

**MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 15-16, 2009**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Meghalaya State Planning Board at Tura on 15th January, 2009 and at Williamnagar on 16th January, 2009 deliberated on the Draft Annual Plan Proposals for the year 2009-10, which is the third year of the Eleventh Plan period.

The Board noted the presentation on the Draft Annual Plan proposal for 2009-10 as made by Planning Department, and the detailed and comprehensive presentation on the fiscal health of the State as made by the Hon'ble Minister Finance, keeping in view the ground planning realities highlighted by the Hon'ble Chairman, MSPB in his Opening Remarks.

After detailed deliberations, the Board recommends that the draft Annual Plan document be restructured as follows:-

1. The first chapter of the documents should briefly reflect -
 - a) The State's 11th Plan goals and objectives, quantitative and qualitative deliverables such as vital GDP, literacy, health, poverty, gender balance and other social development indices.
 - b) A brief appraisal of the extent to which such goals and objectives, quantitative and qualitative deliverables and other social development indices were achieved during the first two years of the XI Plan period.
 - c) In case of shortfalls in achievements under (b) above, brief reasons for such shortfalls and proposed remedies should be reflected.
 - d) The comprehensive methodology adopted by the Board to formulate the plan proposals for 2009-10 should be indicated, keeping in view all aspects of holistic planning including implications of the current global, national and regional economic scenario.
 - e) Thrust areas for the State Plan with specified deliverables and associated outlays should be reflected.
 - f) The focus upon an all inclusive, participative and de-segregated gender approach inbuilt in the proposed plan strategies to be indicated.

- g) Special focus on the need for rural as well as urban development programmes to be participative, gender de-segregated and sustainable so that the State can take fullest advantage of the benefits which accrue under the 73rd and 74th Amendment of the Constitution.
2. The second chapter of the Plan document should briefly reflect:-
- a) The deliverables and the qualitative and quantitative outcome indicators proposed for the year 2009-10.
 - b) How the inter-sectoral allocations are based on the deliberations of the Board, and the consequential recommendations of the Board's Working Group.
3. Keeping in view the deliberations and the consequential recommendations of the Board's Working Groups made at the Board's Meetings held at Shillong on 03-04 October 2008, the Board feels that the fiscal allocations proposed for the under mentioned focal plan sectors, namely-
- 1. Crop husbandry and Horticulture,
 - 2. Tourism,
 - 3. General Education,
 - 4. Technical Education: Including Gendered Skill development.
 - 5. Health-care
 - 6. Water Supply and Sanitation
 - 7. Industrial Infrastructure Development
 - 8. Programmes for promoting Scientific Mining, and
 - 9. Non-Conventional Sources of Energy

In the Draft Annual Plan proposals for 2009-10 are grossly inadequate and need to be reviewed and substantially stepped up while finalizing and firming-up the aforesaid Annual Plan proposals.

However, the Board noted the statement made by the Commissioner & Secretary, Planning that substantial additional funding for these and other sectors have been proposed under Central Sector, Centrally Sponsored and other Institutionally funded Programmes, but these are not reflected in the Draft Annual Plan document. As such, the plan allocations reflected in the Draft Annual Plan document do not represent the total fiscal allocation which is likely to be available to

any of the aforesaid nine focal and other relevant sectors. The Board, therefore, feels that this position needs to be fully analyzed, reflected in the Draft Annual Plan document and suitably harmonized while reviewing, the need or otherwise to suitably step-up the proposed allocations, as per the recommendation reflected in para 3 above.

4. The Board further noted that while the Draft Annual Plan proposal amounts to Rs.2500 crores, the Hon'ble Finance Minister stated in the course of his presentation on the State's fiscal resources that the comfortable aggregate availability of fiscal resources for the next year's annual plan was around Rs. 948.00 Crores. He added that in the best possible fiscal scenario, it was unlikely that more than Rs.1780.00 crores would be available to fund the said annual plan inclusive of Central Devolutions, Grants and ACA. As such, while it may be strategically in order to keep the proposed annual plan size at the level of Rs.2500.00 crores, it is desirable to carry out an internal exercise projecting alternative Annual Plan scenarios including one at the set likely level of Rs.1780.00 crores.
5. The Board also recommends that a MIS-aided mechanism be put in place to review and monitor the implementation of schemes and to periodically keep the Board apprised of the progress.
6. the Board also recommends that performance under major plan programmes should be periodically audited including gender audit by independent external agencies, to enable timely mid-course corrections of plan implementation strategies, if necessary
7. The Board took note of the high proportion of plan revenue expenditure to capital plan outlay, which has been increasing over the years. The Board recommends that affective steps should be taken to gradually bring down the said proportions, through proper deployment or re-deployment of manpower, cost effective control of maintenance expenses and management of the State's Plan loan portfolios and consequential debt-service burden.
8. The Board also recommends that keeping in view the recommendations of the 96th Session of the National Science Congress held at Shillong from 3rd-7th January, 2009, Additional

Central Assistance should be specifically sought, with full justification, for the setting up of the following:-

- a. The Meghalaya Biodiversity Resource Centre,
- b. The Meghalaya Indigenous Knowledge Commission,
- c. The Meghalaya State Scientific Advisory Council and
- d. Gender Cell

9. The Board further recommends that suitable innovative measures be adopted for adequate additional Resource Mobilization through power generation, optimum harnessing of minerals and other natural resources and holistic tourism programmes under the Public Private Partnership Mode, and appropriate projects for Carbon Trading benefits.

10. The Board also recommends that suitable Capacity Building Programmes be taken up on priority, besides causing suitable legislation for creation of Village Institutions to enable the State to access central funds earmarked for supporting participatory rural development.

11. The Board also recommended that a separate Science Education fund be set up for the propagation of study in Science.

12. The Board also suggested that a Research cell be set up in the Board and this will be headed by Dr Glen C Kharkongor.

13. The Board also suggested that separate committees be set up for detailed discussion on the sectoral plans and programmes and as a first step the following departments need to start:

- Industries and Youth Affairs to be headed by Mr M K Manavalan
- Energy and Environment to be headed by Mr R V Shahi and we also include Dr. S P Banerjee, Director ISM, Dhanbad and Commandant Bhutia
- Tourism to be headed by Mr B K Goswami

The Committees Secretary would be the respective Commissioner and Secretary of the departments.

Chairman
Meghalaya State Planning Board