

**MEGHALAYA
STATE PLANNING BOARD**

**RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING
BOARD DURING THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF
SHRI S.C. MARAK 2003-2008**

**MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD
2003-2008**

The composition of the Meghalaya State Planning Board under the Chairmanship of Shri. S.C. Marak notified vide No. PLA. 54/91/151 dated the 17th march, 2003 and subsequent notifications by the government were as follows:-

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri S.C. Marak, Ex-MLA | - | Chairman. |
| 2. | Dr.F.A.Khonglam, MLA | - | Co-Chairman. |
| 3. | Dr.F.Lyngdoh, MLA | - | Co- Chairman. |
| 4. | Shri. S. Nongrum, MLA | - | Co-Chairman. |
| 5. | Shri. B.A. Sangma, MLA | - | Co-chairman. |
| 6. | Shri.E.D.Marak, MLA | - | Co-Chairman. |
| 7. | Shri. S.D.Khongwir,Ex-MLA | - | Deputy Chairman. |
| 8. | Dr.R.C.Laloo, Ex-MLA | - | Deputy Chairman |

Non-Official Members

1. Shri A. H. Scott Lyngdoh, Ex-MLA.
2. Shri. Rowell Lyngdoh, Ex-MLA.
3. Shri.A.D. Marak, Ex-MLA.
4. Dr.B. Lyndem
5. Shri.P.K. Marak.
6. Shri.S.S. Sangma.
7. Shri.C.P.Marak.
8. Shri.M.B.Lyngdoh.

Official Members

1. Chief Executive Member, Khasi Hills District Council.
2. Chief Executive Member, Garo Hills District Council.
3. Chief Executive Member, Jaintia Hills District Council.
4. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya.
5. Principal Secretary/ Commissioner & Secretary, Finance Department.
6. Principal Secretary/ Commissioner & Secretary, Planning Department.
7. Commissioner & Secretary, Meghalaya State Planning Board- Member Secretary.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD

The State Planning Board under the Chairmanship of Shri S.C.Marak during the period from 2003-2008 had adopted the democratic approach in identifying the problems and discussing possible solutions on several aspects concerning the developmental programmes/activities of the State.

The following are the broad based recommendations extracted from the proceedings of the meetings of the State Planning Board held during 2003-2008.

Agriculture:

- i. Mechanization of Agriculture and strengthening of Mechanical Engineering Wing with adequate repair and servicing facilities.
- ii. To have its own Seed Certification Agency
- iii. To come up with some alternative arrangement for the Cold Storages at Mawiong and Garobadha and to ensure optimum utilization.
- iv. To increase the allocation for agricultural inputs such as High yielding varieties seeds, organic manure, pesticide and irrigation.
- v. To use Kisan Card facility as a major credit input.
- vi. To improve the soil condition as part of the rejuvenation programme.
- vii. To have a critical analysis on the functioning of Farm Women Group
- viii. To coordinate in initiating the scheme of cluster village concept.

2. Horticulture:

- i. Improvement in production of Oilseeds, organic Pineapple, marketing, setting up of Fruit Processing Units and Cold chain along arterial routes.
- ii. Setting up of Meghalaya State Horticultural Board with Government funds to help inclusively for marketing and processing of waste products.

3. Soil & Water Conservation:

- i. To encourage plantation of Tea, Rubber and Cashewnut in Garo Hills.
- ii. Industrial Agencies should come forward to help the people set up small scale rubber based industries like making of Cycles, Chappals etc.

- iii. The Meghalaya Cash Crop Development Board (MCCDB) should link up with the Rubber Board as the Rubber Planters are facing problems in getting seedlings
- iv. To take up Jatropha plantation on a large scale through the assistance of National Oilseeds & Vegetables Oils Development Board (NOVOD) Board.
- v. To implement Slopping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), an integrated project envisaging a convergence of activities like health, irrigation, schools, afforestation etc.
- vi. To take up Rain harvesting and water conservation works for improving the environment of Cherrapunjee and surrounding areas.
- vii. To frame a master plan for protection of catchment areas.

4. AH & Vety :

- i. Approved in principle the operation of Revolving Funds in Govt farms and Dairy plants
- ii. To invest more under Piggery and Poultry Development to restrict the flow of funds outside the state.
- iii. Feed being a crucial input to improve productivity, a certain time frame may be kept to achieve self sufficiency.
- iv. To intensify Cattle Breeding and speed up setting up of a Slaughter House.
- v. To reduce the cost of animal feed by focusing on local resources such as maize.
- vi. To identify a particular meat requirement where farmers could be encouraged to concentrate in this particular production to cater to the requirements in the state.
- vii. There should be adequate animal health care and feeds at reasonable rates.

5. FISHERIES :

- i. To Strengthen the Directorate with technical personnel at different levels in order to improve the performance of the Department.
- ii. To control pollution of rivers by taking the confidence of the local durbars.
- iii. To organize a Fishing Competition in the Wards Lake as one way to promote Tourism
- iv. To set up 1000 fish ponds in the state to motivate farmers to take up fish production on a large scale.
- v. Due importance should be given to Fisheries for creation of rural employment.

- vi. To implement the two innovative schemes :-
 - a. Culture and development of Mahaseer Fishes
 - b. Culture and breeding of ornamental fish.
 - c. To have a critical evaluation of the Fish Farmers Development Scheme.

6. Forest & Environment.

- i. To strengthen the boundary of Forest around Shillong.
- ii. The Pollution Control Board should be under the purview of Forest department and the State Environment Council needs to be revitalized and State Environment Policy is very much necessary.
- iii. To develop the Bamboo sector by setting up large model plantations of bamboo as well as to assist bamboo cultivation as agro- forestry.
- iv. To rejuvenate the Forest Development Corporation of Meghalaya Ltd and involve in it new forest-based projects like bamboo and medicinal plants sector.

7. Cooperation:

- i. MECOFED should concentrate on marketing activities and also to improve its accounting system.

8. Community & Rural Development:

- i. To take up fresh appointment of MCS so that all the 39 Blocks could be manned by Officers of MCS cadre.
- ii. To consider the need of having the Panchayati Raj System in the state so that funds from the Government of India is not deprived but an endeavour is to be made to find out a nomenclature socially acceptable to all the people in the state keeping in mind that people are quite sensitive on issue of change over from traditional set up.
- iii. To conduct fresh survey of BPL families.
- iv. To have a Banking Adviser and a trained Community organizer in each constituency for the implementation of the centrally sponsored scheme SJSRY.

9. Land Reforms:

- i. Awareness programme should be intensified as people are apprehensive of survey of their land. Advise to take initiative for creation of a cell in the form of publicity and visuals in the 11th Plan.
- ii. To revamp and restructure the Block Development Offices to make it more accessible to the rural people.

- iii. Leadership training programme is necessary for key schemes to improve the economic development of the state.

10. Border Areas Programme:

- i. To assess the impact of Border areas schemes on the State's economy.
- ii. To reopen the 5 Border hats (Muktapur, Hat Mawdon, Balat, Mahendraganj, Gasuapara) for boosting up Trade and Commerce between Meghalaya and Bangladesh.
- iii. The need for an in-depth evaluation of the Swaranjyanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- iv. Assistance to Small Farmers/Marginal Farmers should be amalgamated with National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

11. Medium Irrigation & Flood Control:

- i. Medium and Minor Irrigation should be clubbed together into one Department under the new nomenclature of Water Resources Department for effective coordination.

12. Minor Irrigation:

- i. To link up with PWD for flood control works.
- ii. To facilitate double cropping especially in the Border areas of the state to build up irrigation facilities.

13. Power:

- i. To give priority to the three new schemes viz, New Umtru, Ganol and Umngot Power Projects and to complete the same within the 11th Plan.
- ii. To complete the Leishka Power Project by June, 2008.
- iii. To complete ongoing projects under Generation and Transmission schemes
- iv. To maintain the Hydro-Thermal, mix-Thermal Projects are required to avoid power shortage during the poor monsoon period.
- v. To pursue the project of transmission line from Misa to Byrnihat.
- vi. To ensure that there is no slippage in the implementation of the projects as it may indirectly affect growth of industries in the state.
- vii. In view of poor transmission lines, the Department must keep a time frame for completion of Transmission schemes to enable the State to draw its full share from the grid.

- 14. Non- Conventional Sources of Energy:**
- i. To provide facilities for repair and servicing in respect of subsidy schemes involving use of power tillers/pump sets and materials supplied under scheme of non conventional sources of energy.
- 15. Sericulture & Weaving:**
- i. To engage Consultancy Firms to uplift this sector as there is a lot of scope for rural employment.
 - ii. Plantation area needs to be expanded.
 - iii. To cater to government's requirements initially i.e. supply of fabrics to government Institutions and to make use of finished products in the state.
- 16 Large & Medium Industries:**
- i. To shift from power-based to agro-based industries to be in line with the national trend.
 - ii. To take immediate steps for modernization of the machineries etc. of Mawmluh Cherra Cements Limited factory.
 - iii. To frame schemes which will run parallel with Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) so that beneficiaries could also be accommodated under State plan and targets can be achieved.
- 17. Mining:**
- i. To streamline and regularize the mining policy in the state.
 - ii. To encourage geological exploration of mineral deposits in the state and to do more investigations on the areas of silimanite.
 - iii. Suggested for a Co-ordination Committee between Mining and Geology, PHE and Central Water Board so that there should be no overlapping of activities.
 - iv. Additional infrastructures are also proposed to be created such as installation of additional check gates and computerization system to help in monitoring the collection of revenue.
- 18. Road & Bridges:**
- i. To take up early implementation of the 4- lane By- pass, Shillong.
 - ii. To clear backlog of Spill over schemes and no new schemes be taken up.
- 19. Tourism:**
- i. Tourist spots should be publicized for information of the tourists.
 - ii. To revive watersports at Umiam lake.

- iii. To expedite implementation of schemes for the development of tourism in the State.
- iv. To take up with PWD for improving the road conditions from Nongstoin to Nongkhnum.

20. Survey & Statistics:

- i. To seek clarification from India Today regarding source of statistics for placing Meghalaya at the lowest rank in various areas of development.
- ii. To put more efforts to bring out publication of Hand Book of Meghalaya regularly so as to facilitate Govt. departments as well as NGOs to assess the progress of the state.
- iii. To strengthen the district offices, computer facilities should be provided. To furnish a brief note on how the “State Domestic Product” is estimated.

21. Weights & Measures:

- i. To be more active and to make surprise checks of the petrol pumps to ensure good services
- ii. To step up awareness programmes to make the consumers aware of the facilities provided by the Government.

22. General Education:

- i. To properly monitor the SSA scheme at the Block/ Sub Divisional/ District level for improvement of Elementary Education in the rural areas.
- ii. The Plan allocation of the Department should be increased by taking into account the requirements of the department
- iii. To improve contingency fund for mid-day meal programmes.
- iv. Transport cost should be reimbursed according to the locations.

23. Sports & Youth Affairs:

- i. Priority should be taken for Construction of Stadium in State headquarter, District headquarters and also in Civil Sub- Division headquarters.
- v. The State Sport Council should execute works to the extent of fund availability only and not beyond it since it creates liability. Funds should be provided for Sports Talent Search Scholarship.
- vi. Training of Coaches and scholarships for talented sportsperson be given due importance.
- vii. Priority should be given for completion of all indoor and outdoor stadiums during the 11th Plan and to indicate annual phasing of

such expenditure by reducing unnecessary expenditure on other schemes.

- viii. To set up a Gymnasium to promote more sports activities in the state.

24. Arts & Culture:

- i. The State Central Library needs to be upgraded with a sitting capacity of 1000 or above.
- ii. Important caves in the state should be declared protected monuments.
- iii. To conduct an archaeological Survey and to prepare a list of ancient monuments for preservation.

25. Medical and Public Health:

- i. To curb the sporadic spread of malaria by effecting preventive measures at the right time.
- ii. To make available Sera and vaccines to the Districts/ Blocks/ Civil Surgeon Health establishments.
- iii. To give extensive training and proper education to ANM workers by inviting resource persons and guest lecturers who are experienced and well qualified.
- iv. All health centres must have adequate staff, water and electric facilities.
- ix. To take up survey work to know the extent of Drugs and AIDS problems in the State, need to step up the Malaria awareness programme.
- x. Conducting of census on a wider scale in the state on the incidence of diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, AIDS etc.
- xi. To start again the Hydrophobia injection as before and to examine the possibility of manufacture of Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine.

26. Public Health Engineering:

- i. To strengthen vigilance in the PHE Department, in the matter of any water sources disputes and theft cases.
- ii. To come up with a strong policy to insist service charge from the public.

27. Housing:

- i. To ensure that certain percentage be kept for the deserving poor people who are left out in the process of identification by the MLAs and that there should be a screening committee in each district.

28. Urban Development:

- i. To have an agency to monitor the generation and distribution of water supply, payment of fees to the PHE from each household be made compulsory.
- ii. To abide by the Municipal Laws, MUDA By laws and Building By laws.
- iii. To identify Govt. and Non- Govt. Buildings which are not fit for habitation and which pose a danger to human lives and to adopt a strategy for action after identification.

29. Programme Implementation Department:

To evaluate important projects which have huge escalation costs. The Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project and Greater Shillong Water Supply Project need to be evaluated.

30. Information and Public Relations:

- i. To introduce computers with internet facilities in all District offices in the State.
- ii. To look into the publicity angle to link with Tourism Department in order to attract tourists to the state.
- iv. To give more publicity to govt. programmes and achievements especially on the 'Year of the Farmer programmes'.

31 Jails:

- i. The amount allotted for Building component of the department should not be surrendered.
- ii. The IGP Prisons should inspect once a year and also to allow NGOs to visit the Jail with special permission. The Boards of visitors for jails should be reconstituted by the department.

29. Labour & Employment:

- i. To include trades relating to production of traditional items to maintain the arts and crafts of the state.

33. Welfare of SCs/ STs and OBCs:

- i. To engage visiting professors from outside the state for better exposure.

General recommendations :

- a. Decentralization of the Planning process by constitution of District Planning Boards instead of District Planning and Development Councils.
- b. Adequate financial powers to the District Heads, in particular to invest in the Joint Directors Garo Hills District such powers that they can function independently except in important Policy matters.
- c. To go ahead with implementation of continuing programmes of a scheme while waiting for approval of Finance/ Planning Department to any new elements in the scheme.
- d. Timely budget sanction including LOA/LOC. To ensure every district head is informed at the beginning of the year about the financial resources available.
- e. Provision of adequate TA/DA and vehicles so that the quality of schemes do not suffer for want of frequent spot inspection.
- f. Provision of proper residential and office accommodation to enhance work culture.