

Mr. Speaker and the Members of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly,

I am indeed glad and honoured to address the distinguished Members of this August House at the commencement of the first session of this year. At the outset, I extend my warm greetings to all of you. The Meghalaya Legislative Assembly has a reputation of maintaining the highest standards of decorum during the conduct of its proceedings. I urge upon all the members to continue to maintain these high standards during this session, also.

2. The Government is committed to ensure a better delivery system so that all citizens of the State obtain their rightful entitlements. The Government has also taken steps to set up institutions, frame appropriate schemes, modernize the Government systems and improve its overall performance towards this objective. For successful implementation of all the well intended policies, programmes and projects of the Government and for the fruits of these to reach the public at large, the most crucial challenge is that of ensuring accountability, transparency and effective governance. Eradication of corruption at all levels will be the prime object of my Government. There is tremendous scope for improvement in all these areas. The Government is committed to address these issues in an effective manner through appropriate legislative measures. A new Lokayukta Bill, in conformity with the model Bill recommended by the Select Committee of the Parliament and based on extensive consultations held with various stakeholders is being brought to the Assembly, during the current session. A legislation is under preparation which will seek to lay down benchmarks and timelines for more efficient delivery of services by the Government departments to the public. In order to facilitate greater participation of the community in the monitoring of important government programmes and projects, another legislation providing for social audit is being worked upon.

Home & Political

3. The law and order situation in Meghalaya over the last one year has been stable and under control. All national days of importance have been celebrated peacefully. The recently concluded Elections to the Autonomous District Councils in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills passed off peacefully despite severe constraints on the availability of police force. The Government appreciates the cooperation of the people who have come out in large numbers to exercise their franchise.

4. The internal security scenario in the State has been, by and large, satisfactory and the State Police with the assistance of the Central Reserve Police Force did a commendable job in containing the activities of various militant outfits. However, the increased activities of GNLA and its growing influence in Garo Hills and parts of West Khasi Hills is a matter of serious concern. The activities of the HNLC have seen a decline during the past one year because of the constant pressure mounted by the State Police and their movement and activities are confined to certain areas along the Indo-Bangla Border. During 2013, 108 militants were arrested and 19 militants had surrendered and large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized.

5. Government has been making concerted efforts to end the hardship of the common people and restore peace and normalcy in the Garo Hills. The settlement with ANVC has reached the final stages of approval by the Central Government. The State Government is keen on getting this done before the elections to the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council. It is with this intent that the term of the present Council has been extended by six months. However, it must be reiterated that ensuring peace, order and safety of common citizens is the first and foremost duty of the administration. Therefore, the police forces will be firm in dealing with the elements that indulge in unlawful activities.

Government will continue to engage in a sustained dialogue with the agitating groups in order to find solutions to such problems.

6. Meghalaya, which has 443 kms international border with Bangladesh, faces serious problems of influx of Bangladeshi nationals and existence of bases of some of the militant organisations of North East, in Bangladesh. Government is committed to complete the border fencing on the international border at a fast pace. Situation in the border has largely remained peaceful due to improved relations with our neighbour.

7. The State has about 884 kms of inter-state border with Assam. Government is taking initiatives for dialogue with the Government of Assam on the boundary issues. Series of meetings have been held with the Assam Government since 2010 and follow up measures are being taken. In pursuance of the meeting held with the Union Home Minister, Nodal Officers representing the two States have been identified. The meeting of the two Nodal Officers discussed issues regarding resumption of developmental works along the inter-state boundary, without prejudice to the claims by either party so that the boundary dispute does not hinder development of these areas. It was also agreed that law and order be maintained at any cost.

8. Meghalaya Police has been making conscious efforts to check infiltration. In 2013, 4137 illegal migrants were detected of which 169 were prosecuted and 3968 were sent back directly. To give a boost to the anti-infiltration efforts of the Police department, the Government has appointed a Director for the newly created Directorate of Anti Infiltration which is now functional.

9. Crime is well under control. The State, on an average, registers 257 criminal cases per month out of which theft is predominant. However, there is a rising trend in crimes against women and children. It has been noted that such crimes have registered an increase by 23.14 % in 2013 as compared to 2012. Owing to the rise in crimes against women and children, the Government is

considering entrusting a study to NEHU with participation of all stakeholders. A number of measures have been taken to prevent, detect and investigate crimes against women and children. The prosecutions of such cases are now being taken up in the Fast Track Courts/Special Court. Anti human trafficking units have been set up at Shillong and Tura. Capacity building of Police officers and men has been undertaken to sensitize them on this important issue. All cases of crime against women and children are being treated as Special Report cases which are supervised by senior police officers. The Police department is deploying newly recruited women police officers in the rank of Sub-Inspectors to Police Stations and they are being given the responsibility to deal with these cases.

10. The implementation of the Safe and Secure Shillong City Project is on track. The Crime Criminal Tracking Network System Project will help the citizens to register their complaints and grievances through the internet, report against crime and criminals, and track their complaints through internet-based services.

11. In order to effectively deal with the emerging challenges and to scale down the State's dependence on Central Armed Police Forces, the State has decided to raise the Meghalaya Multi-purpose Special Force known as Special Force 10 or SF-10. Recruitment process has already been initiated and will be done as per the Transparent Recruitment Policy [TRP] using technological solutions in order to ensure objectivity, transparency and fair play in the recruitment process.

Planning

12. The State has achieved a growth rate of 8.1% during the 11th Plan period and this growth has been sustained in the first year of the 12th Plan. The State Government has stepped up implementation of the Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLPP) besides up-

scaling the investment in the social sectors and infrastructure development. The Government has taken up several new innovative projects in 2013-14 which include the State Rural Infrastructure Development Initiative, the State Urban Infrastructure Initiative, lay-by markets, Integrated Social Mobilization Centre and Hostels for working women. The tentative plan outlay for 2014-15 has been fixed at Rs. 4545 crore.

Finance

13. Creation of the Employee Database has been completed and generation of bills through the Database has started in a phased manner since August 2013. Payment of salaries, pension and other Government payments are now being made electronically. The Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) has been implemented to facilitate review, planning and better financial management by all Government departments. In the Small Savings sector, efforts are on to step up collection through popularization of Small Savings Scheme, including Recurring Deposit under Mahila Pradhan Kshetriya Bachat Yojana and National Savings Certificate. The Government through its Financial Inclusion Scheme will continue to promote entrepreneurship as well as economic empowerment of women.

Excise, Registration, Taxation & Stamps

14. The contribution of Excise, Registration, Taxation and Stamps department to the revenue of the State has been substantial. The introduction of e-Registration, e-Return, e-waybill and e-CST has helped the dealers to a great extent besides ushering in transparency and efficiency. More services will be brought under computerization during the course of the year. Three banks have been authorized by the Reserve Bank of India for transactions through e-payment and two more banks are expected to be approved soon. Due diligence

for setting up integrated check-gates for all revenue earning departments has been done and these are expected to be operational during the current fiscal.

Agriculture

15. The State has made significant gains in improving food grain production and is one of the States that has been awarded the “Krishi Karman National Commendation Award 2013” by the Government of India for Production of Foodgrain during 2012-13. Government has also implemented the Intelligent Advisory System for Farmers (IASF), an online service which provides quick advice to farmers from farm scientists through IT tools. Recently, the State was conferred with the Winner Award at the 4th e-North East Challenge Award under the category “Livelihood and Enterprise”.

16. Government will soon establish the State Seed Certification Agency with the mandate to improve genetic purity and quality of seeds which would enable farmers to increase yields of their crops. The Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) established in 7 districts of the State have played a significant role in modernizing and strengthening the agriculture extension delivery system through a systematic approach based on Strategic Resource Extension Plan (SREP). The Government will soon implement a Scheme to promote location-specific and crop-specific sustainable soil health management, including residue management, organic farming practices and appropriate land use.

Horticulture

17. In Horticulture, 142 new vegetable clusters comprising of 140 Farmer Interest Group (FIGs) and 2 Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) have been established in the clusters around the Shillong urban conglomerate, covering 1750 farmers. Government has taken major strides to promote a programme of organic cultivation, certification and marketing of key crops among which tea,

cashew nut and pineapple were accorded certified organic status. The organic certification for turmeric, banana, orange and vegetables is under process. A PET (Poly-Ethylene Terephthalate) blow moulding machine is being installed at the Fruit Preservation Centre, Shillong to produce various sizes of bottles for packaging. An 'Orchid Valley' is being created in Zikzak in the Garo Hills to produce high quality Dendrobium species of orchids suitable for export to other countries.

18. The 'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture' (MIDH), will soon be implemented to stimulate holistic development of the horticulture sector. This Mission aims to empower marginal and small stakeholders. It also aims to improve productivity with marketability and promote Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) as well as organic farming.

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary

19. During the next year it is proposed to set up one veterinary Poly Clinic, 18 new veterinary Dispensaries and 8 modern Abattoirs in 8 Districts. Dairy Co-operative Societies are proposed to be assisted by setting up milk collection centres with bulk coolers. The Livestock Mission under the Integrated Basin and Livelihood Development Programme (IBLDP) is running well with focus on value chains for cattle, poultry, pigs & goats. Innovative technologies are being introduced to ensure availability of quality feed at cheaper prices.

Fisheries

20. In furtherance of the Aquaculture Mission, the Fisheries department is striving to ensure self sufficiency in fish production by expanding the area under fish farming and bridging critical infrastructure gaps. During 2012-13, additional water area of 952 hectares covering 9520 partners was added. Establishment of hatcheries in the private sector has picked up momentum. Support has been extended to 20 entrepreneurs for establishment of eco-

hatcheries and 14 entrepreneurs for FRP hatcheries. 3 Fish feed mills are also being established under the private sector. 54 fish sanctuaries are being created in all the districts aimed at conservation of vulnerable indigenous and endemic fish species. The Meghalaya State Fisheries Research & Training Institute, at Mawpun, Ri Bhoi district was made functional from May 2013. So far, 320 farmers from across the State have been trained in this Institute in addition to the 1200 farmers trained at NIRD, Guwahati. State level 'Aqua fests' were held at Shillong & Tura during November 2013. Aqua-parks to promote aqua-tourism are being developed in four locations in selected districts.

Soil & Water Conservation

21. The Soil & Water Conservation department focuses on enhancing natural resources, in particular soil, water and vegetation to promote sustainable development. 14 Soil & Water Conservation Projects under NABARD loan are currently being implemented across 2318 hectares of cultivable land. Further, 84 Participatory Watershed Projects under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for treating an area of 2700 hectares are currently being implemented to check soil erosion and surface runoff and also to improve soil health and productivity. 42 new Projects have been taken up under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programmes (AIBP) during 2013-14 to irrigate a total area of 6535 hectares.

Cooperation

22. There are 1402 Cooperative Societies in the State with a membership of about 1.72 lakh individuals. These Societies are undertaking varied business activities like credit, food processing, handloom, handcraft, village industries, dairy, livestock, marketing of agricultural produce etc. Steps are being taken to encourage Tourism Cooperative Societies and Integrated Village Cooperative Societies for generation of more employment opportunities. Efforts are also

being made to revive and strengthen the Primary Agriculture Credit Cooperative (PACS) of the State for flow of credit to farmers.

Community & Rural Development

23. During 2013-2014, Rs. 270.54 crore has been utilized till January 2014 for implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) generating 115.92 lakh mandays of rural employment. The State Rural Employment Society (SRES) has been created and a State Corpus Fund has been set up with an allocation of Rs.31.00 crore for smooth flow of funds to the districts on a revolving basis. An initiative to construct durable roads in rural areas under the Blacktopping of Rural Roads Scheme (BTRRS) has also shown significant progress. During 2013-14, Rs. 39 crore was provided under this scheme. The Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Society (MSRLS) has been set up for implementing the NRLM. Pilot projects under this scheme are being taken up in four development blocks at Mairang, Mawshynrut, Rongram and Dalu. In 2013-14, Government also introduced the Clean and Green Village Award scheme. A scheme for tapping up the IAY Scheme is being launched from the current financial year.

Border Areas Development

24. Development of Border Areas has continued with focus on improving connectivity, livelihood, infrastructure, community facilities, playgrounds, market stalls etc. in villages along the international and inter-state borders. Besides these, water tanks for water stressed areas, weaving sheds, scholarships and stipends to students are provided. During the current financial year, Rs. 50.00 lakh has been approved for scholarships & stipends to 3681 students.

Power

25. The power scenario has been a cause for concern during the last few years. The State has been facing a power deficit to the extent of

20% to 30 % of the demand. The State Government has taken steps to augment the generation capacity as well as the transmission network to draw additional power from the North Eastern Grid. Survey and Investigation of the 280 MW Kynshi Hydro Electric Project and the 90 MW Mawphu Project is underway and the Detailed Project Reports are expected soon. Steps have also been initiated for implementation of the 240 MW Thermal Power Project in Garo Hills under the IPP mode. On the transmission side, the Loop in Loop Out (LILO) of the Pallatana – Bongaigaon Transmission line at Byrnihat has been completed and the line at Killing Sub Station was energized in March 2013, enabling the State to draw its share of 79 MW from the Pallatana Project . The Agia – Nangalbibra transmission line has been completed for transmitting power to the Garo Hills region and its capacity is being augmented.

26. Augmentation of Sub-Stations at Umiam, Mendipathar, Rongkhon and Jowai has also been taken up during the current financial year. Besides these projects, around sixteen transmission schemes are being proposed for funding by the World Bank during the next financial year. Under the Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP), work is in progress in 9 towns at a cost of Rs. 33.97 crore. The Government plans to tap all resources including free power entitlements from all generating stations even though they may be operated by non-State Government agencies in order to ensure turnaround of the MeECL. The Government is also encouraging the development of efficient and clean energy and the growth of non-conventional energy. To ensure sustainability of power utilities in the State, there is an urgent need for augmenting the State's generating capacity and to improve and strengthen revenue flows. To achieve this end, the State has been implementing the power policy and it is expected that this will ultimately help to achieve the desired results. 'Mission Green' was launched with the objective of encouraging

the students and youth to popularize the use of renewable sources of energy in the State. LED Solar lanterns have been distributed to a good number of students of classes IX and X hailing from families below the poverty line.

Mining & Geology

27. Coal Mining is an important economic activity in many parts of the State. From time to time concerns have been expressed regarding safety and environmental impact of such coal mining. Yet it is also a fact that many families depend on coal mining as their only source of income. The Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012 as notified by the State Government seeks to create a fine balance between the need for safer, sustainable and environment friendly methods and safeguarding local livelihoods. The regulatory requirements and clearances will now be compulsory beyond a specified size of mining operations according to the Policy. As part of its effort to educate local mine owners and allay their concerns, Government will organize more training-cum-awareness programmes.

Commerce & Industries

28. The development of Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises for generation of employment and development of skills while increasing the State Domestic Product continues to be a focus area for the State. During the current year, the Government has been able to provide incentives to 629 Micro and Small enterprise units with a financial assistance of Rs. 350.00 lakh, generating an employment potential of 2616. Under PMEGP Programme, 159 units have been set up creating employment for 728 people. Keeping in view the demand for skilled trained personnel and the objective of providing employment opportunities, the Government is sponsoring youth for skill development training in various vocational training centres, namely, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Kolkata, North Eastern Industrial and Technical

Consultancy (NEITCO), Guwahati etc. Recently, a tie up has been made between the State Government and College of Engineering and Leather Technology (GCELT), Kolkata for imparting special training on open foot wear and leather goods at the State Training Institute, Shillong. A special training on herbal cosmetics for 480 unemployed youth was also conducted at Shillong and Betasing. Under the Master Craftsman Scheme, 443 rural artisans have been trained. Under the National Mission on Food Processing, workshops and entrepreneurship programmes were conducted throughout the State. The Apiculture Mission will be a major area of work in 2014-15.

Sericulture & Weaving

29. The Sericulture and Handloom sector has the potential of providing rural employment & livelihood for a very large number of people of the State. 36 new rearing and grainage buildings for Eri and Muga silkworms have been constructed. In the handloom sector, a mass registration programme of weavers has been held and 18 Common Facilities Centres have been constructed in different handloom clusters to assist the weavers in gaining access to modern methods of fabric production. Government has initiated a partnership with GIZ, the German Aid Agency under the 'Greening of the Silk Value Chain' for improving the texture and appearance of Eri silk yarn and handloom textiles through pre-loom processing like dyeing and degumming.

Public Works

30. Socio-economic development, especially in the rural areas, largely depends on a good road network. The Government of Meghalaya is therefore laying stress on construction of new roads and up-gradation of existing roads. The total road length of the State as on April 2013 is 9548 kms. The focus during the last 2 years has been on completion of ongoing schemes & on identifying thrust areas. Replacement of all semi-permanent timber bridges with

RCC bridges in a time bound manner is a major objective. The State Government is also pursuing up-gradation & improvement of six National Highways viz. NH-40, NH-44, NH-40 Extension, NH-44 Extension, NH-51, and NH-62 having a total length of 794.598 Km. Under the PMGSY, the State has recently received clearance for proposals under Phase VIII for an amount of Rs. 485.03 cr. Work on these projects will begin soon.

31. In the Buildings sector, a major initiative relates to the development of necessary administrative infrastructure in the four new districts. Setting up of Mini Secretariats in these districts is already underway. During 2014-15, Integrated Residential Complexes are proposed to be taken up in all the four locations.

Transport

32. For augmenting air connectivity, the State Government proposes to upgrade the Baljek Airport for which additional land of 58 acres, needed for expanding the runway, has been acquired. The airport is proposed to be run on PPP mode. Up-gradation and facilities for landing bigger aircraft are on the pipeline for which Rs. 6.9 crore has been sanctioned. Acquisition of land for the remaining portion required for extension of the Umroi airport is progressing after which work on runway extension can begin. The Government has also initiated steps to establish helipads in Shillong and district headquarters. The first railway line to the State, the Dudhnoi-Mendipathar line will be operationalised by April this year. Land acquisition for 2.5 km of the Tetelia-Byrnihat line is underway. Survey works for the alignment of the Byrnihat-Shillong line through 12 villages is going on. Funds for an Inter State Bus Terminus at Mawlai Mawiong have been provided. The State Government has decided to develop Inland Water Transport. Techno-feasibility assessment of the viability of waterways in Jinjiram, Kynshi-Jadukota and Simsang has been

initiated. Four Ropeway projects at Rongsu across Simsang; Mebitpara village; Raja Rongat to Rongmigri; and Kapogre to Sanginigre are being taken up by the Border Areas department. Rural Public Transport system has been initiated.

33. The Government has implemented the scheme for payment of verification fees and road taxes on-line. Digitization of records in all districts will be taken up during 2014-15. A new accident insurance scheme called 'Insurance for Drivers' was introduced to provide coverage to professional and Government drivers whose life is exposed to risk and danger. This will provide an insurance cover of Rs. 4.00 lakh each for a premium of Rs. 100/- only.

Information Technology

34. Government continues to pursue its plans to promote ICT in the State to achieve its vision of creating opportunities for employment and wealth generation for the citizens of the State. The 2nd phase extension of the Software Technology Park at Lumjingshai, Shillong will be completed soon. This will provide additional space for incubation activities and for attracting local IT entrepreneurs. An ICT Park at New Shillong Township is also on the anvil. The e-District project and the Project on Cloud Enablement of the State Data Centre are currently under implementation.

35. For increasing familiarity in rural areas, the State had designed a Basic IT Training program under the Digital Literacy Scheme. During 2013-14, this training was imparted to 800 persons through B-ABLE by using the facilities of Common Service Centres located in all districts. The State is continuing with the scheme of awarding laptops to meritorious students who have excelled in the Board Examinations at the Secondary and Higher Secondary levels. During 2013-14, 219 students were given laptops under this scheme. On 2nd October 2013, the Students Digital Learning Aid scheme was launched whereby Mobile Tablets, loaded with MBOSE syllabus and content useful for Medical &

Engineering Entrance Examinations, were distributed to all Class-XII students of the academic year 2013-14. Steps have also been initiated to provide Wi-fi coverage in Government schools enabling students to have access to academic information. The Government also plans to have a State level Cyber Security Policy in line with the National Cyber Security Policy.

Forests & Environment

36. The main objective of the Forests & Environment Sector is conservation of natural resources and environment for sustainable development. To achieve this objective, besides managing Government owned forest areas, the department also promotes and implements forestry programmes with people's participation in private and community lands. The National Afforestation Programme, a major eco-restoration scheme under the Central Sector is being implemented by a three-tier institutional set up namely State Forest Development Agency (SFDA), Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). The Meghalaya State Medicinal Plants Board aims at coordinated development of the medicinal plants sector in the State. With increasing threats to forests the Government continues to focus its efforts on protection, afforestation, and community participation in environmental conservation.

Water Resources

37. Meghalaya is basically an agrarian state with a large segment of its population depending on agriculture and allied activities. Therefore, efforts are being made to increase the irrigation coverage especially through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. Besides this, Jalkunds and Water Harvesting Structures have been taken up to provide irrigation coverage to smaller pockets of cultivated areas. Further, initiative has also been taken to promote Multipurpose Reservoirs which are water bodies that will cater to the

different needs of communities and also maximize water use efficiency. At the end of 2012 – 2013, the total irrigation potential created is 61893.33 hectares which marks an increase of 45% over the potential created upto the end of the 11th Plan period which was 42650.53 hectares. The irrigation potential created so far is about 28% of the identified potential of 2.18 lakh hectares. Thrust areas in the Water Sector include creation of additional irrigation potential, enhanced water use efficiency, quality management, rejuvenation of water bodies, better regulation and convergence & integrated water resources management.

38. In order to put in place a water regulatory mechanism, a State Water Policy has been drafted and the document has been circulated for obtaining views and comments. Further, a comprehensive Water Act is in the process of formulation. In order to promote Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM), Water Users Association in 254 irrigation projects have been formed and registered as Societies.

District Council Affairs

39. The Autonomous District Councils will continue to be supported to enable them to function effectively in the discharge of their duties. Funds have been provided from time to time to the District Councils for implementation of various developmental works and up-gradation of administration. For the first time in the history of the State, the recent elections to the Autonomous District Council were conducted with Electronic Voting Machines [EVMs] procured by the State Government.

Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

40. The State Government continues to implement the Targeted Public Distribution System. The main objective of the Targeted PDS is to provide food security to the families living Below the Poverty Level. In addition, under the Annapurna scheme, rice is distributed free of cost to indigent old age persons

not covered in the National Old Age Pension scheme, at the scale of 10 Kgs per head per month. A Project for end-to-end computerisation of PDS has been approved by the Government of India and the first instalment of 60% of central share has been received and the works are in progress. The State has taken preparatory steps for implementation of the National Food Security Act. 77.76% of the rural population and 50.87% of the urban population in the State will be covered under NFSA. The process of inclusion and exclusion of beneficiaries based on the socio economic & caste census for facilitating implementation of the Food Security Act is in the final stages. Government has also initiated steps for facilitating marketing of locally produced fruits and vegetables in lay-by markets which provide supplementary nutrition to people and also encourage women entrepreneurs. Instructions have been issued to all Deputy Commissioners to take strict action under provisions of the Essential Commodities Control Orders for preventing black-marketing and hoarding of essential commodities for stabilisation of prices in the market. Under the Consumers Welfare Fund Scheme, assistance will be provided to Voluntary Consumer Organisations and NGOs for intensifying consumer awareness campaign in the State.

Programme Implementation & Evaluation

41. The Government attaches importance to monitoring & evaluation of the implementation of developmental programmes. During 2013-14, third party monitoring of projects under non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources was done through outsourcing. Online monitoring of State PSEs was also operationalised during the year to effectively monitor the performance of PSEs. Priority has been given to full inspection of schemes such as Flagship Programmes, TPP and MPLADS which will further be intensified in 2014-15. The Results Framework Documents (RFDs) of all departments are being operationalised in order to improve their performance. In addition, efforts to augment the quality of

physical monitoring data will be made using GIS/GPS and ICT based tools and techniques.

Legal Metrology

42. The Legal Metrology department conducts periodical verification and stamping of all Weights and Measures and Instruments used by traders in the market, huts and trading establishments. Frequent surprise inspections are undertaken to check any form of malpractices by traders. Civil construction of the Works Standard Laboratories in Nongpoh, Sohra, Nongstoin and Williamnagar is completed while construction work at Jowai is on. The department has initiated steps for publication of Meghalaya Legal Metrology Manual and Development of Meghalaya Legal Metrology Web Portal.

Tourism

43. Meghalaya is endowed with incredible natural beauty. In order to showcase our uniqueness as a destination, the State has been making efforts to promote tourism through development of infrastructure facilities and enhancing its publicity campaigns in both print and electronic media. Further, the Government is trying to capture the growing interest of tourists in Rural Tourism which is therefore being developed and promoted by involving the local village community. It is expected that these activities would lead to economic development as well as generation of employment opportunities in the state. The State Government will continue to invest in infrastructure development for tourism while encouraging development of entrepreneurship to enable private participation in tourism business. Besides these, the Government is also promoting and encouraging youth to build up their skills in hospitality trades like Food & Beverage Service, Food & Beverage Production, House Keeping and Front Office. During the current financial year, 1865 youth are being trained in various hospitality trades. In order to increase tourism

accommodation facilities and participation of local entrepreneurs in tourism activities in the State, the Government has assisted local entrepreneurs in creation of Home-stays and Resorts under the Meghalaya Tourism Development and Investment Promotion Scheme.

Public Health Engineering

44. State Government is committed to provide adequate Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation Facilities to all the Inhabitants of the State. In 2013-14, 616 Habitations, 900 Schools & 626 ICDS centres are targeted to be provided with safe water supply under Rural Water Supply Programme. Works for implementation of Greater Shillong Water Supply Project (Phase-III), under JNNURM are also progressing and augmentation of Tura Phase I & II Water Supply Scheme funded with the grants under 13th Finance Commission award are in progress. Water Supply Project intended to cover the New Shillong Township Area benefiting population of about 1,34,000 in the Phase-I will be taken up in 2014-15. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has been given extra impetus by Govt. of India and renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) with more thrust on Awareness Campaign, Solid Liquid Waste Management in Rural Areas apart from covering all Households with Sanitation Facilities and construction of school & anganwadi toilets. 365 villages of the State were awarded the Nirmal Gram Puraskar 2011 during 2012-13.

Urban Affairs

45. Under the Flagship Programme of JNNURM efforts have been made to complete the on-going projects within the Mission Period. The progress of work of Storm Water Drainage at Shillong is 62.54%, augmentation of Water Supply in Shillong (GSWSS-Phase-III) around 65% and 120 Buses have been put into operation. Construction of 600 dwelling units for urban poor at Shillong, Tura, Williamnagar and Nongpoh are underway. Project for Solid Waste Management

at Tura and at Nongpoh will be completed shortly. A Commercial Complex-cum-Parking Lot at Nongpoh is now ready and will be inaugurated shortly. Other projects underway are improvement of road including MBT at Paham Syiem, Nongpoh, improvement of Mairang Town Road and ISBT, Parking Lots and Shopping Infrastructure for migrating Rural Vendors-cum-Parking at Tura. The short term scientific landfill site work at Marten initiated under ADB funding is likely to be completed shortly. Steps are being initiated for permanent landfill site at New Shillong. Detailed Project Report for Sewerage Project for Shillong (Zone-I) is being finalized.

Education

46. The School Education Sector aims at achieving sustainable human development across all sections with a set target to bridge all social and gender gaps. The State is committed to implement the Right to Education Act and has taken steps to create the necessary infrastructure. Efforts are also being made to provide child friendly school environment with facilities for separate girls' toilet, drinking water, infrastructural support for co-curricular activities and barrier free school environment for the disabled children. Steps have been taken to improve quality in education by training of all untrained teachers and introducing pre-service teacher training. Initiatives have also been taken to establish Block Institute of Education and Training (BIET) and to strengthen DIETs. The State has signed an Agreement with the National Institute of Open School (NIOS) for training of in-service untrained teachers of the elementary level through Open Distance Learning (ODL) Mode. The Diploma in Elementary Education Programme of the NIOS has been launched in January, 2014. 4385 (out of 7822) untrained teachers will be trained during the first phase in 49 Study Centres spread all over the State. The State is developing training modules for children with disabilities where experts from reputed institutes have contributed towards the development of the modules. Efforts are

on to reduce drop-out-rate through interventions under SSA and RMSA and through mid-day meal programme. Midday Meal Scheme will continue to provide cooked meal to every child in Government L.P. Schools and Aided L.P. Schools. So far the Scheme has been able to cover 7422 L.P. Schools and 2652 U.P. Schools in which 4.72 lakh children were benefited. Kitchen sheds to 5768 schools have been provided.

47. To strengthen education at Secondary level, Government aided schools which are not covered by RMSA are being taken up in phases for improvement through assistance from Asian Development Bank. In the first phase, 30 (thirty) schools have been identified for which tenders have been issued and bids received for evaluation. The State is in the process of establishing Model Schools and facilities for Girls Hostels in the 9 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) for which construction works have already started. The State has also identified 20 Non-Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) where Residential Schools will be established for which land has been identified and will be taken over soon. The proposed Model Schools and Residential Schools will be established on the pattern of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya to provide quality education to the children of the economically weaker sections of the area. These schools will also address the requirements of the school drop-outs who could not continue their schooling due to economic or other reasons. Infrastructural gaps and absence of good schooling facilities have resulted in large exodus of students from rural to the urban areas and district headquarters. The department has, therefore, proposed to construct hostels for rural students in all district headquarters to provide cheap and affordable accommodation to such students. Seven (7) such Hostels are being taken up for construction.

48. At present there are 3 Polytechnics at Shillong, Tura and Jowai offering various Diploma Courses. Shillong Polytechnic is also offering 2 years Post Diploma Courses in IT. Government is considering a proposal for establishment

of more Polytechnics in other Districts. The proposal to set up Engineering Colleges at Ampati and Jowai has been approved under Special Plan Assistance for which land has been identified and preparation of Detailed Project Report and Project Management is being initiated. The National Institute of Technology, Shillong has been set up for Degree Engineering Courses. Government also encourages private players to start Professional, Technical and Vocational Courses in the State for the benefit of the student community.

Health & Family Welfare

49. The promotion of health care continues by strengthening and consolidating the existing health care facilities and extension of services to the populace through its network of Hospitals, CHC, PHCs, Sub-Centres and field workers. The department will continue implementation of the Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) to cater to the medical needs of the citizens of the State during sickness which will provide protection to households from financial liabilities arising out of hospitalization. Up-gradation of equipment and infrastructure of District Hospitals at Nongstoin, Nongpoh, Williamnagar & Tura is being taken up in phases. Construction of the new building for Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong is under progress. A color Doppler Machine has been procured for Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong. A Digital X-Ray Machine and a color Doppler Machine have been provided for Tura Civil-Hospital. Emergency Response Services related with Medical, Fire, Police emergency cases etc are now operational in 42 locations. Control Programmes for various diseases have been integrated with NRHM to effectively tackle any outbreak.

50. The department is meeting the challenges of huge gap in human resources by setting up two Medical Colleges in the State, one at Shillong and the other at Tura. For the Shillong Medical College, works for relocation of the R.P Chest Hospital is currently on. Regarding the Government Medical College in Tura,

the department is already in possession of the land and a Project Management Consultant has been appointed. The department is also setting up a 100 - bedded MCH Hospital at Jowai.

51. The incidence of malaria deaths has reduced significantly. In recent years, the State has experienced the emergence of other Vector Borne Diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue and Chikungunya and efforts are on to curb these. To reduce the prevalence of common ailments among school going children, activities such as training of school health teams, holding of school health festivals under School Health Programme are being taken. Coverage under Universal Immunization Programme to protect children from the 6 killer diseases viz., Tuberculosis, Pertusis, Diptheria, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles will be given more thrust to ensure better Child Health Care.

Social Welfare

52. Government continues to implement various welfare programmes for women, children, physically handicapped, juvenile delinquents, the aged and infirm. 39 ICDS projects in the C&RD Blocks and 2 Urban ICDS projects along with 5155 Anganwadi centres have been providing 6 ICDS package of services related to non-formal pre-school education, supplementary nutrition, health check up etc. Kishori Shakti Yojana for improving the health and nutrition of adolescent girls is being implemented in four districts. Three Observation Homes, two in Shillong and one in Tura, for keeping children who are in conflict with law and one Shelter Home for girls in Shillong have been set up. A State Resource Centre for Women, under the National Mission for Empowerment of Women has been established. Basic objectives of the mission are to ensure economic empowerment of women, eliminate violence against women and social empowerment with emphasis on health and education. Central sector schemes of Indira Gandhi Matritava Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)

and Conditional Maternity Benefit (CMB) are being implemented on a pilot basis in East Garo Hills. The scheme provides for conditional cash transfer to pregnant and lactating mothers. The Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (SABLA) between the ages of 11- 18 years is being implemented in three districts through the anganwadi centres. The schemes under Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities & Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 continue to be implemented. Vocational training was imparted to 58 physically handicapped persons and scholarships were provided to 1417 physically handicapped students during the year. Financial assistance for medical treatment was provided to 454 destitute and aged persons. Financial assistance for child welfare was provided to 71 voluntary organisations involved in running of orphanages, crèches and welfare activities for children.

Sports & Youth Affairs

53. The efforts made by the Sports and Youth Affairs department to groom and nurture budding football talents has paid dividends when the under -17 State Football Team won the prestigious Subroto Mukherjee Football Tournament 2013 and the Senior Football Team were runners-up in the Dr. T. Ao Football Tournament recently held at Aizawl. To provide standard sports infrastructure, the department has initiated laying of artificial Football Turf at Mawkyrwat, Jowai, Ampati and Mawlai, besides focusing on creation of infrastructure for various sports discipline. In order to encourage sports persons to excel in their respective fields, the department facilitates and awards cash incentives to such achievers, with Smt. Wansuk Myrthong being the latest recipient for her success in scaling the Mount Everest.

54. The department has initiated the Career Guidance and Counselling schemes to help students perform better and improve their competitiveness in

entrance examinations to higher and technical courses and to enable them to improve their performance in the Civil Service examinations and other recruitment in the Government as well as the non-Government sector.

Labour

55. Skill development leading to gainful employment is implemented through 4 major schemes viz., Craftsmen Training Scheme, Apprenticeship Training Scheme, Skill Development Initiative Scheme and Short-Term Job-Oriented Courses. The target is to skill 56,856 persons during the 12th Five Year Plan period. 4401 persons have been skilled during 2012-13 and about 8800 persons will be covered in 2013-14. Up-gradation and strengthening of all the 10 Government ITIs have been taken up under various centrally sponsored schemes. 3 New Trades in each of the 4 ITIs under the ESDI Scheme will be started from August 2014. Skill Fests in Tura, Shillong and Jowai were organized during February 2014 to generate awareness about job-oriented skill development programmes. For better administration of the labour laws, 39 posts of Labour Inspectors along with supporting staff recently sanctioned by the Government in all the C&RD Blocks are in the process of being filled up.

Housing

56. In the State, though the number of shelterless is low, two-third of the houses especially in the rural areas are of temporary nature, which need to be upgraded with durable building materials. It was estimated in 2011 that there were about 3.34 lakh such houses. Under Rural Housing scheme implemented till 2009-2010, 3 bundles of C.G.I. sheets were given as grant-in aid to very poor rural houseless villagers. Now the Government has initiated a new housing scheme called Meghalaya Affordable Housing Scheme which will replace the rural housing scheme, under which, houses will be constructed for the economically weaker families. Under the Rental Housing Scheme, L.I.G. and

M.I.G. rental houses are being constructed in the district headquarters for providing accommodation to Government employees.

Arts & Culture

57. The main objectives of the Arts & culture sector are the conservation, documentation, research, promotion, development and augmentation of the rich cultural heritage of the State and the various art forms that exist in its talented population. To meet these objectives, various activities and projects have been taken up which put emphasis on creation of requisite infrastructure, encourage cultural activities through voluntary organizations, promote research and literary activities and enrich collections in Museums, Libraries & Archives. Government has taken up projects such as setting up of the Shillong International Centre for Performance Arts and Culture as a state of the art facility, Amphitheatres in Shillong, Jowai and Tura, Centres for Indigenous Culture, Institute of Music and Fine Arts and the District Arts and Culture Societies for creating platforms to further these objectives. The schemes relating to intensive Art and Culture Development Programme (IACDP), Development of Traditional Folk Music (DTFM), Production of Folk Literature (POFL), Literary Award (LA) and Living Heritage Scheme (LHS) will continue to be implemented.

Information & Public Relations

58. As the Nodal Agency for dissemination of information on policies and programmes of the Government, the department of Information and Public Relations continues to ensure that people, particularly at the grassroots level are kept informed about Government schemes and welfare initiatives aimed at their social and economic upliftment. The department plays a pivotal role in projecting government policies and schemes through special interactive programmes, advertisements, press releases and publication of magazines and

journals to bring greater transparency and accountability. It continues to project the positive image of the State at national and international level through the India International Trade Fair and other forum. Meghalaya Integrated Information System has been awarded the Skoch Award in 2013.

59. The First edition of the Indian Panorama Film Festival was recently launched in order to provide opportunities to youth in the entertainment sector and to promote the State as a film shooting destination. A comprehensive policy in this sector will be worked out.

General Administration

60. Government continues to provide facilities to Ministers, MLAs, officers, students, patients and others from the State through the Meghalaya Houses at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Vellore and Guwahati. The Meghalaya House at Anandilal Poddar Sarani (Russel Street), Kolkata was taken over in August 2013 and it will be inaugurated soon after completing works relating to sewerage connection and furnishing of rooms. The State has also initiated steps for setting up a Meghalaya House in Bangalore for accommodating students and others. Governor's Guest House at Tura is nearing completion. The State Convention Centre has been completed and handed over to Tourism department.

Personnel

61. Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI) is the nodal training and capacity building agency of the Government. The Institute conducts training programme for officers and staff at all levels in the government machinery starting from the top management to the cutting edge level with focus on leadership, service delivery, innovation, ethics and good governance. Continued focus is also being laid on training and capacity building in the areas of Disaster Management, Finance and Accounting and Office

Procedures to make the administration more efficient and outcome oriented. MATI is also conducting programmes on Right to Information funded by the Government of India for officials and NGOs. Innovative Training Programme undertaken this year includes training on communication during disaster by using Amateur Radio (Ham Radio). A training programme on Rapid Visual Screening of Lifeline Building under Disaster Management has been conducted in collaboration with NDMA. This training will enable stakeholders to identify structural vulnerability of buildings and seismic rehabilitation needs. A strategic plan for training funded by department of Personnel and Training and UNDP for capacity building and human resource development of all civil service officers is being developed for implementation from the next financial year.

Revenue & Disaster Management

62. The Directorate of Land Records & Survey carry out the survey and preparation of maps/records, demarcation of Indo-Bangladesh boundary, inter-state boundary, inter- district boundary, land acquisition cases and other related matters on land survey. The Centre has provided funds for implementation of the National Land Records Modernization Programme. The Scheme covers cadastral survey, preparation of maps, computerization of records etc. Under this Scheme, the Government has taken up survey and preparation of maps/records of Government lands during the field season of 2012-13. It has also organized awareness campaigns during October, 2013 to highlight the benefits of having cadastral maps to the Sirdars and elders of the villages. Accordingly, field programme has been chalked out for survey of villages and preparation of maps. Survey and preparation of maps of A.Khing lands in Garo Hills has also been taken up in consultation with the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council.

63. Now that the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) is functioning, capacity building activities are being taken under the 13th Finance Commission award and National Schools Safety Programme. These include streets plays, state level sensitization for stakeholders, Mock Drills in Shillong and Tura, specialized training on emergency health management for paramedics and doctors etc, which were organized during 2013. A Mega Mock Exercise simulating the Shillong Earthquake of 1897 will be held this month to improve the preparedness of the SDMA and other agencies and create awareness among the general public.

Election

64. The General Elections to the 16th Lok Sabha have been announced. There are 15,53,028 registered voters in the State having two Parliamentary Constituencies. There are 4,73,888 Male and 4,95,070 Female Voters in 1- Shillong (ST) Parliamentary Constituency and 2,95,823 Male and 2,88,247 Female Voters in 2- Tura (ST) Parliamentary Constituency. All arrangements are being made for conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections. At present the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme is going on in the State as per the directions of the Election Commission of India.

Law

65. The High Court of Meghalaya started functioning from March 2013. Separation of Judiciary from Executive has been affected in the districts of West Jaintia Hills, West Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi and the rest will follow in phases. Rape cases arising from South West Khasi Hills and West Khasi Hills were transferred to the Special Court at Nongstoin. Rape cases of East and West Jaintia Hill districts were transferred to Fast Track Court, Jowai. The Fast Track Court of Shillong will cover East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts and the Fast

Track Court of Tura will cover all the five districts of Garo Hills. The Government of India released Rs. 16.70 crore for construction of District Court Buildings and Rs. 3.6 crore for High Court Judges' residences and guest house. Law department has launched a website on all Acts and Ordinances of Meghalaya for the benefit of the Government departments, legal fraternity and the public. The Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority has taken up various activities of giving legal aid to the poor, women and children, holding Lok Adalat and organising Legal literacy campaign. Till date 7233 cases have been disposed off through Lok Adalat and an amount of Rs.10,29,96,411/- as compensation from MACT cases were settled. 1995 beneficiaries were covered with legal aid and 380 Legal Literacy campaigns have been conducted.

Civil Defence & Home Guards

66. The Home Guards and Civil Defence is meant to take a pro-active role to assist the civil administration in times of emergency and natural calamities. In this regard training has been completed for 6413 Home Guards and Civil Defence Volunteers in the last calendar year. 90 personnel have completed 4 weeks intensive training imparted by the National Defence Response Force, Govt. of India on all aspects of Disaster Management which will go a long way towards enhancing the capacity of the department in disaster operations and management. In the field of internal security, 1515 trained Home Guards Volunteers have been deployed in Law and Order duties apart from the Border Wing Battalion who are on permanent deployment with State Police.

Prisons

67. The Prisons department is laying greater thrust on conducting programmes for reformation of prisoners with the help of NGOs and other departments. For ensuring proper and effective prison management, it is proposed to install CCTVs and to procure VHF sets, mobile phone jammers, X-

ray machines, binoculars etc. The recommendations of the Jail Security Audit Committee constituted by the Government are being implemented in different jails. Emphasis is also being laid for use of relevant legal provision for release of UTPs on bail or personal bond. New jails are being constructed and the Nongpoh Jail is nearing completion and this will facilitate reducing the congestion of Shillong District Jail and also facilitate expeditious movement of UTPs for administration of justice.

Printing & Stationery

68. Printing Presses at Shillong, Tura and Jowai have been upgraded and equipped with the latest Printing technology. Efforts are on to install facilities for embossing and foil works at the Shillong press. With the installation of the VDP Automatic numbering machine at Shillong, the process is being simplified and automated. These machines are also proposed to be installed at Tura and Jowai next year. The newly established branch at Jowai is now fully functional. During the year 2014-15, state-of-the-art machinery and equipment will be required at the pre-press, press and post press levels to enable the offices at Shillong, Tura and Jowai to meet the increasing demand of the various departments for fast and digital printing.

Hon'ble Members, as I come to the end of my address highlighting the policies, programmes and achievement of the State Government, I am confident that this August House will deliberate and fruitfully discuss all pertinent matters for the growth and development of the State and the betterment and welfare of all its citizens.

**JAI HIND
KHUBLEI
MITELA
THANK YOU**