

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD  
ON 20.7.06 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MAIN SECRETARIAT  
BUILDING ON THE DRAFT APPROACH PAPER TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> FIVE YEAR PLAN.**

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**Members present at Annexure – ‘A’**

The meeting was presided over by Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board. At the outset the Chairman briefed the Members on the meeting convened by the Planning Commission on 8.7.06 in Shillong on Regional Consultations on the Draft Approach Paper to the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan attended by all North East States including Sikkim. Prior to the meeting, in a discussion with the Chief Minister the Chairman, State Planning Board highlighted the views of the State Planning Board for prioritizing Agriculture and Allied Sectors mainly agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and livestock production activities and Social Sectors like Education, Health and Water Supply during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The main thrust should also be given for development of infrastructure – Road connectivity in the rural areas, Power, Industries, Tourism, Information Technology and Sericulture & Weaving.

During the meeting with Planning Commission the State Government alongwith other North East States requested the Planning Commission to adopt a new model for Plan Financing by having a separate chapter for the North East States. Regarding Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector scheme it was mentioned that norms should be made feasible according to the prevailing situation in the State for implementation of the schemes and Central Sponsored Schemes should have 90% Central Assistance. The Chief Minister also mentioned on “Look South” - a policy to be adopted by the State to resume Border Trade with Bangladesh.

The Chief Executive Member, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council informed the Board on the Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Constitution and Administration of Community Development Organisations) Bill 2006. He explained the salient features of the Bill being an attempt to make the existing Traditional Institutions in the State qualify for Direct Funding similar to what the Panchayats are enjoying. At present the Bill is awaiting the approval of the Advocate General and the Chief Executive Member would like the consideration and recommendation of the State Planning Board in this regard.

The Bill was discussed to some extent but in view of a mixed reaction from the Members of the Board and also as some Members have not yet received a copy of the Bill the Chairman proposed that a separate meeting will be fixed for a detailed discussion on the Bill with the presence of the Chief Executive Member, Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council and Chief Executive Member, Garo Hills Autonomous District Council who are also Members of the Board.

The Hon'ble Member Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh recalled the District Meetings of the State Planning Board in which most Districts have expressed their difficulty to undertake tours/site inspections etc. due to non-availability of TA/DA. The Board noted that this is a serious problem which would affect the implementation of schemes and suggested that TA/DA should be included in the scheme. Residential Quarters should also be inducted in the scheme as this is also one of the common problems faced by the Districts. The Hon'ble Member felt that it is a good idea that Plan Financing should have a separate chapter for the North East. What is done in the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan will reflect in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. It is also felt that a Mid-Term Appraisal of the Five Year Plan is important.

The power shortage in the State was discussed in which MSEB is compelled to borrow power at higher rates to augment the shortage resulting in loss of revenue. Equity share being a fairly big amount would affect the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan of other sectors. NEC have not given any financial assistance to the State for generating power but for transmission only. The Chairman suggested that the State Planning Board should stress on speedy implementation of the 3 Power Projects in the State during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan considering the importance of power generation in the State.

In conclusion the Board decided to have a discussion with all Development Departments on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2006 to finalise its recommendations on the Draft Approach Paper to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. Departments are to submit information on this alongwith figures on 10<sup>th</sup> Plan achievements and 11<sup>th</sup> Plan Projections.

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

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