

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD MEET October, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 Hotel Pinewood, Shillong

The Meghalaya State Planning Board (MSPB) met on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 for the first time in complete strength since its reconstitution under the chairmanship of Shri. P. A. Sangma. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, Pine Wood Hotel, Shillong from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It was attended by official and non-official members, honorary members and advisers, special invitees who also included the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, two Members of Parliament, members of the District Councils, the Chief Secretary and senior officers of the Government of Meghalaya.

### DAY ONE

#### Inaugural Session:

The inaugural session commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp. In his welcome address Dr. W. R. Kharlukhi, Deputy Chairman, MSPB greeted all the members of the Board especially those who had come from other parts of the country.

The keynote address was delivered by Shri. P. A. Sangma, Chairman, MSPB. Appreciating the gathering as a galaxy of intellectuals of local, national and international repute, he stated that the whole State was looking to the Planning Board for policy guidance in its advisory role. The members, therefore, had an immense responsibility to live up to the expectations of the people.

In his inaugural address the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Donkumar Roy emphasised the importance of achieving social and economic development. To do so Meghalaya must build its strengths and address its weaknesses. He noted that in so far as providing basic minimum services to the people are concerned we should know where we stand. Meghalaya today ranks 24<sup>th</sup> in terms of human development index and 19<sup>th</sup> in per capita income. To improve, our focus should be on an outcome oriented approach instead of an expenditure oriented approach. He also cautioned that the State also needs to improve in many other fields to be at par with the other states of the country.

The inaugural session ended with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Shri. Mihsalan Suchiang, Deputy Chairman, MSPB.

## **Session I:**

In his opening statement the Chief Secretary of Meghalaya Shri Ranjan Chatterjee I.A.S. reflectively remarked, '*take hold of the future or the future will take hold of you.*' He urged upon those present at the meeting to be prepared for what lay ahead and to have a realistic view of the future. He stressed upon the importance of having an effective State Plan for lack of it results in failure. The planning process in the State was vital, the preparation of the State Plan was equally important to avoid mistakes. Such an exercise helps the management to understand its intended objectives. The Plan should be set by a person in authority, it should be realistic, specific and have the general acceptability of the people for whom it is prepared.

The address of the Chief Secretary was followed by brief presentations from various departments:

### **Presentation No. 1: Agriculture and Allied sectors.**

The overview presentation was made by the Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Meghalaya. He stated that the present agricultural production of the State is 3 lakh tonnes whereas the consumption is 4 lakh tonnes. Thus the demand gap stood at 25 % (i.e. 1 lakh tonnes). The primary objectives of the Agriculture Department were to increase food crop production, expand area under food grain cultivation, select good variety of seeds, use good technology and initiate winter paddy irrigation with a view of bridging the demand gap and ensuring food security of the State.

Two presentations were made by the Director and Joint Director, Agriculture Department on 'Horticulture Sub-sector' and 'Agriculture Sub-sector' respectively.

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* made by the experts:**

1. It was pointed out that since Meghalaya has immense scope to enter into the area of herbal and medicinal products, the department should look into this area.
2. Clarification was sought on organic certification of six major crops.
3. It was pointed out that the major problem in agriculture/ horticulture is marketing. A suggestion was made to approach the Japanese Bank of International Cooperation for assistance. This bank has been funding government sponsored projects in various states of India.
4. Suggestion was made to invite companies like Tropicana and Pepsi for food and fruit processing. These multi-national companies can set up

processing facilities in the State so that value addition takes place at the source and local people benefit through employment.

5. The Government of Israel is actively involved in introducing new crops in India. Its help could be sought in exploring the possibility of growing a high yielding and in-demand citrus fruit, *Jaffa* since Meghalaya is ideally suited for its cultivation.
6. It was suggested that the department could get in touch with companies based in Bangalore to market flowers from Meghalaya. Some of these companies are public listed and have emerged as important marketing companies in the entire world.
7. A proposal was made to have an arrangement with airline companies to carry some of the high return agricultural products of the State like broccoli and green capsicum to Delhi where the retail price of these vegetables is very good.
8. It was suggested that the distribution of planting materials to farmers should be continued.
9. A proposal was made to the department to get in touch with the European Economic Commission (EEC) for training officers and staff in horticulture/agriculture. Experts are deputed at the expense of the EEC and they can come to Meghalaya and conduct workshops across the State.
10. The members were disturbed to learn that farmers and products suffered a high proportion of post-harvest losses. They suggested that external assistance should be sought for training people in better packaging and post harvest methods linked to exports.
11. When compared to the national and international level, productivity per hectare in the State is low. A study should be made to improve the soil quality because continuous rain has depleted the soil of both its top surface and its nutrients which take years to regenerate.
12. When constructing water harvesting structures to provide irrigation canals, geology is not applied and many a time even ignored. Water flow is a very important sector in which geology has to be applied. If importance is given to this aspect agricultural production and productivity will substantially increase.
13. The department has to concentrate on better utilization and better productivity.
14. The principal focus is to intensify horticultural and agricultural productivity.
15. It was mentioned that the crop intensity is quite low against the total cultivable area of about 225 thousand hectares.
16. Though Meghalaya is blessed with bountiful rainfall yet rain water has not been harvested. The experts suggested the need to tap rain water through effective methods of harvesting.

17. It was suggested that one of the cities/towns of Meghalaya could be developed into a floral garden-city/town.
18. The experts enquired into the feasibility of opening a Horticulture and Forestry University at Williamnagar, East Garo Hills with a view of strengthening capacity building institutions in Agriculture.
19. Farmers are forced to continue with *jhum* cultivation as alternative practises are minimal. It was suggested that the department could consider the use of appropriate and meaningful technology for mountain agriculture.

**Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

1. The Chief Secretary has led a team to Israel and the department hopes to have the first Israeli-designed poly houses (i.e. tunnel poly houses) in Upper Shillong within the next few months.
2. With regard to the suggestion to invite companies from outside, the department informed the gathering that Pepsi was in Shillong specifically for the purchase of pineapple and discussions are presently on with the company.
3. Despite its topography, highly porous soil, and abundant rainfall Cherrapunjee is today fast becoming a wet desert. Therefore the department consciously needs to work on the following areas: water retention i.e. water harvesting structures, hydrology and geomorphology, in which it is still under equipped.
4. Clarifying on the certification of major crops the department informed that the selection was made on the basis of traditional practices and market demand.
5. With regard to food security the department informed that it did receive support. However the specific issue that the department intends to address is the varietal support for food grain production.
6. Regarding shifting cultivation there is a departmental consensus that shifting cultivation is not necessarily bad and that it is a valuable supplement which contributes to food security.
7. With reference to forest cover - Meghalaya's forest coverage has increased in the last four to five years and about 12% is presently under agriculture. This additional usage of land for cultivation can help to meet the State's food grain requirement.
8. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has been conducting training in organic farming and packaging.

## **Session II:**

This session included presentations from and discussions on the following departments - IT, Communication, Science and Technology and Public Health and Engineering.

### **Presentation No. 1: Information Technology**

The IT department implements various schemes which are centrally sponsored and also conducts different training programmes. The key initiatives of the IT department include the National E-Governance Plan (NeGP), State Wide Area Network (SWAN), the State Data Centre (SDC) and the Common Service Centres (CSCs). The future plan of the department is to set up an IT estate at New Shillong.

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* made by the experts:**

1. One of the experts enquired whether the deliverables have been identified with the time-schedule. E-governance has been implemented in several states of the country for the last few years. The suggestion was that e-governance should also be implemented in the State.
2. It was suggested that a one page profile of every government employee could be collected, documented and stored in the computer with broad details - name, name of spouse, date of joining etc. Such a profile will be of help to the State especially in man-powering.
3. It was observed that a large number of people visit the Secretariat to meet the Chief Minister, Ministers and other senior officers. At a small cost an IT based system could be introduced so that when every visitor is issued a visitor's pass, he is swiftly photographed and his identification goes into the memory of the computer. In the present day of rising terrorist activities it would be extremely useful to have complete digital information of visitors. This system has been adopted in Haryana.
4. IT systems should be in place right up to the block level and quick refresher training programmes should be imparted to field officers.
5. Has Meghalaya considered the idea of setting up an ECZ for IT? The feasibility of such an idea was strongly suggested.
6. The use of IT in offices was strongly recommended. One of the experts, who is closely working with multinational corporations (MNCs) mentioned that they have 100% paperless office. The suggestion was that Meghalaya, by introducing IT in offices could go for at least less usage of paper in the offices.

7. The Government of India has started a programme called e-district in which upto the village level, upper division clerks (UDCs) are imparted training in IT and they do most of the office work through IT.
8. With regards to geographic information system (GIS) applications, there is the requirement of transparency for specific type of works. The transparencies are easily obtainable from Hyderabad though they are very expensive.
9. The members wanted to know where Meghalaya is, as a baseline. Are districts well connected to each other? Are people able to access kiosks and data? For example, in the state electricity board, are consumers able to know about their bills and bill collections or new connection applications? What is our baseline on IT applications? On a scale of 0 - 100, are we at 5, 10, 20?
10. Suggestion was made to put everything in record. For example in 2008-2009 as a department where will it be? The information and data collected could be used as a reference. This does not mean that the entire target will be achieved but as a reference this could indicate where the department is standing on various aspects.

#### **Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

1. The department acknowledged that it is still in a nascent stage. The common service centres have just been set up. The government to citizen (G2C) services are yet to be rolled out. The mission mode programme and the department are yet to be identified and narrowed down.
2. To the question as to where they will be in one year, the department agreed that they should fix a time frame as far as the deliverables are concerned. In fact, the department has done just that. The three pillars of NeGP are CSC, SWAN and SDC. The first centre of the CSC was rolled out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and the timeline is that by the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2009, all 225 CSCs have to be in place. The timeline for setting up the 1<sup>st</sup> CSC was December 2008 but the IT department of Meghalaya has beaten the timeline by about two months. The target is that by June 2009 the department will set up all the 225 CSCs and they will be fully functional. CSCs are IT kiosks located at rural areas and all the citizens are free to visit and use these kiosks at all the districts.
3. The CSC is a front end delivery mechanism for the citizen. For example, if a person in a town/village 120 kms away from Shillong is interested in coming to the Deputy Commissioner's office to get forms for his/her birth/ ST certificates, he/she does not need to come to Shillong all the way to get them. He/she can go to the IT kiosks and download the forms. There are other businesses to consumer (B2C) services where people can go and buy railway tickets, airline tickets and so on.

Another important pillar of NeGP is the timeline given by the Government of India that is, June 2009. By June 2009, the 55 State Wide Area Networks will be in place and the whole State will be networked through SWAN.

4. As far as IT is concerned each and every package is well defined, well structured and definite. Further, the timeline is fixed for every module.

### **Presentation No. 2: Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department.**

The aims and objectives of the Department are to provide and maintain adequate safe drinking water supply and to provide low cost sanitation facilities to urban and rural areas of the State including schools and *Anganwadi* centres.

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* made by the experts:**

1. The experts enquired from the officials present on how the department approaches issues like social aspect of water, water equity and gender issues on water.
2. When talking of the quality of water and its potability, the department indicated that it is spending huge amounts to address the problem of excess iron content in potable water. Their efforts to address this issue requires a participatory approach where citizens also participate and are made responsible for maintaining the water installations by collecting money on a periodical basis. This is one area which has to be addressed.
3. From an engineering point of view the easiest method to adopt is the Gravity Flow System. Co-ordination with the other departments in this area is very crucial. If this is not done, the sources will completely dry up and this will lead to a difficult situation.
4. The experts also enquired about the percentage of water derived from the use of hand pumps through bore wells (small and deep). They observed that deep bore wells will not work in Meghalaya because of its geology. This area has to be studied thoroughly. The application of geology is necessary because unless we have geology applications our efforts will not bear fruit. The expert cited an example where they had participated in a programme called "*Jal Swaraja*" (water resource management programme) initiated by the Maharashtra government. To empower the local communities the government provided technical support to 3 districts, technical designs in consultation with the community, installed the necessary structures and developed the stages associated with the water supply system- its maintenance, ownership and sanitation. Sanitation has to be integrated with water supply system otherwise it will not work in a rural area.

5. It is important to capacitate people especially women in the use of hand pumps. This kind of training process should be undertaken in all the villages where hand pumps are used as a major source of water supply.
6. To improve the hygienic conditions of the villages there must be provision for construction of bathrooms and toilets for families. Such provisions will be beneficial since there will be plenty of water. These families should be encouraged to construct the sanitation facilities themselves. This will bring in awareness among the people and the hygiene as well as the health profile of women will improve. This initiative was tried in Arunachal Pradesh with very positive results. If this initiative is introduced here in Meghalaya it will result in complete hygienic villages.
7. Suggestion was made to channelize the base water and to recycle it through the low cost limit process. This will ensure complete sanitization of villages in the State. Awareness of sanitation programmes should be conducted by social action groups.
8. As per the department presentation substantial expenditure has been incurred on various items under the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. The experts enquired whether the department has a system/mechanism to evaluate the outcome. They stressed on the importance of having outside agencies do the evaluation of projects. Survey and assessment by internal agencies of the department does not help because the same people provide the data and also the evaluation. The experts enquired whether there is a system to evaluate the outcomes of the past projects. Though evaluation is done it is done very late. It was recommended that during the course of the implementation of any plan/project, if it is a five year programme, the evaluation should be done after two years. This way the difficulties can be known and mid-term corrections can be made.
9. The experts made a request to the department to provide information with regard to physical outputs and year wise break up for the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. They stressed on issues relevant to identification of the deliverables, the schedule, the monitoring mechanism and the evaluation mechanism.
10. A question was raised as to whether evaluation for the 10<sup>th</sup> plan expenditure was done? The answer was no. The planning department has just instituted a study on this. The Programme Implementation and Evaluation department have specialized agencies to do it. It is not done by the department itself but by a third party.
11. In the present/given schemes it was observed that due of the derivation of the watershed, the quality of water being delivered is questionable. In many places the quality of this water was not potable.
12. Large scale mining, un-organized mining have resulted in deterioration of the quality of water making it non-potable. It was enquired if any kind of mechanism is in position or would be put in position to address this issue.

13. Transmission of water supply was also another important issue that was raised. A large segment of water is delivered through pipes. Pipes have got their own shelf life and the quality of pipes being used is always a cause of concern. Given the high iron content the experts enquired whether the resultant sedimentation on the pipes and on the joints has increased the chemical content of the water beyond permissible levels?
14. The transmission and distribution losses of water through pipe connections were enquired into. A question was raised on the quality of pipes and also on the percentage of loss. It was mentioned that some pipes are so old they cannot carry the water from the source to the consumer.
15. Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) the use of underground water is encouraged. The following questions were raised (a) the hygienic content of the water because houses are very close to each other (b) deep boring - the question about the geological aspect has not been taken into consideration (c) improvement of reservoir - maintenance of the project.
16. Meghalaya Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has just done a survey of the Lukha river, Jaiñtia Hills. Its findings are that most of the rivers in the district have been polluted due of mining operations. The question is: Are there any mechanisms which the PHE has put in place to look into such concerns?
17. The members wanted to know who maintains the schemes after completion. They also wanted to know how are the completed structures and projects handed over and what happens after the post-creation of any infrastructure. Thousands of crores are spent every year and then the completed structures are left without a post follow up. It was suggested that once structures have been completed they should be handed over to the *panchayats* or to corresponding bodies.
18. A question was raised on money spent by the department and the inability of the department to recover it through various means.
19. The effect of deforestation on quality of water must be monitored. The experts noted that preventive action must be taken to reafforest areas with water bodies.
20. It was suggested that maintenance of forest cover was very crucial for obtaining water sources.
21. As part of the rainwater harvesting mission the department informed that it will construct 5000 reservoirs in the villages across the State.

**Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

1. With regard to losses in the transmission system the department informed the members that each household has a water pipe

connection from the reservoir. Each reservoir is connecting about 50 pipes to individual houses. Hence the problems of leakages and breakages are always there.

2. With regard to large scale and un-organized mining the department is of the opinion that the State should come forward with a clear mining policy to stem the present system of uncontrolled mining.
3. With regard to water pipe connections, the department admitted that these connections are definitely getting older. Pipes that are almost 30 years old are bursting at some point every month. Further, more water is required because more pumps are being installed to cater to the increasing demand for potable water. These pipes will be replaced under JNNURM. The department also tries to maintain the quality of pipes by using the ISI certified pipes.
4. Deforestation is an issue that should be taken up by the forest department. The critical Meghalaya Protection of Catchment Areas Act, 1990 needs to be enforced more strictly.
5. On sustainability and maintenance, the department has taken up various Government of India schemes in Ri Bhoi district. People have shown interest in these schemes and have come forward to avail them. However in Meghalaya *panchayat* bodies are absent. If through a particular scheme people have created a village level committee or a habitation committee, they do not have the resources to maintain the project. They need to accept the idea of paying for maintaining these schemes once they are completed. The idea of establishing *panchayats* may be considered. Maintenance may be handed over to select commercial franchisees but overseen by *panchayat* or local bodies.
6. On the rainwater harvesting mission managed by the planning department, an agency to execute the work is yet to be instituted. However the process of identifying the agency is being carried on at present.

### **Session III:**

This session included discussions on PWD, Transport sector and Border Area programmes.

### **Presentation No. 1: PWD Department. (PWD Roads and PWD Buildings)**

Some of the concerns of the department include maintenance of road infrastructure, complete utilisation of schemes given through the North Eastern Council (NEC) and the central government and upgradation of semi-permanent timber bridges to permanent RCC bridges.

The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* given by the experts:

1. The poor state of the roads in Meghalaya was enquired into. It appears that their present condition will not withstand even one rainy season. The experts wanted to know whether this was because of bad construction of roads, lack of maintenance or still, lack of man-power?
2. The members wanted to know whether the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY) scheme was being implemented up to the standard it was intended?
3. The members wanted to know the reasons for the delay in clearing pending bills of contractors.
4. It was also asked whether there is a plan to broaden and strengthen the Guwahati- Shillong road as it is a vital link from the point of view of strategy and tourism.
5. The question as to why it should take the department four years to prepare a road map was raised. With modern technology and IT the process should not take that long, the experts opined.
6. The members wanted to know whether road transport is a property of the state government or are private operators also allowed to manage its operations?
7. Mention was made that local contractors suffer from lack of resource and expertise. A suggestion was made to invite prestigious construction and engineering companies like Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on an experimental basis. The idea is not to replace the local contractors but work may be allotted to these big firms and they can sub-contract the work to local people.
8. The percentage of expenditure on administrative overheads was enquired about.
9. In a State like Meghalaya which receives heavy rainfall, there should be a system by which proper side drains are constructed to collect all the water flowing on the road surface.
10. In a State like Meghalaya unless top surface tampering is not executed properly, roads will deteriorate very fast. In Malaysia roads have a life span of 15 to 20 years and suffer no damage. Why can't we adopt the same methods in this area with heavy rainfall? When we talk of green roads along the national highway the concept relevant is that whatever water is channelized through the drainage systems normally flows into streams, rivers and finally to the sea. A suggestion was made that this rain water can be channelized to the villages to recharge water bodies, it can be stored in huge tanks and used as a reservoir for agriculture. There was a circular issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests suggesting that states should go for green roads, keep the surface tampering very well and channelize the drainage system to villages. To do so the C&RD department and PWD have to co-ordinate their activities.

This area should be looked into and guidance could be sought from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

11. From the presentations made it was clear that many roads are to be constructed. The experts wanted to know when will these roads be completed as presently resources required for their execution were not available? In the past there were clear instructions that when a proposed road was to be taken up, the pattern was such that it should be completed within the time horizon of not more than 5 years. If it takes ten to fifteen years for a road to be completed the road will by then have to be redone/re-laid somewhere in between thereby causing an additional expenditure. It was recommended that as a question of policy, while sanctioning road construction schemes, the funding pattern should be kept in mind and no road should be taken up unless the funding pattern is insured within the given resources and the budget of the State.
12. As Meghalaya is a hill state road development should be given highest priority. "*The road to development in Meghalaya is the development of roads.*" Road connectivity is thus very important. Our first priority should be to address the question of transporting goods and services. It appears that the PWD does not have proper planning for road construction. There have been no specific or scientific studies made on the variety of soil present. It was further observed that the single lane system is narrow and impractical.
13. It was noted that less attention is paid at the field level where roads are being constructed. This part is left mostly to the contractor and casual workers with the result that they become experts even though there are many trained engineers in the PWD.
14. It was also observed that the department has accumulated so many debts that it has recently frozen payment to contractors. The big question now is how will the department overcome this situation because it has inherited accumulated liabilities for all the past years. The two other big questions raised were: How to de-politicise the PWD? How to pay all the loans and the contractors without stopping the on-going projects?
15. There is a provision in the PMGSY which says that the same contractor who is responsible for constructing a road under PMGSY is also responsible for maintaining that road for a period of five years. This same kind of a provision is not available under the PWD. It was suggested that a similar provision can be incorporated in the PWD. This would strengthen the accountability factor and keep a check on quality control.
16. It was observed that presently there are no new schemes because of the existing backlog. A question on the Jowai-Shillong-Tura via Nongstoin/Rongjeng proposed four lane as mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme was asked about.
17. Members wanted to know whether the PWD is following the e-tendering procedure? i.e. a procedure where tender documents can be

obtained through the internet and the tenders could also be submitted through the internet.

18. A query was made on the charge and posting policy of the department. The question was whether the same officers look after the implementation of a project from its commencement to its completion or whether officers are changed?
19. It is clear that the PWD does not have either a policy, a roadmap or a goal. The members insisted that formulation of a clear cut goal and road map should be the department's priority.
20. The Chief Engineer mentioned that the road density referred to is only of PWD roads. The presentation was not able to highlight many other roads such as rural roads and district roads which are constructed by different agencies under different funding patterns. It was therefore recommended that if the correct road length can be indicated more funds will be available on the basis of the Finance Commission (Government of India) recommendations.
21. It was informed that the Working Group was set up to implement the guidelines of the Finance Commission and the Ministry of Planning, for rural roads. The Working Group has recommended the mobilisation of assets and setting up independent route funds. Some states in the country have implemented these recommendations. If Meghalaya can also do this the State can mobilise some funds that will help in construction of new roads and maintenance of existing roads. Another recommendation was about the 'innovated funding' where beneficiaries of a certain road /project are charged for its use. For example, to maintain roads traversing through coal mining areas, the State can charge a maintenance fee from the coal mine owners.
22. It was observed that Meghalaya was known to have the best roads fifteen years ago. Roads that used to last for 15 years have steadily deteriorated. The Shillong -Guwahati road appears motorable in March but six months later is in a damaged condition again. It was also noted that the Nongstoin road is in a pathetic condition. The progress of this key lifeline to the West Khasi Hills district was enquired about.
23. The members noted that coal/goods laden trucks were carrying more than the capacity allowed thereby affecting road conditions. Further, there was no maintenance of roads in rural areas.
24. There appears to be no sign of accountability in the department, no explanation called from any engineer, no contractor blacklisted for quality failure or for poor road construction. A strong suggestion was made that if a road has not been constructed properly according to the prescribed quality both the engineer and contractor must be punished as per law.
25. With regard to National Highway 44 the experts enquired as to why was the department allotting work to local contractors on a piece-meal

basis where half a km is given to one contractor, another half a km to another contractor and so on. The concern of the department should not be to satisfy all the 12000 registered contractors but to satisfy the citizens at large.

26. The recommendation of the experts was that more thrust should be placed on research and development. A workshop/conference should be organised for executive engineers. This is one department where officials do not meet and they do not even sit together - no seminar, no workshop and no conference. The Indian Road Conference is taking place across India in a big way. But here in Meghalaya the officials have not developed the necessary responsive skills.
27. It was noted that engineers do not visit construction sites but are busy with contractors.
28. A member of the MSPB pointed out that it is not absolutely true to say that over loaded trucks cause damage to the road. The road from Umphyrnai to Madanryting (Jowai-Shillong road ) through which heavy trucks ply from Jaiñtia Hills was constructed by the Oriental Company sometime back. The company gave a seven year guarantee but the road lasted for eleven years. So it is not heavily loaded trucks but condition of the work that causes the damage to roads.
29. Suggestion was made to mix latex with bitumen for areas with heavy rainfall. This mixture can withstand the monsoons very well and keep the quality of the surface intact for a much longer period.
30. Larsen and Toubro observed that there was a shortage of trained people at various levels and they were willing to impart training to various levels at the department. Officers from the State can go the L&T headquarters for training and in the long run the State will have better equipped and quality personnel in the PWD.
31. The PWD was asked to initiate the preparation of a draft on a comprehensive road policy for the State. A draft road policy could include issues like institutional arrangements, fund utilisation, measures to be undertaken under the public/ private model and quality maintenance of roads up to five or ten years. Such a draft could then be discussed at the Board meeting. This comprehensive draft could be prepared within the next two or three months and it could draw upon the experiences of some of the successful states in India.

#### **Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

1. With regard to bad roads the officials informed the Board that they have been executing the work but the terrain, heavy rainfall and overloading of commercial vehicles do pose a serious problem to road

maintenance. With funds presently available they are maintaining existing roads. However because of inadequate funds they are unable to repair all the roads simultaneously.

2. Regarding pending bills the officials informed that they will have to pay contractors from funds available within the yearly plans.
3. On the question of freezing of payments the officers informed the Board that the Secretary of the department recently issued a circular on the matter. Pending amounts have been frozen as on 1. 10. 2008. At the end of the financial year 2008-2009 the amount of pending bills should not exceed the pending amount as on 1. 10. 2008. In reality there is no freezing of payments to contractors. All the pending bills will be cleared by the department as and when funds are available. However by March 2009 the amount of pending bills should not exceed the amount pending as per the second quarter financial statement.
4. Under PMGSY work is being executed as per guidelines and schemes are being monitored through a three tier process. The 1<sup>st</sup> tier is the project implementation unit (PIU) looked after by the executive engineer, the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier is the State Quality Control looked after by the Chief Engineer himself and the 3<sup>rd</sup> tier monitoring is done by the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD). An engineer from the centre visits the site and reports on the quality of the road as well as the financial and physical progress of the road.
5. Transfer and postings in the department are undertaken as per government policy and engineers and sub-divisional officers (SDOs) are transferred every three years.
6. With regard to the Guwahati-Shillong National Highway the proposal to convert the existing road into a four lane highway is with the Ministry of Surface Transport. The work for this proposed highway has been entrusted to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI).
7. Basic route statistics, road density has been projected in the slide presentations. The department has been writing to different government departments and organisations to furnish the number of roads under their charge but no responses have been received so far. The department can safely project that at least 1500 kms of road length is under other departments.

## **Presentation No. 2: Border Areas**

Meghalaya shares a 436 kms international border with Bangladesh. The department undertakes schemes for areas along the international border. This requires coordination between departments as its functions and activities are also performed by other departments. The department noted

that it is important to improve existing facilities at the land custom stations (LCS). Presently facilities are being upgraded at three LCS (Dawki, Borsara and Gasuapara) which account for 87% of the State's exports. The difficulties faced along the border belt are in the area of infrastructure, access, basic services and economic livelihood. The border areas need special attention as border infrastructure is extremely poor.

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions given by the experts:***

1. There is no definite policy with regard to border areas especially along the international border. The State is now debating on the '*Look South*' policy and the economic benefits that Meghalaya can reap by looking towards Bangladesh.
2. A question was asked on whether the border areas facilitate agricultural activity?
3. Citing the example of a scheme promoted in the border areas, a member recalled that in 2003 the Border Areas Development (BAD) department facilitated the cultivation of tea in Mawlyngngot village, East Khasi Hills and its adjoining areas. Through this scheme (rupees 50 lacs) from the BAD, the people in this village formed a society for growing tea. After five years the people of eight villages whose earlier occupation was brewing and sale of country liquor stopped this age-old tradition and switched to growing tea. Today tea grown in this area is exported to Australia. This was the effort of BAD but the initiative though very promising stopped only with Mawlyngngot. It should have been extended to adjacent areas with similar soil and climatic conditions.

**Department's responses to the *feedback:***

Border belts have some portion of plain areas. These areas are suitable for cultivating winter paddy. Border areas have always been good for cultivating cash crops such as khasi mandarin orange (*citrus reticulata blanco*), Shella pineapple, areca nut (betel nut) and broom grass. The problem has however been the transportation of these commodities to their markets.

#### **Session IV:**

This session witnessed discussions on Rural Development including Rural Livelihood and Sustainability Issues.

## **Presentation No. 1: Community and Rural Development (C&RD) Department.**

The presentation was made by the Commissioner and Secretary, C&RD Department. The Department is engaged in implementing various schemes which are centrally sponsored and also state sponsored. It is responsible for administration of community and rural development programmes. The Department also prepares policies and strategies for poverty alleviation, reduction of rural unemployment, provision of livelihood options, self employment and basic services for improving the quality of life in the rural areas. Planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of rural development programmes and training and research with a view of improving programme implementation are some of the other responsibilities of the department.

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions given by the experts:***

1. Though the expenditure was more than the Plan outlay, the money spent is not reflected at the ground level.
2. The experts noted that state of development in Meghalaya presents a confusing picture.
3. The experts observed that though the Department's presentations revealed many achievements, the target of their schemes was not mentioned. There is no goal and no evaluation. All presentations require the presence of benchmarks to highlight the position of the departments. It is important to know how far the State has progressed in its targeted development. The focus of schemes should be on the 70% living in the villages.
4. Looking at the presentation a member remarked that it was a highlight of a whole pile of schemes and the process of implementation. "*One is only looking at individual trees but not at the forest,*" she remarked. The member wanted to know what strategies is the department using to bring down poverty which currently stands at 45%. This is a major challenge for the department as well as for the State.
5. Fundamental flaws at how we look at development are clearly visible. The centre should frame separate guidelines for hill and plain areas while implementing schemes.
6. To address corruption a proper mechanism to monitor the financial assistance that comes in, should be put in place. All schemes should reach the poor for whom they are meant.
7. To ensure proper utilisation of funds, it was suggested that the department should institute a committee on transparency.
8. There should also be a mid-term evaluation of schemes to understand their progress and to take necessary measures to correct any anomalies/delays.
9. Presently the State has no programme which is participatory and inclusive. This method has to be capacitated in the minds of the

people. An alternative to *panchayati raj* should be considered and the model considered should receive legislative approval through an Act of Assembly or Parliament.

10. It was pointed out that Meghalaya is the only State that does not have a Human Development Report (HDR). Absence of such a report makes the planning process a difficult task.
11. The members wanted to know what mechanism is the department utilising to reach the grassroots level?
12. Promotion of self help groups (SHGs) through various schemes has not really impacted the people.
13. Certain schemes like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) have only employability and no proper goal. They are becoming too commercial.
14. In addition to random checks by the department, it is necessary to have an inbuilt vigilance mechanism within the system itself. This is very important.
15. C&RD Department should bring out a People's Achievement Report rather than just a Departmental Report.
16. As of now, there is a shortage of Meghalaya Civil Services (MCS) officers and many BDO posts are filled by officers taken from other departments. It was suggested that this practise should be reverted. All BDO posts should be filled by officers from the Civil Services and not hand-picked from other Departments.

## **Session V:**

### **Presentation No. 1: Forest and Environment.**

A presentation was made by the Chief Conservator, Department of Forest and Environment on "*Strategy for Environmentally Secure and Ecologically Prudent Future for Meghalaya*". Meghalaya has a forest cover of about 76%. The forests of Meghalaya have many endangered and threatened plants and presently these forest resources are under stress. The department is presently considering the proposal to set up a Meghalaya Bio-diversity Board. The Chief Conservator also pointed out that the State has about 30 species of bamboo. To develop the bamboo sector the government has set up the Meghalaya Bamboo Development Agency.

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* given by the experts:**

1. With regard to the use of bamboo, a question was raised whether there is any mechanism to coordinate with the Industry Department (particularly cottage and handicraft industry) for utilising bamboo beyond its traditional usage.

2. A suggestion was made to arrange for leasing land from private land owners so as to improve the economy of the State and to also check unauthorised and unplanned harvesting of forest resources.
3. Loss of cultivable soil from hill sides and sloping locations, like Cherrapunjee, to the valleys below is a big issue. Micro-nutrients when lost cannot be replaced. Studies have revealed that micro-nutrient deficiency affects the health of the people. The experts enquired whether any steps have been suggested to address these issues and to control this phenomenon which has contributed to environmental and global climatic changes.
4. The method of potato cultivation needs proper study since potato is actually cultivated in the sub-soil and not on the soil surface.
5. As pine (*Pinus Kesiya*) is widely grown in Khasi Hills, a question was asked about its contribution to soil acidity. The members also enquired if any study has been made in this area.
6. When the department mentioned that the forest coverage in the State has increased the members enquired whether this indicated that *jhum* cultivation had decreased?

**Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

1. With regard to bamboo the State does not have large scale plantations comparable to those in countries like China. Thus, the State has to go for bio-mass based applications.
2. With regard to the harvest of forest resources, in Khasi Hills and Jaiñtia Hills about 70,000 cubic meters of resources are permitted to be harvested per annum. Harvesting can be done in a controlled and sustainable manner. The State is trying to promote the bamboo sector since bamboo, unlike trees, can be harvested from the fourth year of plantation.
3. A more settled system of cultivation has been introduced in the State, in addition to *jhum*. However, there is no evidence to show that settled cultivation has substituted *jhum*. The department has requested the North East Space Application Centre, Umiam, (NESAC) to undertake satellite imagery remote sensing based survey on this aspect.
4. Regarding the acidity of the soil caused by pine, the department informed that research has been done on this aspect by the Forest Research Institute. Though it is a fact that pine trees make the soil acidic, their cultivation should not be discouraged as they are economically viable for the local people.

## OCTOBER 4, 2008 (DAY TWO)

### Session VI:

This session included discussions on Industry, Power, Mining and Tourism sectors.

#### Presentation No. 1: Power (Me.S.E.B.)

A presentation was made by the Department on "*Power Perspective Plan in Meghalaya*". The Department's main objectives are to meet power shortage in the State, to achieve quality and reliable power supply and to achieve 100% rural electrification in villages and households by 2012. The Department intends to provide power to people on demand.

The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* given by the experts:

1. A point was made by an honorary member that as far as local generation is concerned, Meghalaya is almost 100% dependent on hydro-electric power. It was further pointed out that as the month of January approaches the State faces serious difficulty in meeting its power requirements. It was suggested that the State should have at least one base load thermal station. As base load comes from either gas or coal base thermal power station, the State can consider such an option as it has good reserves of high quality coal. A concrete action plan is required to operationalise such a project.
2. In terms of heat value coal reserves in Meghalaya are twice as rich when compared to the average coal available across the country. The average heat value of coal in the country is about 3100-3200 kilo calorie per kg whereas coal in Meghalaya is almost 7000 kilo calorie per kg.
3. Establishing a 500 mega watt thermal based power plant could be immediately considered which could then be followed by another 500 mega watt plant. A thousand mega watts of thermal based power could be generated in the State over the next 4-5 years.
4. The members wanted to know how the State is proceeding with investigations on the feasibility of initiating new power projects. Are sufficient funds? Who is undertaking the investigation? When would the detailed project reports (DPRs) be ready? What is the approach of developing these projects? It is important to put in place the appropriate mechanisms when new projects are being considered.
5. Meghalaya is facing serious problems in the transmission system, the sub-transmission system and in the distribution network. Monitoring is important if power is received either through internal resource generation or from different government agencies.

6. Local transmission and distribution networks should be given a priority to ensure that power generation is not undermined.
7. State level transmission needs to be strengthened so that advance action can be taken. The State should approach the Central Electricity Authority to prepare a long term plan for generation/transmission/monitoring power projects in Meghalaya.
8. It was suggested that the State can start thinking about nuclear power as well.
9. Meghalaya being a hill state, numerous projects are being undertaken in water conservation and land and water management. Micro-hydel projects could be built along with these projects and the check dams constructed could be small revenue generating units for the rural communities themselves.
10. It was suggested that solar energy can be used in the rural areas for drying surplus vegetables. These vegetables can be used as supplementary nutrition in the mid-day meal programme. An example was cited about technology developed in Canada on nutrition intervention programmes. The main purpose is to bring in cost effective and practical approaches and to take these approaches to remote villages. It was suggested that these innovations could be tried out as a model in some of the villages of Meghalaya.
11. It was further suggested that since Meghalaya has abundant forest cover, bio-mass based power generation could also be tried in some areas where this method is relevant.
12. The members expressed their concern as no presentation was made on energy conservation methods and techniques. This is an important area in the power sector.
13. The government has not succeeded in reorganising the Me.S.E.B. This concern should be given utmost priority.
14. Me.S.E.B. should have a reasonable surplus for growth. To do so the aggregate technical and commercial losses should be minimised.
15. The community should consider the possibility of constructing small hydel projects through both renewable and non-renewable resources. Power generated through these small projects can be sold to the grid and the community can in turn earn revenue.
16. The department can consider the use of solar panels to substitute power supply especially in rural areas. 25% to 30% of Germany's demand for power is met from non-conventional renewable resources.

### **Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

1. The State Government is taking steps to ensure that there would be fuel mix in Generation and steps have been taken for signing MOU for setting up thermal Power station.
2. The Investigation for new projects is an ongoing process and most of the investigation has been done in house by the MeSEB with the help of funding mostly from NEC.
3. The transmission and distribution network is an important priority area of the Power sector and new schemes have been initiated at regular intervals.
4. Alternate and more fuel efficient system of generation are being taken up by the State and they are at various stages of being considered.
5. Roadmap for reducing T & D losses as well as AT & C losses have been framed and is part of the governance and operational issues of the MeSEB.
6. The reorganisation of the MeSEB into separate corporate entities have been initiated and depending on the final report being submitted by the Consultant the unbundling process will take place.

### **Presentation No. 2: Mining Department.**

Due to constraints of time it was not possible to exhaustively discuss the various issues related to the department. In his remarks, the Chairman requested the experts Shri S.K. Chowdhary and Shri B.Akala and members of the working group to kindly study the Draft Policy on Mining, Meghalaya, make necessary inclusions and submit their ideas, observations and suggestions in writing to the Board. The Chairman informed the members present that the government will send five engineers to the United States of America to be trained in this particular field.

### **Presentation No. 3: Industries Department**

This presentation highlighted the main objectives of the Department which are: to create an industrial atmosphere in the State, to develop first generation entrepreneurs, to use man and material resources for the economic advantage of the State, to create more job avenues, to make Meghalaya self sufficient and self reliant and to achieve balanced industrial growth in the State.

The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* given by the experts:

1. It was suggested that when trying to think of a new industrial policy, the State should make sure that it is available today and relevant for tomorrow.
2. The members enquired into the basis of the new industrial policy? Presently the State's industries are all based on natural resources. Technology today plays an enormous role and so does man power. However it is the brain power that needs to be exploited and not only manpower, in terms of labour.
3. Industrial development in the State needs to be given a thrust.
4. While it is normal to have resource constraints the question was on finding ways to overcome these constraints.
5. The industrial growth, pattern and policy of the State are segmented. It was suggested that the scale or scalability aspect should be incorporated into industries. One of the reasons as to why entrepreneurs shy away from coming and investing in Meghalaya is because they do not see scales or scalability of business in the future.
6. The members enquired whether a policy can be evolved to address the basic needs of the common man at the village level?
7. Industrial development will benefit the State. People will also benefit when there is increased income generation. Further the State will also gain by way of revenue through taxes. Tax concessions should be given so that goods and services passed on to the people will be available at an affordable rate. In this way the increased burden of production in non-industrial areas is partly set off by the tax concessions. It would be highly desirable for the state's industry department to provide sufficient safeguards while continuing with its incentives by way of concessions. It must ensure safeguards so that industrial units which come up during the initial period will at least continue for some time after the subsidy/concession period. This will provide the State an opportunity to generate additional resources and increase its revenue and thereby ultimately benefitting the people. Policy framers should keep these suggestions in mind before finalising the industrial policy.
8. Industry in Meghalaya should be sustainable otherwise after the concession period industrial units will vanish.
9. It is important to look into the internal market demand and to produce commodities which people need. This will save the State an outflow of revenue, it will not have to procure its requirements from distant places. Permission should be given to those units which generate employment. Meghalaya can become a surplus State in the production of many commodities and the same can be sold outside the State. This way industrial production in the State can be sustained in the long run.

10. Private parties should be encouraged to set up industrial parks and industrial areas as private entrepreneurs can make immense contributions to the State.
11. The new industrial policy should be carefully chalked out and it should not be a repetition of what has been done for the last 35 years.
12. A study should be undertaken to examine the reasons as to why the State has not been able to attract private investment.
13. While framing the industrial policy the department should link it to employment generation.

**Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

The department expressed its appreciation to the members for their valuable inputs. The inputs provided will be carefully considered before finalising the industrial policy.

**Presentation No. 4: Tourism.**

A presentation was made by the Director of Tourism on "*Presentation on 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan - Its Potential Targets, Achievements, Gaps and Issues*".

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* given by the experts:**

1. The members wanted to know the initiatives being taken by the department to sell tourism in the State.
2. The most important factor required to develop tourism in Meghalaya is 'connectivity'. Meghalaya suffers from a serious disadvantage in this regard. It is very essential for the State to have air connectivity. A comprehensive study must be undertaken to look at this issue.
3. In various parts of the country, the railways have started exclusive tourism oriented trains. Unfortunately this innovative idea has not come to the Northeast. It was suggested that the State should lobby with the Government of India (GOI) to facilitate tourism through railways.
4. The latest buzzword in tourism is 'responsible tourism' which is a very inclusive subject. An example was cited about one backward area in Kerala where 12 hotel owners entered into an agreement with the local *panchayat* to procure their daily vegetable and fruits requirements from local people. This way tangible benefits are enjoyed by the local people and in turn they come to accept tourism as a benefitting industry. The state must ensure that tourism provides direct benefits to local populace. The State must encourage responsible tourism.
5. Meghalaya has immense potential for special interest tourism because of its natural beauty and fabulous scenery.

6. One of the emerging sectors in tourism is rural tourism. 60% of foreign tourists visiting India stay in the rural areas. GOI has a policy of encouraging rural tourism. In Meghalaya certain areas can be identified to promote tourist villages according to suitability and financial assistance for projects can be sought from GOI.
7. Meghalaya is rich in dance and music and these elements of culture can be improvised and showcased without any additional cost.
8. Promoting handloom and handicraft bring immense benefit to tourism. Spain earns 3 billion dollars per annum from souvenirs alone. What are required are innovative designs and inputs relevant to contemporary requirements. The department can get in touch with the World Handicraft Council based in Sweden for more information and inputs to promote this area of activity.
9. Festivals are an inexpensive but important way of promoting tourism. Meghalaya being rich in flora and fauna can have floral/vegetable/fruit festivals.
10. After learning that the 18 hole golf course in Shillong is one of the oldest and the best in the country, the members suggested that an international golf tournament should be held in Shillong to promote tourism.
11. With the IIM in Shillong, it was suggested that the students of this institute could conduct a study on the tourism potential of the State and formulate a master plan. The youth today have innovative ideas and for a change they can think out of the box.
12. Private sector participation should be invited to create facilities for promoting tourism.
13. A recommendation was made on the time bound completion of the expansion programme of the Umroi airport and the early operationalisation of the Baljek airport. A suggestion was also made on the feasibility of setting up an airport in Jaiñtia Hills.
14. The newly introduced 'Bed and Breakfast' scheme in Shillong was appreciated. House owners who will host tourists should be given training in catering to the requirements of visiting guests.

### **Session VII:**

This session saw included discussions only on Education.

### **Presentation No. 1: Education Department.**

The presentation "*Meghalaya Education Scenario*" was made by the Commissioner and Secretary, Education. The Department intends to address a number of educational issues such as achieving 80% literacy, reducing gender gap by 10%, reducing drop-out rate, all out enrolment of school children within 2008-09, reducing the ratio of Upper Primary : Primary schools from the present 1:2.9 to 1:2.5 and reducing the number of single-teacher schools.

The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* given by the experts:

1. Since Meghalaya has a very high percentage of untrained teachers, the experts suggested that the State can have an integrated teachers' course that can attract people right from the class XII level. This will go a long way in getting quality trained teachers.
2. A question was also raised on whether the term untrained teachers is synonymous with unqualified teachers and whether there is any intention of appointing only trained teachers.
3. The members wanted to know whether the appointment of teachers was structured or not?
4. Job oriented courses should also be developed so that employment is linked with the education that is imparted.
5. As Meghalaya is geographically smaller than other states in the country, the experts wanted to know the transfer policy of teachers. Is there a system of posting teachers and if so whether teachers are posted in their own districts or elsewhere?
6. There should be a study to understand the reasons for the high drop-out rate in the State so that a proper solution can be found to tackle the problem. It was also seen that there is a disparity between the drop-out rate of girls and boys at the Primary and Upper Primary level.
7. It is observed that in the Social Development Index of the whole country Meghalaya is lacking behind in education and health. These are important issues that need to be addressed.
8. Educational system has to be strengthened and the appointment of teachers requires to be structured.
9. A question was also raised about the government's attitude in encouraging the establishment of private schools. It was suggested that a public-private partnership model can be followed successfully in the State.
10. The members wanted to know the linkage of the educational structure at the grassroot level since Meghalaya does not have a *panchayat* system. How does this structure link up with the village so that the problem of drop-outs can be looked into?
11. It was felt that education in the rural areas should be offered free of cost since poverty is very high in these areas.
12. Since the drop-out rate in Meghalaya is alarming the issue should be linked to the democratic grassroot level organisations. This will strengthen the foundations of the educational system in the State.

### **Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

1. Regarding the question about untrained and unqualified teachers, the Department clarified that untrained teachers are qualified (with minimum qualification). However they are not trained in the sense that they have not undergone a formal teachers' training course.
2. Regarding the question of whether appointment of teachers is being structured, the Department responded in the affirmative. Rules and norms are set for the appointment of teachers and the government has taken a firm decision that only trained teachers will be appointed.
3. Regarding the disparity in the drop-out rate between boys and girls, it is seen that the trend changes as we pass from one sector to another. In the primary level, boys drop out more than girls, but in the upper primary level it is seen that girls drop out more than boys. Though studies have been conducted there are no clear cut findings on this issue. The assumption is that, because of high incidence of early pregnancy and marriage the drop-out rate amongst girls' increases.
4. Regarding the role of private organizations in setting up schools, the Department informed that they have continued to play a very important role in the educational sector of the State. In the elementary category about 50% of the schools are run by the private organizations, NGOs, church organisations and so on. At the secondary level the ratio is about 90:10 in favour of private organizations.

### **Session VIII:**

This session included discussions on Social Welfare.

#### **Presentation No. 1: Social Welfare Department.**

The Department primarily deals with issues relating to Women and Child Development and Social Justice and Empowerment. There are two facets of the department - the 'developmental' role and the 'regulatory' role. The Department implements various schemes for child and women development, welfare for handicapped, aged, destitute, and schemes for training and research. The schemes are both state schemes and centrally sponsored schemes.

**The following are the *feedback, inputs and suggestions* given by the experts:**

1. A question was asked as to what percentage of funds allotted to the department go to the child and to the woman respectively? When talking of women's welfare it is important to distinguish both and to also identify what percentage of the total plan fund is going to women's

development (rather than welfare). A suggestion was made to the department to have a gender budget.

2. It was observed that the presentation did not show figures on maternal and infant mortality rate.
3. As it was observed that only about one third of the expenditure was being incurred, a question was raised as to what is the parameter for weighing the outcomes. Has any attempt been made to correlate what was targeted from this inadequate utilisation of the allocation and what was the outcome?
4. Given that there was no mention about the department having any financial co-operations, it was enquired if there was one. This is one area that the State can look into. For example, if one is to look at the financial co-operations of the Government of India where funds are coming from the budget, almost 300 crores is coming to the various financial co-operations like handicap co-operation, etc. It was suggested that the State can consider the setting up of such co-operations which in turn will be able to give low interest credit to the poorer sections of the population.
5. As the department conducts numerous training programmes for implementing many schemes, it was enquired whether the personnel for implementing and supervising all these schemes were well trained and capable? Looking at the welfare of the handicapped one realises that the staff of the department require a lot of training otherwise a good programme will not be implemented.
6. It was observed that the concept of women/child development is little outdated and the concept of women empowerment is more appropriate now. Women need to be put in the policy making level. Some states have provided job reservation to women. That is empowerment. The concept of women empowerment should go beyond just observing Women's Day! A question was raised as to what has the State given to empower women so that they are involved both at the level of policy making and policy implementation?
7. Training has to be adequate for the successful implementation of programmes.

#### **Department's responses to the *feedback*:**

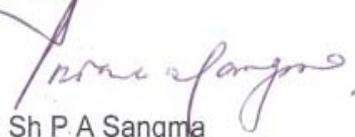
Regarding the amount segregated for women and children, the department clarified that this year (2008) out of Rs 4.42 crores of the social security net, Rs 84 lakhs is spent only on establishment expenses. Rs 1.18 crores is spent on welfare of persons with disabilities and about Rs 1 crore is spent for child development.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the second day a summary, *Conclusions and Recommendations* was prepared by a core group of members and the same was presented before the Board meeting for approval. To accelerate the development of the State this document highlighted the importance of human development with gender equity, basic infrastructure development particularly in road and power, capacity and institution building, research and development, poverty reduction and employment generation. To realise these parameters it recommended a realistic assessment of the sectoral potential, a pragmatic implementation of short-medium-long term targets and a well considered strategy for achieving them. The document also noted that the MSPB will prepare a three year State Working Plan to achieve new priorities of the Meghalaya Progressive Alliance (MPA) Government as reflected in the government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP). This proposed State Working Plan will also recommend to the government the need to enact suitable legislation to facilitate the proposed policies.

### Conclusion:

The two-day meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks from the Chair. Shri P. A. Sangma expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister, Dr. Donkumar Roy for his presence at the meeting as the Chief Guest. He further thanked the members, ministers and friends from Delhi who were present at the meeting. He personally extended his thanks and gratefulness to the experts in various fields who have agreed to be members of MSPB, for being present and especially for their considerate contributions at the various sessions. In thanking the members of the Planning Board, he expressed his amazement at the intellectual and matured standard that they had revealed. He also thanked the two Members of Parliament who were present, the Ministers, the members of the District Councils, the officers and the departments that made presentations at the Board meeting, the press both print and media, the officers and staff of the MSPB and the staff at Pinewood Hotel. He concluded by thanking all those who made the meeting a success.



Sh P A Sangma  
Chairman, State Planning Board,  
Meghalaya, Shillong.

**LIST OF ATTENDANCE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2008 HELD BY  
THE MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD IN PINEWOOD HOTEL,  
SHILLONG.**

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**3-10-2008**

<b><u>Sl. No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Designation</u></b>
1.	Dr. Donkumar Roy	- Chief Minister, Meghalaya.
2.	Shri P.A. Sangma	- Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
3.	Shri H.S. Lyngdoh	- Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya.
4.	Shri Timothy D. Shira	- Deputy Chief Minister, Meghalaya.
5.	Shri Paul Lyngdoh	- Minister, Meghalaya.
6.	Shri J.A. Lyngdoh	- Minister, Meghalaya.
7.	Shri Conrad K. Sangma	- Minister, Meghalaya.
8.	Shri A.L Hek	- Minister, Meghalaya.
9.	Dr. A. Pariong	- Minister, Meghalaya.
10.	Smti Agatha K. Sangma	- Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha.
11.	Shri Thomas A. Sangma	- Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.
12.	Shri Mihsalan Suchiang	- Deputy Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
13.	Dr. W. R. Kharlukhi	- Deputy Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
14.	Prof. E.D. Thomas	- Deputy Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
15.	Shri P.K. Sangma	- Deputy Chief Executive Member, Garo Hills Autonomous District Council.
16.	Shri B.L. Nongum	- Executive Member, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council.
17.	Shri Babeth Sangma	- Political Secretary to Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
18.	Mr. Abhaya Kashyap	} Honorary Members, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
19.	Prof. B.D. Singh	
20.	Mr. Uma Shankar Misra	
21.	Mr. S.K. Chowdhury	
22.	Mr. R.V. Shahi	
23.	Mrs. Veena Nayyar	
24.	Dr. (Mrs.) Sarala Gopalan	
25.	Mr. Basant Kumar Goswami	
26.	Mr. M.C. Gupta	
27.	Mr. Davy Kurien Manavalan	
28.	Mr. P.J. Bazeley	} Honorary Adviser, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
29.	Mr. Balaswamy Akala	

30.	Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya	}	Official Members, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
31.	Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya		
32.	Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Planning Deptt.		
33.	Prof. Glenn C. Kharkongor	}	Non-Official Members, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
34.	Mr. Toki Blah		
35.	Rev. P.B.M. Basaiawmoit		
36.	Prof. Henry Lamin		
37.	Mr. Charles Reuben Lyngdoh		
38.	Dr. Laitpharlang Cajee		
39.	Dr.(Mrs.) Amena Nora Passah		
40.	Mr. Kajol Kumar Das Roy		
41.	Commissioner & Secretary, Meghalaya State Planning Board	-	Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
42.	Shri N.K. Gauri	-	Director (Liaison), Meghalaya State Planning Board.

### **OFFICIALS OF DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS**

<b><u>SL. No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Designation</u></b>
1.	Shri V.S. Oberoi	- Agricultural Production Commissioner
2.	Shri P. Kharkongor	- Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture, Fisheries, etc. Deptts.
3.	Shri A.K. Bhalla	- Commissioner & Secretary, PHE Deptt.
4.	Shri C.D. Kynjing	- Commissioner & Secretary, C&RD Deptt.
5.	Smti. R. V. Suchiang	- Commissioner & Secretary, Cooperation Deptt.
6.	Smti. L. Diengdoh	- Secretary, Cooperation Deptt.
7.	Shri E.P. Kharbhih	- Secretary, Education, Transport Deptts.
8.	Shri M.M. Sun	- Joint Secretary, PWD (R&B).
9.	Shri B. Mawlong	- Deputy Secretary, Information Technology Deptt.
10.	Shri S. Kharlyngdoh	- OSD, Cooperation.
11.	Shri T.C. Abraham	- Chief Engineer, PHE.
12.	Shri C.S. Shabong	- Director, Agriculture.
13.	Shri P.S. Lyngdoh	- Chief Engineer, Irrigation
14.	Shri F.G. Momin	- Director, Fisheries.
15.	Shri J.D. Sangma	- Director, Elementary & Mass Education.
16.	Dr. C.O. Rangad	- Director, Horticulture.
17.	Dr. D. Khonglah	- Director, AH & Vety.
18.	Dr. (Mrs) A. Khonglam	- Director, Sericulture & Weaving
19.	Shri R.D. West	- Project Director, Science & Technology.
20.	Shri H.M. Shangpliang	- Commissioner of Transport.
21.	Shri B. Dutta	- Director, Urban Affairs.

22.	Shri B.K. Panda	- Director, Meghalaya Urban Development Agency.
23.	Shri Vinod K. Nautiyal	- Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
24.	Shri P.S.G. Lyngdoh	- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads).
25.	Shri C. Budnah	- Chief Conservator of Forests (T,SFFE)
26.	Shri S. Kumar	- Chief Conservator of Forests(WL & RT)
27.	Shri A. Syiem	- Additional Director, Soil & Water Conservation
28.	Shri I.R. Gatphoh	- Additional Chief Engineer, (Eastern Zone) PWD (Roads).
29.	Shri S.C. Rynjah	- Joint Director, Fisheries.
30.	Shri R.R. Bang	- Joint Director, Sericulture & Weaving.
31.	Dr. R.B. Dympep	- Joint Director, Agriculture.
32.	Shri B.J. Dhar	- Joint Director, Urban Affairs.
33.	Shri S. Thabah	- Deputy Director, Agriculture.
34.	Dr. J.S. Jyrwa	- Deputy Director, A.H. & Vety.
35.	Shri R. Shullai	- Conservator of Forests, P & GIS.
36.	Shri A. Lyngdoh	- Conservator of Forests, (WL).
37.	Shri W.S. Basaiawmoit	- S.E. Irrigation, Tura.
38.	Shri P. Lyngwa	- S.E. Irrigation.
39.	Smti P. Rynga	- Horticulturist, (Planning).
40.	Shri E.S. Lyngdoh	- SDO, PWD (Roads).
41.	Shri M. Kharkongor	- AUP, UAD.
42.	Shri H.C. Chaudhury	- Planning Officer (Forests)
43.	Shri R. Lyngdoh	- Research Officer, Planning Department
44.	Shri J. Deb Roy	- D.E.O, Information Technology.

#### **4-10-2008**

<b><u>Sl. No.</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Designation</u></b>
1.	Shri P.A. Sangma	- Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
2.	Smti Agatha K. Sangma	- Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha.
3.	Shri Thomas A. Sangma	- Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha.
4.	Shri James K. Sangma	- Parliamentary Secretary.
12.	Shri Mihsalan Suchiang	- Deputy Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
13.	Dr. W. R. Kharlukhi	- Deputy Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
14.	Prof. E.D. Thomas	- Deputy Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.
15.	Shri P.K. Sangma	- Deputy Chief Executive Member, Garo Hills Autonomous District Council.
16.	Shri B.L. Nongum	- Executive Member, Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council.
17.	Shri Babeth Sangma	- Political Secretary to Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board.

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|-----|---|---|--|
| 18. | Mr. Abhaya Kashyap  | } | Honorary Members, Meghalaya State Planning Board.                              |
| 19. | Prof. B.D. Singh  |   |  |
| 20. | Mr. Uma Shankar Misra   |   |  |
| 21. | Mr. S.K. Chowdhury  |   |  |
| 22. | Mr. R.V. Shahi  |   |  |
| 23. | Mrs. Veena Nayyar   |   |  |
| 24. | Dr. (Mrs.) Sarala Gopalan   |   |  |
| 25. | Mr. Basant Kumar Goswami  |   |  |
| 26. | Mr. M.C. Gupta  | } | Honorary Advisers, Meghalaya State Planning Board.                             |
| 27. | Mr. Davy Kurien Manavalan   |   |  |
| 28. | Mr. P.J. Bazeley  | } | Official Members, Meghalaya State Planning Board.                              |
| 29. | Mr. Balaswamy Akala   |   |  |
| 30. | Mr. Subodh Menon  |   |  |
| 31. | Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya                           |   |  |
| 32. | Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya                |   |  |
| 33. | Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Planning Deptt.      |   |  |
| 32. | Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Planning Deptt. |   |  |
| 33. | Prof. Glenn C. Kharkongor   |   |  |
| 34. | Mr. Toki Blah   | } | Non-Official Members, Meghalaya State Planning Board.                          |
| 35. | Mr. Charles Reuben Lyngdoh  |   |  |
| 36. | Dr. Laitpharlang Cajee  |   |  |
| 37. | Dr.(Mrs.) Amena Nora Passah   |   |  |
| 38. | Mr. Kajol Kumar Das Roy   |   |  |
| 39. | Commissioner & Secretary, Meghalaya State Planning Board            |   | Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Planning Board.                              |
| 40. | Shri N.K. Gauri   | - | Director (Liaison), Meghalaya State Planning Board.                            |
| 41. | Shri L.T. Sangma  | - | Special Officer & Ex-Officio Deputy Secretary, Meghalaya State Planning Board. |

## OFFICIALS OF DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS

<u>SL. No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>
1.	Shri V.S. Oberoi	- Agricultural Production Commissioner
2.	Shri L. Roy	- Commissioner & Secretary, Education Deptt.
3.	Shri C.D. Kynjing	- Commissioner & Secretary, Power Deptt.
4.	Smti. R. V. Suchiang	- Commissioner & Secretary, Cooperation Deptt.
5.	Smti. L. R. Sangma	- Secretary, Education Deptt.
6.	Shri E.P. Kharbhih	- Secretary, Education, Transport Deptts.
7.	Dr. R.R. Lanong	- Joint Secretary, Health.
8.	Shri Vinod K. Nautiyal	- Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
9.	Shri J.D. Sangma	- Director, Elementary & Mass Education.
10.	Shri W. Khyllap	- Director, Higher & Technical Education.
11.	Shri Aldous Mawlong	- Director, Sports & Youth Affairs.
12.	Shri T. Dkhar	- Director, Tourism.
13.	Shri H.M. Shangpliang	- Commissioner of Transport.
14.	Shri B. Dutta	- Director, Urban Affairs.
15.	Shri B.K. Panda	- Director, Meghalaya Urban Development Agency.
16.	Shri C.C. Mihsill	- Director, Social Welfare.
17.	Dr. A.K. Roy	- Director of Health Services (M.I.)
18.	Shri W. Rynjah	- Chief Engineer, (D) Me.S.E.B.
19.	Shri D.K. Areng	- Director, Industries.
20.	Shri C. Budnah	- Chief Conservator of Forests (T,SFFE)
21.	Shri S. Kumar	- Chief Conservator of Forests(WL & RT)
22.	Smti L. Jyrwa	- Additional Director, Social Welfare.
23.	Shri B. J. Dhar	- Joint Director, Urban Affairs.
24.	Shri E. Slong	- ACE (P&D), ME.S.E.B.
25.	Shri A. Kharpor	- Deputy Director, M.A.T.I.
26.	Smti M.B. Roy	- Deputy Director, Industries.
27.	Shri G. Lyngdoh	- Deputy Director, (Tech) Industries.
28.	Shri J.R. Marak	- Assistant Director
29.	Shri R. Shullai	- Conservator of Forests, P & GIS.
30.	Shri A. Lyngdoh	- Conservator of Forests, (WL).
31.	Shri G.F. Shullai	- Conservator of Forests, (R&T).
32.	Dr.(Mrs) S. Kharkongor	- SMHO, Directorate of Health Services.
33.	Shri M. Kharkongor	- AUP, UAD.
34.	Shri H.C. Chaudhury	- Planning Officer (Forests)
35.	Shri John E. Rodborne	- Planning Officer (MNREDA).
36.	Shri J. Deb Roy	- D.E.O, Information Technology.