighalipukhuri as a tourist spot
- (viii) Restoration of Bharalu river
- (ix) Widening and upgradation of State highways and major district roads which are not covered under World Bank funded State Road Project or any other existing scheme
- (x) Improvement of infrastructure and other civic amenities in all district and sub divisional Headquarters
- (xi) Beautification of Brahmaputra river front in Guwahati and other towns of Assam at an estimated cost of Rs.300 crore
- (xii) Construction of a six lane road bridge over the river Brahmaputra from Narengi to

- Kuruwa with road link upto Dumuni Chowki at an estimated cost of Rs.1600 crore
- (xiii) Setting up of atleast 30 cold storages in different parts of Assam at an estimated cost of Rs.150 crore
 - (xiv) Renovation of all Government buildings including offices, staff quarters, hospitals and other institutions
 - (xv) Creation of developed Land banks for setting up industries and tourism facilities on cost recovery basis
 - (xvi) Setting up of satellite townships with developed infrastructure
 - (xvii) Upgradation of the standard of higher education by improving the infrastructure in the State Universities and Colleges at an estimated cost of Rs.1000 crore
 - (xviii) A pilot project for reclamation of river bed of the Brahmaputra and its big tributaries
 - (xix) Establishment of a 'Mini Assam' tourism project at an estimated cost of Rs.60 crore
 - (xx) Upgradation and expansion of the power infrastructure including augmentation of APGCL's generation capacity
 - (xxi) Wireless connectivity covering all the towns and villages of the State at an estimated cost of Rs.295 crore
 - (xxii) Introduction of GPS based tracking of passenger buses, commercial transport and school buses at an estimated cost of Rs.105 crore

12.4 Most of the projects I have mentioned will have long gestation periods. AIFA will fund the projects as part of State Plan based on DPRs prepared by the concerned Departments. As

per preliminary estimates the above projects will cost approximately Rs.15000 crore to be phased over a period of 2 years to 8 years. In next year's budget I have provided an amount of Rs.2500 crore for AIFA to enable it to take up the above mentioned new infrastructure projects.

13. Institutional Finance:

13.1 I would like to apprise the Hon'ble members that the C.D. Ratio in the State has increased to 46.6% as on 30th September, 2012. But there is an urgent need to put in place an effective strategy to bring the CD ratio at par with the national average of 76.5%.

13.2 Dr. D. Subba Rao, Governor, Reserve Bank of India took a special meeting of State Level Bankers Committee, Assam, on 6th February, 2013 where I was also present. The following important decisions were taken:

- In terms of national average of population to bank ratio, the state has a shortfall of about 650 bank branches. To bridge this gap, as a first step, it was decided to set up 200 new bank branches in the State during 2013-14.
- The disbursement target for Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise (MSMEs) loans in the State for 2013-14 was fixed at Rs.3,800 crore, which is an increase of nearly 50% over 2012-13.
- No bank will insist on any collateral security for MSME loans up to Rs.1 crore.
- NABARD will take initiative to setup at least 1 lakh Joint Credit Liability Groups (JCLG) during 2013-14.

- Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to the farmers will be issued in a Mission Mode.
- Regarding Financial Inclusion, it was decided that every household in the State must have a bank account. State Government through the Deputy Commissioners of the districts and lead banks will organize district-wise campaigns for opening bank accounts for all hitherto uncovered households.
- Steps have already been initiated to introduce Smart cards for cash transfers to beneficiaries of schemes like NREGA.

13.3 In recent times, it has been reported that a number of dubious financial establishments have been collecting deposits from the public giving false assurances of high returns. In view of seriousness of the issue, State Government took the following steps to protect the interest of the depositors:

- In order to generate mass awareness among the general public and to protect them from falling into the clutches of dubious financial establishments, educative Public Notices have been issued in leading newspapers and local TV channels.
- All Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to compile a list of such dubious financial establishments under their jurisdictions and submit them to Finance Department for taking needful action as per law.
- Consultations have been held with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to strengthen the existing legal framework.
- Meanwhile, Finance Department has prepared a Draft Bill for suitable amendments in the **Assam Protection of Interest of Depositors (In**

Financial Establishments) Act, 2000 for introduction during the current session of the Assam Legislative Assembly. The Amendment Bill contains detailed preventive and punitive provisions including imprisonment upto 10 years. After the Bill is passed by the august House, steps will be taken to amend the corresponding Rules as well, whose draft has already been prepared.

14. Price Rise and Civil Supply:

14.1 A sound supply chain of essential food items is a pre-requisite to maintain a minimum level of comfort for the poor people. Steps have been taken for regular and timely supply of PDS foodgrains, sugar, kerosene and salt to BPL and APL families. Mukhyo Mantrir Anna Suraksha Yojana will be continued, benefiting nearly 20 lakh families by providing 20 kg rice to each family per month. At present 2694 AAMAR DUKAN shops are functioning throughout the State providing non-PDS items at discounted rates.

14.2 Strong measures are being taken for checking price rise of essential commodities. For effective implementation and transparency in the distribution of food grains under TPDS, computerisation of the food grain distribution chain is being envisaged.

14.3 My Government has taken steps for introduction of reticulated LPG cooking gas bank/grid in multi storied apartments in Guwahati and functioning of The State Consumer Helpline for redressal of Consumer Grievances .

14.4 An amount of Rs.148 crore under Non-plan

and Rs.390 lakh under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

15. Internal Security:

15.1 Peace, progress and development is the motto of my Government. I am happy to inform this house that Assam has been accorded the best State status in the country for outstanding works done in the field of Anti Human Trafficking. The relentless counter insurgency operations carried out by my Government under the Unified Command Structure has paid rich dividends in containing militancy in the State. During 2012-13 security forces apprehended 1287 cadres and a huge cache of arms and amunitions of different militant outfits.

15.2 On 8th of October 2012, a Memorandum of settlement (MOS) was signed between the Govt. of India, the Govt. of Assam and both the groups of DHD and 9 (nine) other ethnic militant groups.

15.3 The Assam Victim Compensation Scheme, 2012 has been notified. Other ongoing measures for strengthening of Assam Police Force will be continued next year as well. The CCTNS project has been made operational in Kamrup (Rural) and Kamrup (Metropolitan) Districts at 48 locations. 14 Anti Human Trafficking Units have been operationalised. Women Cell in 30 Police Stations have been operationalised during 2012-13 and 30 more Women Cells will be made functional next year

besides raising the Veerangana Company of Women Police.

15.4 In view of the growing complexity of the normal law and order problems and crime scenario, a number of steps have been taken to strengthen the civil police force in the State. As per the norms of 80 police personnel for an urban police station and 40 for a rural PS, it has been estimated that the State has a shortfall of about 8000 civil police posts. To begin with I have sanctioned 2000 civil police posts at various levels, 184 posts of women police for operationalizing 30 more women police cells and 51 posts for 3 new police stations in Sonitpur district. In addition to these, 84 posts of Sub Inspectors have been upgraded to the level of Inspectors. This is over and above 230 posts already created during the year.

15.5 A Regional Forensic Science Laboratory at Jorhat and 2 District Mobile Forensic Science Units at Silchar and Bongaigaon are being operationalized. The duty allowance of Home Guards has been raised from Rs. 150/- per day to Rs. 200/- per day.

15.6 A new Jail at Udalguri is ready for occupation. The Schemes for Modernisation of Prisons Administration including construction of new Jails and expansion and renovation of existing jails will be continued.

15.7 Efforts are on to strengthen the Foreigners Tribunals with necessary infrastructure and man power. Para 3 of the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964 has been amended in April, 2012 to ensure prompt disposal of cases pending

before the Foreigners Tribunals.

15.8 The Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted for updation of NRC has submitted its report and this has been forwarded to the Government of India.

15.9 An amount of Rs.3173 crore under Non-plan and Rs.106 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

16. Legislative:

16.1 It is a recognized fact that on many occasions parties to a dispute can be brought into a common forum of understanding for mutual settlement, which while providing faster relief to the concerned parties, also relieves the judicial system from its pressure of time and manpower constraints.

16.2 In this context, various programmes like providing legal aid, holding of Lok Adalats and Legal Awareness Camps will continue to be implemented in 2013-14. Efforts are on to create awareness on Mediation as an Alternate Dispute Resolution Mechanism for speedy disposal of cases.

16.3 An amount of Rs.22 crore under Non-plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

17. Judicial:

17.1 The State Government is appreciative of the need to provide support for creating a conducive environment for functioning of a speedy and fair judicial system. It is said that "Justice delayed is justice denied". Disposal of

a large number of pending cases before various courts in the State has been a formidable challenge to the judiciary. The New High Court Annexe Building at Guwahati constructed at a cost of about Rs.6596 lakhs is almost ready for occupation. 23 posts of Court Managers have been created to provide the much needed support to the Judges to ensure faster disposal of the cases. Government has also sanctioned several posts of System Officers and System Assistants for the High Court and supporting judiciary for implementation of the E-Court Projects. 5 Courts of Sub-divisional Judicial Magistrate and Munsiff -cum-Judicial Magistrate 1st Class each have been established in Titabor, Bokakhat, Nazira, Gohpur and Lakhipur Sub-divisions. State Government has also established 7 numbers of new courts of Additional District and Session Judge at heavy pendency districts of Kamrup, Cachar, Barpeta and Dhubri. For the purpose of separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, the State Government has established regular courts in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao Districts for trial of civil and criminal cases. The State Government has notified the State Litigation Policy, Assam-2012.

17.2 An amount of Rs.270 crore under Non-plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

18. **Border Areas:**

18.1 My Government is concerned about the difficulties faced by the people residing in remote and inaccessible border areas. Several

schemes pertaining to road, drinking water, health, education and electrification have been taken up to meet the developmental needs of the people living in border areas. Generous funds have been earmarked under Assam Bikash Yojana, Decentralized Planning, Thirteenth Finance Commission Award and Border Area Development Programme for all round socio economic development of these areas.

18.2 An amount of Rs.284 lakh under Non-plan and Rs.181 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

19. **Excise:**

19.1 State Excise is an important source of revenue for the Government. The State Government collected an amount of about Rs.397 crore upto December, 2012 against the target of Rs.530 crore for the current financial year. The rates of licence fees and different levies and taxes pertaining to State Excise will be reviewed to utilize the full potential of the sector to contribute to the State Exchequer. More than 16000 cases of illicit liquor have been detected upto December, 2012 in the current financial year. The machineries for detection of production and sell of illicit liquor in the State shall be further strengthened. We are looking forward to implementing e-Governance for better office management and to ensure compliance of its rules and regulations. Various regulatory and innovative measures will be taken up to dissuade the

minors, especially school going children, from consumption of alcohol as well as to desist the retailers from selling of alcoholic liquor to minors.

19.2 An amount of Rs.48 crore under Non-plan and Rs.25 lakh under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

20. Health & Family Welfare:

20.1 My Government is implementing various programmes for providing affordable and accessible health care to the common people in the State. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital, Barpeta has started functioning with a batch of 100 students and Tezpur Medical College and Hospital is expected to start functioning during 2013-14. An MRI machine will be installed in Barpeta Medical College at an estimated cost of Rs.8 crore under State Plan. The Assam Hills Medical College and Research Institute is being set up at Diphu soon. A Super Speciality Hospital building having 375 bed capacity at an estimated cost of Rs.127 Crore is under construction at Gauhati Medical College and Hospital. 2 B.Sc. Nursing Colleges have been set up at Dibrugarh and Silchar. Required fund for construction of new medical colleges at Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Lakhimpur and Nagaon districts and a 200 bedded Cancer hospital at Guwahati will be provided.

20.2 Maternal mortality ratio has been reduced from 480 per lakh (2004-06) to 381 per lakh

(2007-09) and infant mortality rate has come down to 55 in 1000 live births. Efforts are on to bring down maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate to 210 and 38 respectively by 2016. A special Chief Minister's programme will be launched for this purpose. Free operations for children having congenital heart diseases are being done at Narayan Hrudayalaya, Bangalore and Kolkata. About 8000 operations have been conducted for children having cleft lip. At present 10 Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres are operational for checking malnutrition in anaemic pregnant women and 8 more centres will be made functional during 2013-14.

20.3 Implantation of Pace Maker/Heart valve has been done free of cost, particularly for patients belonging to BPL group. For prevention of Malaria and Dengue long lasting bed nets are being provided to BPL families. Steps have been taken to provide financial assistance for treatment of deadly diseases like diabetes, cancer, kidney transplantation, liver damage etc. under Arogya Nidhi scheme. Preventive medicines will be given special attention. A new Directorate of AYUSH has been established in 2012 for the medical education of Ayurvedic and Homeopathic stream. Special emphasis will be given on Ayurvedic treatment and steps will be taken to set up one more Ayurvedic college in the State. Children's health care will receive special focus. One orphanage for HIV infected/affected children has been established during 2012.

20.4 To attract private investment and expertise to medical education and health care sector, I

propose to initiate steps in the next financial year to set up a Corporation.

20.5 To keep pace with the developments in modern medicines and health care technology, I propose to set up a Health Management and Research Institute in the State.

20.6 I propose to set up 2 more Centres to provide three year medical course in addition to the existing one in Jorhat.

20.7 An amount of Rs.1090 crore under Non-plan and Rs.795 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector at present.

21. **Labour & Employment:**

21.1 My Government is aware of the social and economic problems caused by large scale unemployment and it is determined to tackle the issue of unemployment with a two pronged attack - firstly, to create employment opportunities and secondly, to make our youths employable in varieties of skills and vocations. Various schemes have been taken up for imparting skills to the youths to make them employable in the organized and unorganized sectors. 2574 unemployed youths were trained during 2012-13 under career coaching cum training programme. Collaborative arrangements have been made between ITI and automobile houses like Hyundai and TATA Motors to train unemployed youths. Steps have been taken up for extending facilities of Modular Employable Skill (MES) Schemes through the Assam Skill Development Initiative Society for the

registered Vocational Training Providers (VTP's). 107 registered VTPs have trained 22,868 trainees so far. During the 12th Plan period, 50 new ITIs and 50 new ITCs are proposed to be created. For this purpose an amount of Rs. 75 crore is proposed for the financial year 2013-14.

21.2 The State Government will take up various welfare schemes for the workers engaged in the Informal Sector. As per provisions of the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996, selection of 20,434 beneficiaries has already been made and registered till 31-01-2013 for taking up welfare schemes. Special drive has been undertaken for prevention and identification of 'Silicosis', an incurable occupational disease.

21.3 In line with the National Skill Development Corporation, I propose to set up a State Skill Development Corporation involving corporate sector participation.

21.4 Keeping in mind the contemporary trends in the newly emerging economy and the importance of multimedia graphics, I propose to set up a Media and Art Designing Institute in the State. Information and Technology Department will prepare necessary DPRs and move proposal for release of fund.

21.5 During the current financial year, 309 new factories were registered under the Factories Act, 1948. This generated employment opportunities for about 16,788 unemployed youth.

21.6 A coaching centre will be set up for training our youths to successfully compete in recruitment in army, navy, air force as well as in CRPF and other para military forces. I am happy to inform this august House that the Indian Navy has expressed their keenness to set up a Naval Recruitment Centre (NRC) at Guwahati and has requested me for a suitable plot of land for the purpose. Besides recruiting sailors, the NRC will also guide the youth in joining the India Navy as an officer.

21.7 In addition to the ongoing employment generation schemes, I propose to launch a special scheme for imparting skills to and generation of employment of rural unemployed youths belonging to the BPL category by setting up a State level Aajeevika Skill Development Programme in line with Central Government's Placement-linked Aajeevika Skill Development Programme.

21.8 An amount of Rs.97 crore under Non-plan and Rs.78 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for 2013-14 at present.

22 A. **Education (Elementary):**

22.A.1 The State Government recognizes the need to make primary education attractive enough to bring all the children to the school premises and to provide qualified teachers to impart educations in an effective manner. The process for appointment of 11,500 TET qualified Elementary School Teachers in Government and Provincialized LP and UP

Schools is in the final stage. During the current year financial Incentives have been provided to 12,855 eligible Non-Government elementary schools. As a special incentive to elementary students Rs.50 crore has been provided to award scholarship to 1,00,000 students, Rs.22 crore has been released for providing footwear to about 6,40,000 girl students of Class I and II of rural areas.

22.A.2 Under SSA, 25 New Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas will be established. The process to provincialise the services of venture/elementary teachers will continue during 2013-14 also. The ongoing schemes like supply of Free Text Books, awarding scholarship to meritorious students, providing Mid-Day-Meal etc. will continue.

22.A.3 An amount of Rs.4024 crore under Non-plan and Rs.947 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the Financial year 2013-14.

22 B. **Secondary Education:**

22.B.1 The Secondary Education stage is the one which opens up the doors for higher learning and prepares the students for different vocations of life. We are committed to laying a sound foundation for the same. 1500 Secondary Schools will be provincialized in the next financial year. Smart class will be introduced in 4 Government Secondary Schools. Introduction of Science and Commerce Streams in Higher Secondary Schools shall be made in a phased manner.

22.B.2 The Goalpara Sainik school was set up almost 50 years back. It is high time we set up atleast 2 more Sainik schools in the State. Necessary steps will be initiated in the next financial year.

22.B.3 For appointment of Graduate/ Post Graduate teachers in Secondary Schools, TET (Teachers Eligibility Test) has been made compulsory. The ICT scheme will be extended to cover the recognized aided venture schools.

22.B.4 Funds have been released for construction of additional classrooms, science laboratory & lab equipment, library, computer rooms, art-craft-culture room, toilet and drinking water facilities of Government and Provincialized Secondary schools.

22.B.5 Establishment of Model Schools one each in the 81 Educationally Backward Blocks and construction of 100 bedded Girls Hostels one each in 81 Educationally Backward Blocks in the State is under process.

22.B.6 The scheme to supply bicycles to girl students will continue under State Plan.

22.B.7 26,750 1st Division holders in HSLC / AHM Examination, 2012 were awarded Anundoram Baruah Award during 2012-13. The scheme will be continued in 2013 also. Seven top position holders of HSLC/ AHM were taken to NASA, USA under the scheme introduced in memory of Late Deba Kumar Bora.

22.B.8 1178 students were sent to New Delhi and Agra for exposure visit under Gyan Bikash Yatra. 2,31,482 students of Government / Provincialized Secondary Schools were provided with the opportunity of excursion trips.

22.B.9 Saakshar Bharat Mission Scheme is being implemented in 12 districts having female literacy rate of 50% or below.

22.B.10 An amount of Rs.2055 crore under Non-plan and Rs.418 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the Financial year 2013-14.

22 C. **Higher & Technical Education:**

22.C.1 An appropriate infrastructure is a sine-qua-non for creating a conducive environment for higher learning. We recognize the capacity of the several institutions of higher learning in the State, specially of the State Universities, to augment their resources from sources other than the State exchequer and urge upon them to rise to the occasion. At the same time, we renew our pledge to support these institutions from the State resources, to complement and supplement their own efforts. We have provided substantial amount of fund towards infrastructure development of Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Bodoland University, KK Handique Open University, Cotton College State University and Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University. Such support will be continued in the coming financial year also. Fund has been provided to Publication Board for publication

of various rare books. A new university in the field of technical education, namely, the Assam Science and Technology University has been established. During the current financial year, 41 Colleges have been provided with fund for development of infrastructure like digital classroom/ digital library, etc.

22.C.2 To promote the indigenous culture and development of literature of various ethnic groups and to carry out research activities on art and culture, it is proposed to provide grants to voluntary/ literary organizations like, Assam Sahitya Sabha, Bodo Sahitya Sabha & Sahitya Sabhas of Missing, Dimasa, Manipuri, Rabha, etc., Assam Science Society, Institute of Tai Studies & Research, South-East Asia Ramayani Research Centre etc. during 2013-14. Fund shall be provided for institution of a Chair in the name of Dr. Indira Raisom Goswami in Gauhati University. Science and Commerce streams shall be introduced in existing provincialised colleges in a phased manner and for this purpose we will work out a set of eligibility guidelines to examine the merit of each case.

22.C.3 The proposed new Engineering Colleges at Goalpara, Kokrajahar, Karimganj, Nagaon, Dhemaji, Nalbari, Udalguri and Golaghat will receive required funding during the next financial year under State Plan. Modernization and augmentation of the infrastructure of Jorhat Institute of Science and Technology (JIST) has been initiated and two new branches, civil and mechanical engineering, have been proposed to be introduced.

22.C.4 I understand that students' fees collected by the provincialized colleges are remaining unutilized. Higher education department will soon come up with appropriate proposals for its proper utilization.

22.C.5 To attract private investment and expertise in the field of higher education, I propose to initiate steps in the next financial year to set up a Corporation.

22.C.6 Regarding provincialisation of schools and colleges, I have received requests from various quarters to relax the eligibility criterion of 10 years to 7 years. This will require amendment of the relevant Act. Thereafter I shall consider providing additional fund required for the purpose.

22.C.7 I have noticed that in some schools and colleges the school furniture are in dilapidated conditions or are inadequate. We will make an inventory and prepare proposal for furniture grant for which I shall make necessary fund available.

22.C.8 Hostels of educational institutions will be given cooking gas cylinders at subsidized rate.

22.C.9 Rs.2 crore will be provided under State Plan for renovation, reconstruction of the Smti Narayani Sandiqui Bhawan, which houses the Directorate of Historical and Antiquarian Studies.

22.C.10 An amount of Rs.1383 crore under Non-plan and Rs.501 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

23. Urban Development:

- 23.1 In Assam, 90 Urban Local Bodies and 24 Development Authorities are providing services to the urban population. Many important infrastructure projects viz. rehabilitation centres for hawkers and vendors, truck terminus, multi utility buildings, roads, storm water drainage, business centres, play grounds, water supply projects, multi storied car parking etc. are being implemented in the State. 1424 houses had been constructed under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) Schemes. During 2013-14 it is proposed to prepare GIS based mapping for 15 Towns. The Town and Country Planning Directorate is preparing Master Plans for 43 Urban Local Bodies.
- 23.2 The Assam Municipal Act, 1956 has been amended conferring more powers to the Urban Local Bodies. 31 Skid Steer Loaders have been provided under Assam Bikash Yojana to 31 ULBs for cleaning of Roads and Drainages.
- 23.3 The Assam State Housing Board is implementing the Janata Housing Scheme for economically weaker section and the Rental Housing Scheme for Grade III and Grade IV Government employees. 846 units of Housing Schemes are proposed during 2013-14.
- 23.4 Solid waste management in all the urban centres will be given high priority.
- 23.5 An amount of Rs.21 crore under Non-plan and Rs.261 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

24. Personnel:

- 24.1 With a view to usher in better governance, we have taken steps for computerization of all service related information of the IAS/ACS Cadres. An initiative has been taken up to put immovable property return details of ACS Officers also in the Government website to promote transparency. Due to increase in the volume of work with acceleration of the pace of development and increase in budget the State Government has been facing manpower shortage in different departments. Especially shortage of officers in the rural and mofussil areas has become quite acute. I therefore propose to initiate affirmative actions to address this problem on emergent basis. It has been decided to fill up the vacant posts expeditiously. For this purpose the Finance (SIU) norms have been relaxed. Steps have also been taken to create new posts where required. Assam Public Service Commission has been requested to put the recruitment process in a fast track. Required additional posts for setting up of a second examination cell in the APSC have been sanctioned. The State Government has also extended support to strengthen the infrastructure requirement of Assam Public Service Commission for this purpose.
- 24.2 Although we have stopped engaging fresh ad-hoc/casual workers, those engaged earlier are still continuing. They are given fixed pay without dearness allowance. I propose to raise their fixed pay from Rs.4500/-pm at present to Rs.6000/- pm w.e.f 1st February, 2013.

24.3 An amount of Rs.43 crore under Non-plan and Rs.55 lakh under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

25. Guwahati Development:

25.1 Guwahati with a population of 9.63 lakh as per 2011 Census, is a fast growing city and we are aware of the manifold challenges lying in the way of making it a clean and green city with modern amenities. Inadequacy of running pipe water supply and a sewerage network is a major constraint besides the problems of traffic congestion and water logging during the monsoons. Solution to these issues will require huge amount of financial resources and associated technological support. Hence a perspective plan is required.

25.2 A comprehensive drinking water network system is under construction through 3 projects namely, Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), assistance under Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). To address the traffic congestion of Guwahati, widening of narrow roads is under consideration. A Metro Rail Project can go a long way in providing safe and fast transport for Guwahati. We are taking up with the Central Government for initiating a feasibility study and detailed project report for the same. A DPR has also been prepared for the sewerage system. A comprehensive drainage system has been planned out for the city. A project for restoration of the Noonmati river basin is

being taken up in the first phase. Solid waste management will be given high priority and adequate funding.

25.3 For the benefit of the poor slum dwellers in the city, a number of Slum development projects have been taken up under Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY).

25.4 An amount of Rs.492 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

26. Administrative Reforms and Training:

26.1 My Government has taken up various measures in the field of administrative reforms. In order to monitor and evaluate the performance, 48 departments of the Government of Assam have adopted the system of Result Framework Document (RFD). To provide notified services to the eligible citizens in a time bound manner, the Assam Right to Public Services Act, 2012 has already been notified. To redress the grievances of the citizens in a time bound manner, an online Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System will be started in the coming financial year.

26.2 In order to enhance the skills and capacity of the civil servants and to bring about positive attitudinal changes for good governance, the State Training Policy, 2012 has been notified. In order to develop Assam Administrative Staff College as a center of excellence, financial and functional autonomy has been given to it.

26.3 An amount of Rs.511 lakh under Non-plan and Rs.550 lakh under Plan for the present

has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

27. Hill Areas:

27.1 My Government is firmly committed to the welfare and all round development of the people in the hill areas. It has transferred more autonomy to both the Autonomous Councils of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao districts which have added a new dimension in the varied fields of developmental activities in the area. Planning and implementation of various schemes under plan are being taken up by the Autonomous Councils. Construction of Joising Doloi Auditorium Hall at Diphu has been completed. Construction of RCC Bridge on DLHS Road and BBDC Road is in progress in Karbi Anglong district. It has been decided to establish Assam Hills Engineering College and Assam Hills University in the hill areas of Assam.

27.2 During Annual Plan 2013-2014, an amount of Rs. 455.07 crore has been proposed for implementation of various schemes under Normal State Plan scheme, HADP and other Plans under the Hill Areas of Assam. Out of this, Rs. 312.81 crore is earmarked for Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Rs.142.26 crore is earmarked for Dima Hasao Autonomous Council.

28. Pension and Public Grievances:

28.1 The services of the regularized Muster Roll Workers have been made pensionable w.e.f. 20-5-2009. Director of Pension, Assam has

been declared as the Pension Payment Authority for disbursement of pension etc. to the provincialized PRI employees.

28.2 Administrative Departments/Heads of Departments and Heads of Offices of Districts have been empowered to issue provisional pension to all retired Government employees of the State Government soon after their retirement till the final PPO is issued by the Accountant General (A&E), Assam. Pension Adalats will be held in all District Head Quarters to settle long pending pension cases during the coming financial year.

28.3 An amount of Rs.3137 crore under Non-plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

29. Cultural Affairs:

29.1 We are committed to playing a catalytic role in the preservation and promotion of Assam's multi-hued cultural heritage. Preservation of the traditional culture of Majuli is being carried out through the Majuli Cultural Landscape Management Authority. Several projects for construction of roads and bridges have been taken up there. An amount of Rs.9.55 crore has been released to the Sattras. Further steps will be taken for protection and improvement of Madhupur Satra in North Bengal. Artist Awards have been presented to those who have made outstanding contributions to the cultural life of the State. The Film City at Jyoti Chitraban (Film Studio) Society is nearing completion. The permanent campus of the Regional Government Film and Television Institute, Sila, will be ready soon.

29.2 Works on archaeological conservation and excavation are on with new finds in Amtala, Hojai. Libraries are being upgraded to offer the best possible reading environment. The Assam State Museum is going to have an annexe building to house new galleries. The Directorate of Archaeology will be strengthened and necessary steps will be taken to protect the archaeological sites scattered all over the State. We are taking steps for setting up of mini cinema halls in a public-private partnership mode in rural areas. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Museum is being expanded at the Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra. Work of preservation and development of the Samadhi Kshetra of Dr. Hazarika is also in progress. Fund has been provided for construction of the Swargadeo Chao Lung Siu-Ka-Pha Samannaya Kshetra near Jorhat. The North East Tribal Museum and Cultural Centre (Phase I) is nearing completion at Sonapur.

29.3 Ongoing schemes will be continued. The matter of setting up of an Institute for imparting training in the production of traditional musical instruments is contemplated in the coming year. It is also proposed to upgrade the Rabindra Bhawan at Guwahati to international standards. The International Convention Centre at Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra, for which required fund has already been provided, will be completed during the year.

29.4 An amount of Rs.26 crore under Non-plan and Rs.101 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

30. Tourism:

30.1 The tourism sector has the potential to bring in a lot of foreign exchange and to augment revenue and create employment opportunities in the State. Over the years our focus has been on creation of tourism infrastructure and sustainable marketing and promotion of Assam Tourism. Initiatives have been taken up for development of cultural heritage circuits, destinations development, improvement of tourist facilities, development of water sports, tourist infrastructure, setting up of golf courses and golf resorts etc.

30.2 The state of the art luxury cruise liner 'Mahabahu' has been put into operation. It has been adjudged as the best Innovative Tourism Product of the year (2012). The award will be given jointly to Assam Tourism department and M/S Far Horizon by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Constructions of one Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology at Jorhat, a five star hotel at Guwahati, installation of a statue of Lachit Borphukan in the middle of Brahmaputra river at Guwahati are in various stages of implementation.

30.3 Government of Assam hosted the first ever North East International Tourism Mart and the Annual Convention of Adventure Tour Operators' Association of India from 18th to 22nd January, 2013. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the national and international media has hailed it as a roaring success.

30.4 I have decided to promote tourism in the

State in a big way through promotion of religious and cultural festivals like Ambubachi Mela in Maa Kamakhya temple, Doul Utsab, Ras Leela, Urs etc. An amount of Rs.4 crore has been provided in 2013-14 Non-Plan budget.

30.5 Owing to the initiatives so undertaken, the number of domestic and international tourist footfalls have increased from 41,27,447 and 15,633 in 2010-11 to 44,08,336 and 16,660 respectively during 2011-12.

30.6 During 2013-14 it is proposed to undertake a massive publicity campaign through various niche publications and advertisements to give further boost to this sector.

30.7 An amount of Rs.13 crore under Non-plan and Rs.63 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

31. **Public Health Engineering:**

31.1 Provision of clean drinking water, sanitation and a clean environment are vital to prevent water borne diseases and to improve the health of people. There are 86970 habitations in the rural areas of Assam. Out of these, 52,250 have been fully covered for supply of water upto December, 2012.

31.2 During the current financial year, 33,689 sanitary blocks have been constructed in Government schools' toilets. Baby friendly toilets have been constructed in 10,936 Anganwadi Centres.

31.3 During 2013-14, it is proposed to cover 3100

quality affected and 5025 uncovered habitations by providing safe drinking water. Upgradation and strengthening of 30 age old piped water supply schemes will also be taken up.

31.4 Fluoride and arsenic contamination of drinking water sources is still a serious problem. Hon'ble Union Finance Minister has provided Rs.1400 crore in the Union budget for 2013-14 for setting up water purification plants. I shall provide required additional resources over and above our Central share to make a frontal attack on the problem.

31.5 For the year 2013-14, an outlay of Rs.31787.50 lakh under Central Sector and Rs.12137.5 lakh under State Sector has been proposed.

32. **Transport:**

32.1 The mandate of the Transport Department ranges from registration and licensing of vehicles and drivers on one hand to promotion of road safety on the other. It is proposed to set up 2 Driving Training Schools one each at Kamalpur and Chirang. The issuance of High Security Registration Plates has been started in the districts. During the last 3 years 300 buses have been procured under Chief Minister's Assam Bikash Yojana (Rural Connectivity Scheme). These buses have changed the transport scenario in the rural areas noticeably. It is proposed to provide another 50 buses under the Rural Connectivity Scheme during 2013-14. To improve transport facility in cities, Assam State Transport Corporation has a proposal to

procure 50 city buses and 10 low floor city buses especially for ladies. This will be over and above our share in the 10,000 new buses announced by the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister in his 2013-14 budget.

32.2 The State Government is concerned about the growing incidents of road accidents causing miseries to the lives of people and loss of property. Special efforts will be made to create awareness and an environment of respect for the traffic regulation. The young boys and girls, more particularly college going youths, will be an area of prime focus for such awareness camps.

32.3 State Government has taken up with Government of India for improvement and expansion of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport at Borjhar and Jorhat and Dibrugarh Airports. I have noted that the LGB Airport at Borjhar has started experiencing water-logging in the surrounding areas during the monsoons. Necessary steps will be taken to address this problem and required fund will be made available.

32.4 Inland water transport in Assam is still in an underdeveloped state and largely in the unorganized sector, although for millions of people this is the only or main means of transportation especially in the riverine areas. A special program will be taken up for improvement and upgradation of the IWT infrastructure with special focus on passenger safety through modern safety regulations. I propose to set up an IWT Corporation also to

attract private investment, expertise and improved technology to this sector.

32.5 An amount of Rs.162 crore under Non-plan and Rs.63 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

33. Sports and Youth Welfare:

33.1 Sports activities contribute to good physical and mental health and promote the spirit of team work and competitiveness at the same time. We are committed for the all-round development of sports. In the coming fiscal year, various schemes for improvement of sports infrastructure facilities shall be taken up. An amount of Rs.16 lakh has been earmarked for giving sports scholarships to talented players and students to encourage participation in State, National and International Sports competitions. I am happy to inform this August House that the State Government felicitated Ms. M. C. Mary Kom with a cash grant of Rs. 20 lakh for her Bronze Medal winning performance in Women's Boxing in London Olympics, 2012 bringing in a lot of pride to the North East. Funds will be provided for holding various sports tournaments at State and National levels. Under Chief Minister's Special Package for Dhemaji district, the works pertaining to construction of Indoor Stadium at Dhemaji at a cost of Rs. 6 crore, construction of Sports Complex and a Youth Hostel at Jonai at a cost of Rs.1 crore each will be taken up.

33.2 I propose to set up Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex in every Development Block in the State. Required funds will be provided on receipt of proposals from Sports and Youth Welfare Department.

33.3 We are also encouraging mountaineering and adventure sports activities among the youth of the State. For this purpose, the Government desires to encourage establishment of a Center of Excellence for mountaineering and adventure sports in Guwahati. Necessary funds will be provided on receipt of DPR from Sports and Youth Welfare Department.

33.4 An amount of Rs.38 crore under Non-plan and Rs.29 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

34. **Welfare of Plains Tribes and Backward Classes:**

34.1 My Government has accorded high priority to the all-round development of SC/ST and OBC people of the State who constitute more than 44% of the State population.

34.2 We have allocated funds for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships of SC/ST/OBC students. Several schemes for economic uplift of BPL families belonging to SC/ST/OBC people, namely, family oriented income generating schemes as well as distribution of tractors and power tillers were taken up during the current year. Fund has been

provided for infrastructure development. All these schemes will continue in the next fiscal also.

34.3 For the year 2013-14, a scheme for providing special incentive to meritorious SC/ST students will be taken up. During 2013-14, Rs.180 crore and Rs.49 crore respectively have been provided in the budget for taking up development activities by the 6 Autonomous Councils and 18 Development Councils. For BTC a total of Rs.344.75 crore has been provided.

35. **Minority Development:**

35.1 Under the Multi Sectorial Development Plan (MSDP) which was launched for undertaking developmental works in 15 minority concentrated districts, several projects have been taken up to create infrastructure in education, health, drinking water and social welfare sectors by way of construction of additional class rooms, health sub centers, labour rooms, mini water supply schemes, IAY houses, Anganwadi centres and installation of hand tube wells and Tara hand pumps.

35.2 The number of minority beneficiary students seeking scholarships has increased due to the procedural streamlining and simplification of scholarship form. It is proposed to disburse the pre-matric, post matric and merit-cum-means scholarship money received from Central Government to the beneficiary students directly through bank accounts.

35.3 During 2013-14 various schemes for improvement of socio-economic conditions of the minorities and people living in the char areas with special emphasis on agriculture, education, self-employment and skill development etc are proposed to be implemented.

35.4 An amount of Rs.556 lakh under Non-plan and Rs.488 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

36. **Welfare of the Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes:**

36.1 When we travel through the 'eti-koli-duti-paat' lush tea gardens of the State, and feel a sense of pride as a major producer of tea in the world, those garden labourers, whose toil make it a reality, come to our mind with gratitude. We are committed to their welfare and a better standard of life. Various schemes have been taken up for welfare of the Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes with a special focus on skill development and employment generation. 51 skill development training centres have been set up with the capacity to train 5000 beneficiaries every year.

36.2 The Family Oriented Income Generating Schemes including schemes for women empowerment in the form of nursing will be continued in the coming year also. 100 handloom and handicraft units for providing training especially to illiterate unemployed women will be taken up in 2013-14. Schemes

of sanitation under WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) will be continued in 2013-14.

36.3 An amount of Rs172 lakh under Non-plan and Rs.23 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for 2013-14 at present.

37. **Social Welfare:**

37.1 Women and children make life integrated, complete and joyful. However, they are vulnerable from many angles and we need to take special care to ensure that they can contribute to and take part in the society in a meaningful way.

37.2 Protection of child rights is an important issue. The State Child Rights Commission and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB)/ Child Welfare Committee (CWC) have been constituted in 27 districts. Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA) has been implemented in 78 ICDS Projects. Under Mukhya Mantrir Mahila Samridhi Achni, assistance will be provided to 500 Women Self Help groups. My Government is implementing IGMSY-A scheme to provide financial assistance to pregnant and lactating mothers to compensate wage loss.

37.3 For protection of women from domestic violence, adequate fund has been earmarked. The schemes of giving scholarships to the disabled students shall be continued during the year 2013-14 also.

37.4 Night Shelter Homes for shelterless persons

have started functioning in Guwahati City. The process of opening Night Shelter Homes for shelterless persons in all district headquarters of Assam is going on.

37.5 Special focus will be given to improve the conditions of the schools for deaf and dumb/blind and otherwise physically challenged children, including those run by various NGOs. Necessary additional fund will be made available on receipt of proposals from Social Welfare Department.

37.6 Of late we have noticed an escalation of violence against women and abuse of children. I have already mentioned that I have sanctioned additional posts of women police to strengthen the women police cells. I assure the august House that crimes against women and children will be very severely dealt with. I am contemplating to set up a mechanism for providing free legal aid to the victims and establishment of Fast Track courts to try such cases. For rehabilitation of the victims of such violence against women and children, I propose to set up a special fund in the next financial year with an initial corpus of Rs.5 crore. Social Welfare Department will be the nodal department for this and they will submit concrete detailed proposals within 3 months.

37.7 In line with Hon'ble Union Finance Minister's announcement to set up an exclusive women's bank as a public sector bank, I too propose to provide for exclusive women's banking facility through Assam Grameen Vikash Bank and other scheduled banks with State Government's support.

37.8 It is proposed to continue all the schemes implemented during the year 2012-13 in the financial year 2013-14 also with an estimated amount of Rs. 157.84 crore in Social Welfare Sector and Rs. 45.00 crore under Nutrition Sector totaling Rs. 202.84 crore in the plan budget 2013-14.

38. **Agriculture:**

38.1 I am sure we all will agree that the future of Assam depends to a large extent on the development of agriculture and allied activities. Therefore, my Government gives a lot of emphasis on its growth.

38.2 I am happy to inform this august House that the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has categorized Assam among the 'Highest Ranked States' for production of food grains. Hon'ble Union Finance Minister in his budget speech has acknowledged Assam's contribution to increased rice production of the country. He has assured his support to the Eastern Indian States with Rs.1000 crore allocation in their endeavour to take forward the green revolution in Eastern India farther. In recognition of commendable production of pulses, the State has received the "Krishi Karman" Award from the Hon'ble President of India. The State achieved an agricultural growth of 6.6% during the year 2011-12, which is expected to go up to 7.5% during 2012-13. Rice production is expected to reach an all-time high of 55 lakh tonnes during 2012-13. The State could export 31.20 MT of

"Bao Paddy" (Organic Rice) to USA during 2012-13.

38.3 Keeping in tune with the same, initiative has been taken up to procure more than 14600 MT of paddy at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

38.4 The State has taken up schemes for construction of rural godowns and cold storages for storage of agricultural produce. Under the World Bank assisted AACP, 15,000 shallow tube wells are being installed and 600 tractors are being provided to Agro Service Groups. Mechanization of agriculture will be taken up in a big way. Special emphasis will be given on "Farm to Market" programme for the benefit of small and marginal farmers.

38.5 In the next financial year, I propose to give thrust for achieving self-sufficiency in production of pulses and oil seeds under the "Mission Double Cropping" programme. Special emphasis will be given in the next year for employment generation with the establishment of 500 Oil Mills and 250 Dal Processing Mills.

38.6 The scheme of 3% crop loan subsidy to farmers, which is being implemented through NABARD, will be continued in 2013-14 also.

38.7 Construction of godowns and cold-storages will be taken up in a big way to augment storage capacity. Fund will not be a constraint.

38.8 I propose to put in place a Regulatory

Authority to prevent over use of fertilisers, pesticides and other chemicals. Steps will also be taken to promote organic farming in a big way.

38.9 An amount of Rs.320 crore under Non-plan and Rs.719 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

39. Irrigation:

39.1 An appropriate system of irrigation infrastructure is essential for increasing agricultural production and for increasing utilization of arable land for optimum Government. It is an important area of priority for my ongoing schemes are expected to be completed in 2013-14. 109 more minor irrigation schemes taken under various programmes are also expected to be completed during 2013-14 to achieve 39762 Ha of irrigation potential. My Government has taken up the matter of investment clearance with Central Government for completion of Dhansiri and Borolia projects. I am sure these steps will further boost up agricultural production in the State.

39.2 Command Area Development and Watershed Management (CADWM) works of 4 major/medium irrigation projects are expected to be completed during 2013-14 with a target of 7400 Ha irrigation potential.

39.3 To ensure optimum utilization of scarce

irrigation water, I propose to initiate steps to set up a Water Management Authority.

39.4 An amount of Rs.499 crore under Non-plan and Rs.686 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector at present.

40. Fisheries:

40.1 The State fishery sector has shown consistent growth of more than 6% due to various interventions made by the State Government. Fish production in the State has reached a level of 2.43 lakh MT during 2011-12.

40.2 We have been implementing a number of development schemes and programmes for adoption of resource based technology to produce fish to meet the existing demand and to create employment. All these schemes will be continued in the next fiscal also.

40.3 It is proposed to construct 'Hygienic Fish Markets' in the districts to serve the producers and the consumers in a better manner. Presently construction of 3 hygienic fish markets is going on at Nagaon, Cachar and Nalbari districts.

40.4 An amount of Rs.34 crore under Non-plan and Rs.50 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for 2013-14 at present.

41 Panchayat and Rural Development:

41.1 Alleviation of rural poverty and strengthening of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have always been our priority areas. We have been implementing various flagship programmes for the development and uplift of the rural areas. During 2012-13 till now, 203.68 lakh mandays and 39.32 lakh job cards have been issued. Under IAY, 1.6 lakh dwelling houses have been constructed during the current year.

41.2 The eligibility age of pensioners under IGNOAPS (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme) has been reduced to 60 years from 65 years. As a result, more than 1.55 lakh people will be benefitted. The old age pension for pensioners attaining the age of 80 years has been enhanced from Rs 250/- pm to Rs. 500/-pm.

41.3 Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission 44 Development Blocks have been covered for implementation of various schemes.

41.4 During the year 2012-13, under the Chief Minister's Jeevanjyoti Swa-niyojan Yojana, 8039 youths have already been assisted with bank loan and subsidy through Joint Liability Group (JLG) for taking up self-employment activities. Reservation for Women in the PRIs has been raised from 33% to 50% by amending the Assam Panchayat Act.

41.5 There are various housing schemes promoted by real estate developers in the urban areas. I propose to initiate steps to promote rural housing in the State in a big way. For this

purpose funds will be raised through commercial borrowing over and above our State's share from the Rural Housing Fund to which Hon'ble Union Finance Minister has assured Rs.6000 crore in this budget for 2013-14.

41.6 An amount of Rs.328 crore under Non-plan and Rs.879 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for 2013-14 at present.

42. **Cooperation :**

42.1 The immense scope and strength of the Cooperatives in our State is yet to be harnessed effectively. To develop a synergy between the primary and the secondary sectors of the economy, my Government has shown its sincerity towards the functioning of the Cooperatives by amendment of Assam Cooperative Societies Act, 2007 in line with 97th Constitutional Amendment.

42.2 Funds have been earmarked for construction of rural godowns, market sheds under the Chief Minister's Special scheme and RIDF to increase the capacity of rural storage in the State ensuring scientific storage of agricultural products and PDS items.

42.3 Financial assistance for Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management (ARGUCOM) will also be provided for the financial year 2013-14.

42.4 An amount of Rs.60 crore under Non-plan

and Rs.35 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for 2013-14 at present.

43. **Water Resources:**

43.1 Flood and erosion have been causing untold miseries to the people of our State, often bringing normal activities to a standstill. It is a major challenge for the State to contain the damages of flood and erosion caused by the Mighty Brahmaputra, Barak and their fast flowing tributaries.

43.2 Under FMP 100 flood management schemes were taken up in the XIth Plan. Out of these 80 schemes are physically completed and 20 schemes are in progress. Another 97 schemes are proposed to be taken up during XIIth Plan after receiving clearance of the Central Government.

43.3 We are adopting innovative methods and technologies for construction of embankments and anti-erosion measures using eco-friendly geo-synthetic materials. Rehabilitation of erosion affected people will be given high priority.

43.4 To ensure reduction of erosion, channelization of river has become highly necessary. 4.27 lakh hectares of valuable land have been lost since 1954. We have initiated action to constitute a Group of Experts comprising national and international experts for advising the Government in this regard.

43.5 An amount of Rs.250 crore under Non-plan and Rs.1201 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for the year 2013-14 at present.

44. Soil Conservation:

44.1 To maintain fertility, conservation of the top layer of soil is very important. We have been taking a number of steps to protect the fertility of soil in a sustainable manner. We have implemented different important Soil and Water Conservation schemes such as Gully Control scheme, Land Reclamation and Water Distribution, Afforestation, Plantation Crop Development and Integrated Watershed Management Programme. We will also take up various schemes like Soil Survey, Protection of Riverine land and Protective Afforestation etc. Conservation of soil nutrition and restoration of fertility in degraded soil will be taken up in right earnest.

44.2 Biodiversity Conservation at Basistha Bahini Watershed is proposed to be taken during 2013-14.

44.3 An amount of Rs.31 crore under Non-plan and Rs.21 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for 2013-14 at present.

45. Public Works:

45.1 Road connectivity is one of the key elements for achieving faster economic growth. My Government has taken a lot of initiatives for

improvement of the road and bridge infrastructure throughout the State. Since 2001 construction of more than 20,000 Km all weather roads and more than 2900 RCC bridges have been completed. Moreover, 5000 Km of road works and 1250 RCC bridges are under various stages of construction. Special initiatives have been taken for conversion of existing timber bridges into RCC ones and construction of roads along the interstate border under the Chief Minister's Special Package.

45.2 Under PMGSY, more than 5000 rural habitations with population 1000 plus have been connected by all-weather roads till date. The habitations with population 500 plus are also being taken up for connectivity under PMGSY.

45.3 My Government will endeavour for integrated development of highway sectors in the coming years. We are emphasising on construction of two important NH missing links namely, the proposed Dhubri-Phulbari NH with a bridge over river Brahmaputra and the Tinsukia-Naharkatia-Hukanjari-Khunsa in Arunachal Pradesh. 10 District Headquarters are being connected with the NH with two lane NH standard highways.

45.4 Emphasis is being given on adoption of latest technology and green building concepts like energy efficiency, rain water harvesting, solar energy and use of eco-friendly materials for building construction.

45.5 An amount of Rs.1204 crore under Non-plan

and Rs.1415 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

46. Mines and Minerals:

46.1 Mahatma Gandhi said 'Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed'. The underlying principle of this famous saying is that we must use our natural resources in a wise manner. To facilitate the extraction of minor minerals in an environment compliant manner, steps have been taken to revise the rules relating to extraction of minor mineral produces in Assam.

46.2 It is proposed to take up detailed exploration of limestone and coal, investigation and exploration of iron ore, geochemical mapping to trace out various minerals and elements, seismic hazard risk assessment, hydrological investigation of ground water besides study of land slides and land slide zonation in various landslide prone areas of Assam during 2013-14.

46.3 An amount of Rs.13 crore under Non-plan and Rs.144 lakh under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

47. Industries and Commerce:

47.1 Our major focus has been on development of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, generation of economic activities and skill development in employable

trades. In order to achieve this, adequate Plan funds have been earmarked for creation of Industrial infrastructure, upgradation of existing industrial estates and a Fire Works village to promote this traditional industry at Barpeta during 2013-14.

47.2 Under the ongoing Multi-Disciplinary Skill Development scheme, training in various trades will be imparted at the Block level. Various incentives will be provided to Small Tea Growers (STG) with the help of Tea Cess Utilisation Policy.

47.3 A Handicraft training centre is being set up at Majuli and it is proposed to establish another one for char areas in Barpeta district next year. Steps are also proposed to be taken for promotion of MSME products through design intervention and awareness programmes.

47.4. We have noted that several prominent industrial houses in the country have offered to help in creating investment in the grass root level for improving rural entrepreneurship, skill upgradation, rural employment and financial inclusion. Appreciating this gesture, my Government would like to set up an Angel Fund for micro enterprises for inclusive growth in Assam which will be operated through financial institutions. The State Government will put in Rs.10 crore in the Angel Fund.

47.5 A new Industrial Policy will be announced soon. The Mukhya Mantrir Karmajyoti Achoni for augmenting rural employment, Rehabilitation package for small, cottage and khadi industries and Special Incentive for

small industrial units employing local youth will be continued next year also. The Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymers Ltd (BCPL) is moving fast to establish the gas cracker unit, which is nearing completion.

47.6 I would like to announce a Special State Capital Investment Subsidy for micro units set up by women and first generation entrepreneurs belonging to the SC, ST and physically handicapped categories upto a ceiling of Rs.3 lakh per unit. Rs.1.5 crore will be provided for this.

47.7 My Government would like to facilitate development of 2 Logistical Hubs at the main thoroughfares of Assam one at Noapara in Bongaigaon district on the National Highway 31 and the other at Jagiroad on the National Highway 37. For preparation of their DPR and incubation through AIDC, I have earmarked Rs.10 crore.

47.8 We propose to set up a "Khadi Plaza" at Guwahati to provide a platform for value added products of the cottage industry sector of Assam. More than 14000 unemployed youths of the State have been assisted under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) which is being implemented by KVIC, DIC and KVIB, Assam. The Khadi Plaza will be a marketing support platform for them. Rs.10 crore as the State share will be provided to set up the project with Central assistance.

47.9 Industries and Commerce Department will draw up a scheme for supply of tools and

creation of common facility centre for rural artisans, cottage industries and traditional handicraft industries. Necessary funds will be provided.

47.10 An amount of Rs.113 crore under Non-plan and Rs.117 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year.

48. Handloom and Sericulture:

48.1 Assamese women in the past weaved 'Kabach' to protect their husbands in the battle field. The weavers of Assam now can catalyse the economic growth of our State against the invasion of imported garments, if the minimum support required by them for this purpose is made available to them. We have encouraged the weavers by way of distribution of yarns and blankets, looms and accessories etc under different schemes which resulted in increased production in the State. Strong marketing of gamochas on production and Machineries and equipments within the State. provided for making readymade garments and for promotion of entrepreneurship in handloom sector in urban areas.

48.2 It is proposed to set up an Integrated Textile Park at Naharkatiya to create world class infrastructure facilities for textile units. A Handloom Trade Centre at Guwahati is also proposed for improvement and promotion of handloom sector.

48.3 Eri yarn and Muga silk production has

increased to 1062 MT per year and 114 MT per year putting Assam in the 3rd position in India's silk map.

48.4 The yarn distribution scheme will be continued in 2013-14 also.

48.5 An amount of Rs.138 crore under Non-plan and Rs.232 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the next financial year.

49. Information Technology:

49.1 My Government has taken several initiatives to promote IT and to accelerate e-Governance in the State. Finance and Revenue Departments have played a lead role in this regard.

49.2 Under the National e Governance Plan (NeGP) of Government of India, 271 Points of Presence (PoPs) have been commissioned so far connecting the Block level to the State HQ. 3881 Common Services Centres (CSCs) have been set up across the State for providing G2C and B2C services. The CSCs are being strengthened to provide various services to the rural population, farmers and artisans.

49.3 The Mini Data Center (MDC) has been made operational and is currently hosting the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) project of the Police, the SSDG project of IT Department and the first Cloud infrastructure of Eastern India. The Secretariat Less Paper Office (SLPO) project is going on in full swing and is expected to be

visibly deployed in several departments in the Secretariat during the coming financial year. Initiatives have also been made to develop infrastructure for Information Communication Technology in the colleges of the State in a phased manner.

49.4 An amount of Rs.54 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the next financial year.

50. Science and Technology:

50.1 The intellectual and material progress of a society closely follows the advancement of scientific knowledge. I have always given high priority to development of science and technology in our State.

50.2 Construction of Science Centers cum Planetaria at Jorhat, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur and Nalbari are going on at a fast pace. Around 4000 solar lanterns have been distributed among the meritorious students of the State to popularise use of non-renewable sources of energy.

50.3 Lands have been identified for setting up of the Guwahati Biotech Park and for a Science city cum Amusement Park. The Space Based Information System for Decentralized Planning (SIS-DIP) has been taken up to generate spatial database on road, drainage, village, cadastral maps etc. One Biotechnology Cell and a hi-tech Orchidarium and Cactus House have also been established.

50.4 An amount of Rs.169 lakh under Non-plan

and Rs.15 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

51. **Environment and Forest:**

51.1 It is important to maintain the forest cover and protect the environment in the interest of our own survival and for the benefit of our future generations. We propose to create up to 10000 hectares of plantation during 2013-14.

51.2 Global warming and climate change have posed new challenges to sustainable development, particularly in the less developed countries, more so in ecologically sensitive and less developed regions like Assam and the North East. It is high time we adapt ourselves to the changing climatic conditions by resorting to green economy practices in the interest of environmentally compatible and long term sustainable development.

51.3 The State is making serious efforts to conserve its bio-resources for sustainable use. Local Biodiversity Management Committees (LBMCs) are being constituted.

51.4 Serious efforts are underway to protect the wildlife, more particularly the one horned rhino. Steps will be taken to post more field staff and armed personnel for wildlife protection. We have taken steps to fill up the existing vacancies at various levels for better protection of forest and wildlife.

5 The Project Agreement for the Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation was signed on 8th June, 2012 between the State Government and the French Development Agency. The Project is being implemented in all Forest Divisions covering 200 JFMCs and 28 Eco-development Committees over a period of 5 years.

51.6 An amount of Rs.278 crore under Non-plan and Rs.247 crore under Plan has been earmarked for this sector for the year 2013-14.

52. **General Administration:**

52.1 I am aware of the problems faced by the Hon'ble Members and officials of the State Government for want of adequate accommodation in Assam House/Bhawan, New Delhi. To increase the capacity of accommodation in Delhi, it is proposed to replace the present Assam House building in New Delhi with a new multi storied building having all modern amenities. Construction of new Assam Bhawans at Bangalore, Vellore, Chennai, additional multi-storied Assam House at Kolkata and extension of Assam Houses in Shillong and Mumbai are under progress.

52.2 The old rate of grant for Gallantry Awards for persons winning Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Vir Chakra etc. has been substantially enhanced. The construction of Sainik Rest House and Office Building of Director, Sainik Welfare at Guwahati is nearing completion.

52.3 An amount of Rs.140 crore under Non-plan and Rs.15 lakh under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

53. Revenue and Disaster Management:

53.1 Assam witnessed unprecedented floods in three successive waves during 2012-13. Relief and rehabilitation operations were carried out on a war footing to provide adequate food articles, drinking water, health care etc. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the Members of this august House for cooperating with the Government machinery and helping people in all possible ways in times of such distress. So far there has been no provision for giving relief to erosion effected people out of Natural Calamity Fund. As a result of constant follow up by the State Government, the Government of India has constituted a Cabinet Committee to consider inclusion of erosion in the list of calamities eligible for assistance under SDRF.

53.2 The people affected in the violent incidents in BTAD and Goalpara districts were provided all possible help and care by the Government. Steps taken by the Government have helped rehabilitation of affected people in these districts.

53.3 Earth Institute of Columbia University, USA has agreed to collaborate with the Government of Assam in disaster management. Two projects namely 'Disaster Risk Reduction, including climate change adaptation of

Guwahati in the context of Dynamic Growth' and 'Water Resource and Flood & Erosion Risk Mitigation Planning in Assam' have been taken up for implementation jointly with ASDMA.

53.4 Assam has also become the first State in the country where all emergency Help Line Numbers for police, fire service and medical response have been integrated into a single number 108.

53.5 It gives me immense pleasure to announce that the Computerization of Registration (Panjeeyan) project in Assam has been selected for the prestigious Gold Icon in the National Awards for e-governance 2012-13 for excellence in government process re-engineering. This project was taken up under Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Programme of Finance Department. Under this project all the 75 Sub Registry offices in the State have been computerised leading to removal of all pendency in providing authenticated copies of the registered deeds to the registrants.

53.6 The project on e-stamping initially started in Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup districts is now being rolled out throughout the State.

54. Public Enterprises:

54.1 Efforts are being made for strengthening of IT infrastructure of several PSUs for improvement of their Management Information System and Computerization of Accounts System and upgradation. Training has been imparted for enhancing effectiveness of Boards of PSUs and

Corporate Governance. Study of Performance Management System and Performance Related Pay has been undertaken.

54.2 An amount of Rs.287 lakh under Non-plan and Rs.15 lakh under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

55. Power:

55.1 Electricity is the engine of growth and development for improvement of quality of life. The peak demand of electricity in the State has increased from 578 MW in 2001 to 1300 MW. However, the average power availability from our own sources and central sector allotment in the peak period is 950 MW only. The situation is expected to improve after commercial production of 1st unit of ONGC Tripura Power Company Ltd, Palatana and commissioning of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station of NTPC.

55.2 Several projects have been taken up for improvement of power infrastructure in the State. Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna, electrification works in 7992 un-electrified villages and 12374 partially electrified villages have been completed. Electric connections have been given to around 9 lakh BPL households. For strengthening of Transmission and Distribution network in the State, Trade Development Fund has also been made available.

55.3 My Government will encourage growth of new

and renewable energy projects in the State, especially solar energy and wind power, for which a special initiative called Chief Minister's Solar and Wind Power Mission, will be launched. For development of solar energy, several initiatives like Roof Top Solar Projects, Hybrid Renewable Energy Projects and Community based rural electrification models are proposed to be taken up during 2013-14.

55.4 My Government has also given high priority to induct new hybrid technology in the field of renewable energy of solar and wind as the future of our Gen-Next. Therefore, a programme for harnessing both solar and wind energy through the latest hybrid technology is sought to be promoted to generate electricity for street lighting through LED technology with facilities of Smart Grid/Remote Meter with Rs 5 crore will be provided for preparation of DPR and facilitation of a Demo Pilot Project, which will be taken up at certain public utility places in the State.

55.5 It is our priority to increase the share of renewable energy in power generation to mitigate the shortage of energy faced by the farmers. In order to promote such solar energy usage, I propose to set up 2 solar power and storage project of 1 MW each at selected remote agricultural villages for using electricity for agricultural purposes. For this purpose Rs.1.5 crore will be made available as State share.

55.6 Under the Chief Minister's Power Supply Assurance Scheme, it is proposed to replace damaged transformers and install new

transformers with associated lines and fittings in all the Constituencies of the State during 2013-14.

55.7 The 3 MW Stage -II and 6 MW Stage - I of Myntriang Small Hydro Electric Project shall be commissioned in 2013-14. Further construction of the 120 MW Lower Kopilli Hydro Electric Project will be initiated next year.

55.8 An amount of Rs.118 crore under Non-plan and Rs.531 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

56. **Animal Husbandry and Dairy:**

56.1 In the year 2012-13, cattle breed upgradation, fodder and fodder seed development, strengthening and improvement in animal health care services and capacity building of all stakeholders has been our thrust areas in this sector. Developing adequate infrastructure to ensure procurement and processing of quality milk, capacity building of producers, creating awareness among producers and consumers about production and consumption of hygienic milk had been the prime focus area of Dairy Development sector.

56.2 In the coming financial year, 100 Veterinary Hospital complexes and 100 buildings of the Veterinary sub centres will be reconstructed. Un-utilized lands of the department will be

used for fodder cultivation for benefit of farmers. Special programmes for enhancement of milk production will be taken on a pilot basis in Sonitpur and Nagaon districts and Sadiya Sub-division of the Tinsukia district. A Government goat farm will be set up in Jorhat district. Nagaon has been taken as a pilot district to make it a milk surplus district. Town Milk Supply Schemes will be revamped during 2013-14, in consonance with the objective of converting the State from a milk deficient State to a milk surplus State.

56.3 An amount of Rs.207 crore under Non-plan and Rs.88 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

57. **Information and Public Relations:**

57.1 A new scheme namely, "Mukhyamantrir Sabdajyoti Achoni" is proposed to be launched at the secondary level Government and provincialised schools in a phased manner. The scheme will consist of a Public Address System kit for each such school.

57.2 Installation of Fixed Loud Speaker Systems is being implemented in 113 locations this year and the scheme will continue during 2013-14 to cover 200 GP level locations within the State. Electronic LED Display Board will be erected at strategic locations for awareness creation about Government plans, policies etc. Emphasis will also be given on publication of various informative books and folders. Further preliminary works for setting up of the Lakshminath Bezbaruah Institute of Mass

Communication & Printing Technology are proposed to be taken up during 2013-14.

57.3 A proposal for enhancement of advertisement rates of the small, medium and daily newspapers depending upon circulation of each newspaper is under consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken soon.

57.4 An amount of Rs.27 crore under Non-plan and Rs.4 crore under Plan for the present has been earmarked for this sector for the financial year 2013-14.

58. Assam Accord:

I have been closely monitoring implementation of different clauses of the historic Assam Accord. As already mentioned the mechanism for detection and deportation of foreigners in accordance with laid down statutory provisions is being strengthened. It is proposed to increase the number of Foreigner's Tribunal over and above the existing 36. The matter of updation of NRC is being followed up actively. The Executive Council of the Jawaharlal Nehru University has approved the establishment of an Assamese Chair in the Centre of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies of the University.

TAXATION:

59. Motor vehicle Tax

- i) The Transport Department is a major source of revenue for the State

Government. It has collected an amount of about Rs. 250 crore upto December, 2012 in the current financial year against the corresponding figure of about Rs.214 crore in the previous year. The department will further strive to improve its contribution to the State Exchequer. For the purpose, various rules and regulations of the department prescribing taxes/fees/rates/penalties etc. shall be revisited. Special efforts shall be made to persuade vehicle owners of our State to get their vehicles registered within our State only. It is a matter of concern that many private vehicles are being used for commercial purposes thereby bypassing the governmental regulations and also avoiding payment of taxes to the State. The department will gear up to bring all such cases into its fold of regulation and tax net.

- ii) The Government is also aware that the State is largely dependent on the agriculture and allied sectors and the progress of the State is largely dependent on the efforts made by the farmers to increase production in this sector. In this regard, the State Government proposes to reduce the motor vehicle taxes for tractors used solely for the purpose of agriculture and allied farming activities excluding commercial crops. Similarly, it is also proposed to do away with the motor vehicles tax in respect of dead body carrying vehicles and ambulances used

by non-profit making charitable societies.

60. Stamps and Registration:

As compared to many other states, the rate of registration fees and stamp duty on transfer of property is very high in Assam. To encourage higher compliance in registration of property transfer deeds and to empower women by encouraging the ownership of property in their name, I have taken steps to reduce the rate of stamp duty and registration fees from a total of 13.5 % to 3 % in case of women registrants and from 14.5 % to 5 % in case of men.

61. Commercial Tax

61.1 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 the year 2011-12 the department collected Rs.6604.31 crore as against the target of Rs.5684.62 crore and the percentage of collection against the target was 116% and the growth of collection against the corresponding collection of Rs. 5185.59 crore during 2010-11 was 27%.

61.2 For the current financial year 2012-13, state Government has fixed a target of Rs.7270.61 crore. The provisional collection of the department up to February, 2013 is Rs.6048.58 crore as against Rs.5751.45 crore in the corresponding period of last year

showing a growth rate of 5%. This is 83% of the target for the full financial year. It is expected that the Department would be able to exceed the target fixed for the current financial year.

61.3 During the current financial year the Taxation department has conducted a Professional Tax collection drive for a fortnight in September, 2012 and also a recovery drive for realisation of arrear tax dues under various Taxation Acts in November, 2012. In the Professional Tax collection drive the department collected Rs. 3.80 crore and in the recovery drive department realised Rs. 5.80 crore. Recovery collection upto December, 2012 is Rs. 31.13 crore as against Rs. 21.56 crore corresponding to the same period of the last year registering a growth of 44%.

61.4 It may be stated here that the overall recession in the country has impacted to some extent the growth of revenue collection of the state in the current financial year.

62. Tax proposals

62.1 Hon'ble Finance Minister of India in his budget speech for the year 2013-14 announced that GST is going to be introduced shortly. The contentious issue for the States was CST compensation before implementation of GST, which is already resolved and Union Government has agreed to compensate the States in this regard. The State of Assam shall also get its shares of CST compensation. We expect to receive approximately Rs. 175 crore during 2013-14 as arrear CST compensation. Now that introduction of

GST can be expected sooner rather than later, I do not like to tamper with the existing VAT regime in any significant way. However, a number of association/organizations have submitted several representations, which have been carefully examined. Taking into account the need to give relief in some deserving cases, incentivize local MSME sector and also to augment revenue where possible, I would like to make the following tax proposals:-

- (i) Gur is one of the widely used item, particularly in the rural areas of Assam. Sugar is exempted in the State and Gur is taxable @5%. I therefore like to exempt Gur, jaggery and edible variety of rub gur from the tax net.
- (ii) In order to give some relief to the marginal dealers I propose to increase the exemption limit under Assam Value Added Tax Act, 2003 from existing Rs.4 lakh to Rs.6 lakh. I also propose to increase the turnover limit of composition scheme for retail dealers from existing Rs.40 lakh to Rs.60 lakh so that retail dealers having turnover from Rs.6 lakh to Rs.60 lakh can pay tax at compounded rate:
- (iii) In order to encourage the infrastructure development and construction sector I propose to reduce the rate of tax on stone chips and boulders from existing 13.5% to 5%.
- (iv) The State is going for 100% rural electrification. In fact electrification is high priority for the State Government. Therefore, I propose to rationalize the rate of tax on some electrical goods like sockets of all type, regulators, modular plate, MS Board, Casing

and capping by bringing them under 5% category to bring them on par with other electrical items mentioned in Second Schedule of the AVAT Act, 2003. Further, in order to encourage reduction in power consumption I propose to reduce the rate of tax on CFL bulb from 13.5% to 5% for the benefit of general public.

- (v) I also propose to reduce rate of tax on generator set from existing 13.5% to 5%.
- (vi) For the benefit of industries/traders, I propose to exempt electricity duty on generation of power through generator sets having capacity up to 25 KVA . Similar provision shall apply on generators used for non-industrial private purposes.
- (vii) There has been a demand from plastic industries to abolish entry tax of 2% on plastic granules which are not locally available in the State. In order to boost such industries of plastic items, I propose to reduce the rate of entry tax from existing 2% to 1%.
- (viii) The concession given on tea exported through Inland Container Depot (ICD), Amingaon has a positive impact on export of Assam Tea. In order to impart continuity and stability of tea export through ICD, I propose to continue such deduction @Rs.6 /- per Kg. for another year w.e.f. 1.4.2013.
- (ix) In the recent past Assam has experienced larger inflow of tourist. In order to boost the tourism sector, I propose to levy luxury tax on the actual room tariff charged instead of current practice of levying tax on published room tariff.

63. I have tried to give some relief in few deserving cases. However I have to also see that resource position of state does not deteriorate. Therefore, I propose to take some measures for augmentation of Government revenue and propose the following measures :-

(i) I propose to increase rate of tax on Cigarette, Bidi, Cheroots, Cigar, smoking mixture from existing 20% to 25% in order to discourage tobacco smoking.

(ii) The rates of tax on the different composition scheme were fixed several years ago. In the meantime prices of those items have increased considerably. Therefore such rates are required to be revised. I therefore, propose to revise the rates as follows:-

a. For Composition Scheme for brick fields, the Category-A will pay lump-sum tax of Rs.1 lakh instead of existing amount of Rs.57,500/-. Category-B will pay Rs.80,000/- against existing rate of Rs.46,000 and Category-C will have to pay Rs.60,000/- against existing rate of Rs.34,500/-.

b. Under the Composition Scheme for marble dealers, six wheeler trucks will now have to pay Rs.45,000/- instead of the present rate of Rs.31,000, ten wheeler trucks will have to pay Rs.75,000 instead of current rate Rs.50,000, trailer trucks will have to pay Rs.1,30,000/- instead of the current Rs.1 lakh and in case of consignment imported otherwise than

above Rs.2,000/- per ton instead of the current rate of Rs.1,500 per ton.

c. In case of composition scheme of sweetmeat, cooked food, etc. a dealer having gross turnover from Rs.6 lakh to Rs.8 lakh will pay Rs.15,000 per annum and a dealer having gross turnover from Rs.8 lakh to Rs.10 lakh will have to pay Rs.22,000/- per annum. There shall be no composition scheme for annual turnover above Rs. 10 lakh. They will have to pay VAT at normal rates.

(iii) I propose to introduce a composition scheme for catering services in order to tap revenue from this sector.

(iv) I also propose to introduce a special rate of tax on sale of pre-owned commercial vehicles in order to tap revenue from this sector which was outside the tax net till now.

(v) I also propose to raise rate of entry tax on Clinker from existing 2% to 6%.

(vi) I also propose to increase rate of entry tax from existing 4% to 6% on marble, granite and other decorative slabs made therefrom, furniture and fixtures, sanitary wares and bathroom fitting of all types.

(vii) The online shopping is increasing rapidly for which the State is losing revenue. In next financial year I propose to put in place an appropriate mechanism to bring such transactions under the tax net.

64. I would also like to inform this august house that the State Government has been sacrificing substantial volume of tax revenue due to the tax exemptions under the current Industrial Policy of Assam. I propose to commission a study to make a cost benefit analysis of the same and make necessary modification in the coming Industrial Policy of Assam, 2013.

65. Budget estimates

Now Sir, I come to the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2013-14. 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 2013-14 show a receipt of Rs.45834.55 crore under the consolidated fund of the State. Out of this, Rs.41284.32 crore is on Revenue Account and the remaining Rs.4550.23 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.255295.57 crore under Public Account and of Rs.50.00 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate receipts amount to Rs.301180.12 crore. As against this, total expenditure from the consolidated fund of the State in 2013-14 is estimated at Rs.48553.63 crore of which Rs.38183.80 crore is on Revenue Account and Rs.10369.83 crore is on Capital Account. The estimates of grant-wise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund during 2013-14 have been shown in **Table-2**. Taking into account the expenditure of Rs.253398.39 crore under Public Account and Rs.50.00 crore under Contingency

fund, the aggregate expenditure for the year is estimated at Rs.302002.02 crore. Thus, estimated transactions during the year will result in an estimated deficit of Rs.821.90 crore. This, together with the opening deficit of Rs.530.67 crore will lead to a budget deficit of Rs.1352.57 crore at the end of the financial year 2013-14.

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

JAI AAI ASOM
JAI HIND

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Printed at the Assam Govt. Press
Guwahati-21