

**RECORDS OF THE STATE PLANNING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8TH AND 9TH
NOVEMBER, 2004 ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN (2005-2006).**

Members and Officials present at Annexure – I

While welcoming the Members, State Planning Board and Officers present the Chairman, State Planning Board Shri S.C. Marak stated that the purpose of the meeting was to facilitate the recommendations of the State Planning Board in respect of Draft Annual Plan 2005-2006. In line with the instructions of Planning Department he hoped that all Development Departments have projected their Annual Plan Proposals for 2005-2006 at 18% increase over their Approved Revised Outlays of 2003-2004 and giving priority for completion of Spill-over schemes and schemes directed at creating employment opportunities.

The Chief Secretary stated that priority sectors may be recommended more than the prescribed 18% limit. He informed that the State Government has attached high priority to Road Sector, Health Care, Education, Tourism and Agriculture.

The following Departments were taken up :-

8-11-2004

1. **Agriculture** :- To an observation by the Board that the financial achievement of the Department appeared to be quite discouraging vis-à-vis the 10th Plan Outlay, the Department stated that the problem arise from the beginning of the Plan Period when allocation of fund was restricted inspite of the fact that the Department has the ability to spend and utilize the funds. The Board agreed that allocation of fund had been cut from year to year and therefore wanted the Department to furnish information on schemes which have been adversely affected by Plan cuts.

The Department stated that it needed Rs.14 crores for mechanization. During 2004-2005, it proposes to purchase 500 Power Tillers which would be made available to a farmer at Rs.50,000/- subsidy. For 2005-2006, the proposal was for 1000 Power Tillers and this would mean Rs.5 cores more to the 9.73 crores proposal for 2005-2006. The Board raised a question regarding repairing or servicing facility to the said Power Tillers. The Department stated that though the farmers may make their choice, it has short listed certain companies where there is service facility and warranty after purchase. The cost of a Power Tiller is Rs.1,35,000/-.

The Board was of the view that Agriculture being a priority sector and taking into consideration the importance of Agriculture in the rural sector, it recommended their proposal of the Department from Rs.9.73 crores to Rs.14.73 crores subject to justification from the Department.

2. **Horticulture** :- After deliberations, the Board observed that with the recognition of the importance of Horticulture, sector in the state the proposal of Rs.818 lakhs which included Rs.118 lakhs for Marketing and Quality Control was agreed to.

3. **Minor Irrigation** :- Under Minor Irrigation, the total number of schemes taken up is 174 Nos. out of which, 140 Nos. are functioning and 30 Nos. are virtually non-functional. Out of the 30 Nos. the Department stated that some are retrievable. The Board observed that the sector may have to surrender a huge amount as it has underspent vis-à-vis the 10th Plan Outlay. The Department stated that the proposal of Rs.1342.45 lakhs is for ongoing schemes and to complete the old schemes. The Board suggested that the Department may think in term of community participation to its projects.

After a brief discussion the Board agreed to the proposal of Rs.1342.45 lakhs proposed by the Department.

4. **Soil Conservation** :- It was observed that the proposal of the Department at Rs.1381.75 lakhs is quite high entailing an increase of 86.71 over the Approved Revised Outlay of 2003-2004 of Rs.740 lakhs. The Department clarified that the increase is actually small as the earmarked components comes from NABARD and Govt. of India (Special Central Assistance)

The Board accepted the proposal of the Department at Rs.1381.72 lakhs subject to justification by the Department.

5. **Animal Husbandry & Veterinary & Dairy Development** :- In view of less expenditure during 2003-2004, the Department explained that it was due to inability to draw the amount during the year. The Board observed that less expenditure during the 10th Plan period may affected the 11th Plan allocation of the Department.

During discussions the Department informed that Rs.18 lakhs and Rs.200 lakhs was proposed for Rural Cluster Approach on Poultry and Piggery development respectively for 2005-2006. This is a new approach to concentrate on certain areas which the Department feel would have a greater impact on the ground. While discussing on the need of a Slaughter House in the state and steps already taken by the Department, the Board appreciated the problems associated with this matter and was of the opinion that the Department should re-examine the whole aspect of setting up of the same, by making a study of the method adopted by other states.

The Board agreed to the proposal of Rs.960 lacs for Animal Husbandry and Veterinary and Rs.160 lacs for Dairy Development.

6. Fisheries :- The Board supported the scheme of the Department to develop 1000 ponds to improve production of fish in the state. The Board was pleased to learn that Ri-Bhoi and West Garo Hills are self sufficient in fish and hoped that this new project would make the state self sufficient in fish production.

The Department stated that during 2004-2005, 675 ponds will be taken up and the remaining ponds would be taken up during 2005-2006. Funds will also be available from NEC for this project.

The Board however advised the Department to submit justification for jumping from Rs.120 lacs in 2004-2005 to Rs.629 lacs in 2005-2006.

7. Forestry & Wildlife :- During discussions it was informed that funds to be released from 11th Finance Commission Award is meant for Forest Protection. To a query by the Board on how serious is forest encroachment, the Department stated that it is very serious but it is not thinking in terms of a Forest Protection Force due to financial constraints.

The Board supported the move of the Department to strengthen the boundary of Forest around Shillong. The Board agreed to the proposal of Rs.998 lakhs on Forestry and Wildlife but the Department needs to support with detailed justification. The proposed outlay of Rs.70 lacs in respect of Ecology and Environment was also agreed.

8. Community & Rural Development :-

- (i) The Board agreed to Rs.97.94 lakhs on Integrated Wasteland Development Project Schemes.
- (ii) The Board recommended Rs.292 lakhs against proposal of Rs.344.56 on SGSY.
- (iii) The Board agreed to Rs.48.94 lakhs on SIRD and Extension Training Centre.
- (iv) The Board agreed to Rs.678 lakhs on SGRY.
- (v) The Board agreed to Rs.365.80 lakhs on IAY.
- (vi) The Board agreed to Rs.29.50 lakhs on Tribal Area Development Programme.
- (vii) Justification needed for Rs.1401.50 lakhs on Community Development and Panchayat.
- (viii) The Board agreed to Rs.2881.50 lakhs on SRWP including Chief Minister Special Rural Development Fund.

9. Water Supply & Sanitation :- The Board noted that the increase in Urban Water Supply Programme is quite high i.e. Rs.950 lakhs. The Department stated that the Loan Component will be about Rs.400 lakhs. The Department informed that it had received a loan of Rs.250 lakhs only once from LIC. It was informed that the amount of Rs.950 lakhs was meant for replacement of pumps and construction of dam and therefore an important component of Urban Water Supply.

After a brief discussion the Board recommended Rs.4100 lakhs against the proposal of Rs.4400 lakhs by the Department.

10. Sericulture and Weaving :- The Board asked the Department to submit justification on the increase of proposed outlay to Rs.388 lacs from the Revised Outlay 2003-2004 of Rs.210 lacs.

9-11-2004.

1. (i) PWD (Roads & Bridges) :- Discussed, the deplorable condition of the 13 Kms length road beyond Nongpoh. This could not be taken up during the last 3 years due to a litigation by an aggrieved party, as informed by the Department. The Chief Secretary however intervened and stated that he had directed the Department to take up the work immediately since the same was cleared by the Court. The condition of Shillong road was also discussed and the Chief Secretary stated that the process of upgradation of Shillong road is being studied at a Macro Level.

After deliberations on the projects of the Department, the Board agreed to the proposal of Rs.11494 lakhs subject to improvement of state roads and National Highways.

(ii) **Medium Irrigation** :- The Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project was discussed in detail and the Department was asked to furnish a write-up on this project as the Chairman will go to Tura in the last week of November. The Department was also advised to take up the matter with the Deputy Commissioners, and the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council for getting the land for the Canal without which the project will be meaningless.

The Board recommended the proposed outlay of Rs.142.00 lacs

(iii) **Flood Control** :- The Department stated that it has a back-log of schemes amounting to Rs. 5 crores. Therefore, the proposal of Rs.192 lakhs is small.

The Board agreed to the suggestion of the Chief Secretary that the Department should take up Flood Control measures on around the Polo Grounds area as highest priority.

2. **Health** :- After deliberations the Board agreed to the proposal of Rs.4484 lakhs.

3. **Power** :- The Department informed that the increase in the proposal for 2005-2006 amounting to Rs.257.08 crores is because of Generation schemes which have to be completed during the 10th Plan. The total scheme of Leishka is Rs.370 crores and Rs.136 crores is proposed for 2005-2006. The Department stated that Leishka Project will be completed by 2007. Apart from Rs.136 crores for Leishka, Rs.72 crores is proposed during 2005-2006 for Rural Electrification. The Department informed that it had cleared the LIC Loan.

The Board agreed to proposed outlay of Rs.25708.00 crores for 2005-2006.

(i) **Non-Conventional sources of Energy/Integrated Rural Energy Programme/Village Electrification (MNES Special Scheme)** :- The Board agreed to the proposed outlay of Rs.208 lakhs.

4. **Education**:- To an argument as to whether the Department should be responsible for funding of schools not set up at the initiative of the Government, the Board felt that it is

debatable but schools in Rural Areas needed assistance from the Government. To the problem of absentee teacher as observed by the Board, the Department agreed that this is happening. The role of the school Managing Committees was discussed and the Board asked the Department to submit a note on this.

The Board agreed to Rs.6000.00 lakhs for General Education and Rs.2000.00 lacs for Technical Education.

5. **Industries** : The Department stated that expenditure would be high during the last 2 years of 10th Plan and therefore, restriction to 18% is not favourable. After a brief discussion the Board recommended an increase of 18% over the Revised Outlay of Rs.259 lacs (2003-2004) for 2005-2006 for Village and Small Industries and Rs.22 crores for Large and Medium Industries.

6. **Tourism** :- The Board agreed to Rs.236 lakhs. The Department was asked to recast the scheme and include construction of wall in the Golf Course. On query by the Board the Department informed that Crowborough is now free from all litigations.

7. **Arts & Culture** :- The Department stated that less expenditure of Rs.260 lakhs only during 2003-2004 was due to Treasury not passing the bills of Rs.228 lakhs.

On the proposed outlay of the Department amounting to Rs.948.40 lakhs, the Board felt that the proposed outlay of Rs.2 crores for Acoustics, Sound System etc. is a bit over ambitious relating to the state Cultural Complex at Rilbong. The Board may agree to Rs.670 lakhs only which should include provision for parking and boundary and some amounts to be kept for improvement of State Central Library as it is the only auditorium in the state.

Recasted scheme of Rs.670 lacs is to be submitted by the Department.

8. **Urban Affairs** :- The Department stated that during 2004-2005, out of Rs.2513 lakhs, Rs.1650 lakhs is Loan Component for new township. Land already acquired is 250 hectares and the Department is yet to acquire 250 hectares more. The Department stated that loan for Land Acquisition is not feasible, and have submitted a scheme of Rs.50 crores to DONER for land acquisition. The proposed outlay of Rs.2750 lakhs includes Rs.1780 which is meant for land development for New Shillong Township.

The Board agreed to Rs.950 lakhs for 2005-2006 excluding the scheme of land acquisition /development for New Shillong Township.

9. Social Security & Social Welfare (Nutrition) :- After a brief discussion the Board agreed to Rs.2750.30 for Nutrition, Rs.395.80 for Social Welfare and Rs.469.05 for NSAP.

10. Information Technology :- The Board agreed the proposed outlay of Rs.100 lakhs for this sector.

11. Sports & Youth Affairs :- After deliberation, the Board asked the Department to restrict the proposal to Rs.18% increase over the Revised Approved Outlay of Rs.957 lakhs in 2003-2004 and as such, the proposal of Rs.1131.30 was not agreed to. The Department was asked to focus on talent search in various disciplines.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

Sd/-
(S.C.Marak),
Chairman,
State Planning Board