

**MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD  
HELD ON 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2006 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM (YOJANA  
BHAVAN) WITH DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS ON THE DRAFT APPROACH  
PAPER TO THE ELEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN.**

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**Members and Officials present at Annexure – I.**

At the outset Shri S.C. Marak, Chairman, State Planning Board welcomed the Members and Officers to the meeting. Outlining the purpose of the meeting the Chairman impressed upon Members and Officers to express their views and suggestions freely and to concentrate only on issues relevant to the Approach Paper. He hoped for a constructive and fruitful interaction with the Departments to facilitate the Board's recommendation on the Draft Approach Paper to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan of the State as desired by the State Government.

The Chairman made mention the Address presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Shri J.D. Rymbai during the Regional Consultation on the Draft Approach Paper to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan convened by the Planning Commission in which the Chief Minister has brought forth many special features and suggestions which have an important bearing on implementation of developmental programmes in the State of Meghalaya. The State Planning Board fully supports the issues and suggestions highlighted by the Chief Minister to pave the way for a new vision of growth for the State.

The following Departments are taken up :-

**1.8.2006**

**1. Agriculture/Horticulture** :- The Department briefly presented its approach and strategy for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The thrust areas under Agriculture is to bridge the gap between demand and supply of foodgrain (rice) and under Horticulture to ensure remunerative prices for the producers especially the small and marginal farmers. The Cluster Approach, an innovative scheme of the Department was discussed. The Board supports the innovative concepts of the scheme for achieving the economic growth of the farmer. The Board advises the Department to check on duplication of schemes as some schemes appear to be projected under State Plan, NEC, DONER etc.

The Board recommends the following thrust areas for the Department's Approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. Implementation of scheme in specific clusters such as the impact of the scheme benefits the entire community within the cluster.
2. Establishment of collection centres in and around the clusters and establishment of a cold chain along major arterial highways.
3. Increase the use of Hybrid and High Yielding variety seeds.
4. Multiplication/Patenting of some unique indigenous species like Lakadong Turmeric, Khasi Mandarin, Soh Nairiang, Ginger etc.

5. Capture a viable and stable market for the horticulture/floriculture produce of the state to reach exportable levels within the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.
6. Privatisation of management of the departmental fruit Processing Units.
7. Standardise production techniques for different crops.

(ii) **Irrigation** :- Irrigation being the lifeline of agriculture, its development and meticulous management is the need of the hour. The Board therefore recommends that all steps should be taken to make better use of water resources in the state to increase the production levels during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan with special emphasis on –

- (i) Completion of ongoing scheme expeditiously.
- (ii) Building additional irrigation infrastructure.
- (iii) Participatory Irrigation Management through Water Users Association in each command area

2. **Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development** :- During discussions on the Department's approach and strategy to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Board emphasizes on attaining self sufficiency in production of meat milk and eggs. All support services should be directed towards materialization of this objective.

The Board therefore recommends the following thrust areas for the Department's approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. Upgradation of all four Veterinary Hospitals and creation of 20 new Veterinary Dispensaries.
2. Setting up of 2 Base Piggery Breeding Farms in Garo Hills and Jaintia Hills Districts.
3. To set up Biological Protection Centre for production of Swine Fever Vaccine.
4. To set up a Livestock Development Board to augment livestock and dairy production.
5. To set up Rural Slaughter Houses to ensure good meat for consumption and reduce the need of transportation of live animals to urban areas.
6. To promote rural backyard poultry and piggery farming by a cluster approach.
7. To encourage processing of milk and milk product through cooperative efforts and private entrepreneurs.

3. **Fisheries** :- The Department have not been able to properly exploit and utilize the vast fishery resources in the state considering that fish production is only 5000 MT against the State's requirement of 11,000 MT annually. By adopting modern technology the Department has targetted fish production at 35,000 MT by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. Enquiring on the 1000 ponds scheme it was informed that the scheme has started in Khasi Hills, Jaintia Hills and Ri-Bhoi Districts.

The Board recommends the following thrust areas on the Department's approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To strengthen and restructure the existing organizational set up.
2. Satellite Mapping of water bodies in the state to have an idea of their potentiality for speedy implementation of the 1000 ponds scheme.
3. To intensify the extension service by educating the farmers on modern concept of fish culture.
4. To implement the two innovative schemes –
  - (i) Culture and development of Mahaseer Fisheries and
  - (ii) Culture and breeding of ornamental fish.
  - (iii) To revive the C.S.Scheme of FFDA to augment fish production.

**4. Soil and Water Conservation** :- After a brief discussion on the Department's proposed strategies on the approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Board recommend as follows :-

1. Slopping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) – An integrated project envisaging a convergence of activities like health, irrigation, schools afforestation etc. to improve Jhum cultivation – To take up as a Pilot Project.
2. To take up Jatropha plantation on a large scale through the assistance of NOVOD Board (National Oilseeds and Vegetable oils Development Board).
3. Rain harvesting and water conservation works for improvement the environment of Cherrapunjee and surrounding areas.

**5. Power** :- Discussing on the present power scenario in the state it was learnt that Meghalaya is facing a huge power shortage through out the year which is in the range of 100-110 MW during high hydro season and 150-220 MW during lean season. The peak availability of power from the state projects is around 160-180 MW only against the peak demand of 390 MW.

Regarding Transmission Schemes the existing transmission system in the state is very weak for which the state could not even draw its share from the Central Power Sector. The Central Power Share for the state is 132 MW but the MSEB could draw only 60-70 MW during peak hours due to the weak transmission system.

In view of above the Department proposes the following thrust areas during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To complete on-going projects under Generation and Transmission schemes.
2. To implement 6 new schemes under Generation and 18 new schemes under Transmission Projects, and completion of the Ganol, Umtrew and Umngot Projects at the earliest during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.
3. To maintain the Hydro-Thermal mix-Thermal Projects are required to avoid power shortage during the poor monsoon period.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department. However regarding 30% Equity Share by the Government the Board is of the view that this may affect the allocation of funds for other important Departments especially Agriculture and Allied Sector.

**6. Forestry & Wildlife :-** During discussion it transpire that the activities of the Department has dampened due to decline of State Plan funds from year to year. Fund from Govt. of India is obtained under the Joint Management Scheme. No headway has been made under the Bamboo Sector although the Project was conceived five years back. At present the Department is tapping on bamboo charcoal which can be used in the ferro alloy industry in the State. 4 Nos. charcoal kiln units has been installed.

The thrust areas of the Department for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan are :-

1. Increasing the density of forest in the state as only 158 Km<sup>2</sup> is very dense forest out of 16,893 Km<sup>2</sup> forest cover in the state.
2. Develop the Bamboo Sector by setting up large model plantations of bamboo as well as assist bamboo cultivation as agro-forestry.
3. Strengthen the protection mechanism of reserved forests and other protected forest.
4. Develop the Medicinal Plants Sector. There is great potential for growing medicinal plants due to wild biodiversity available and existence of local traditions and culture of ethnic medicines.

Rejuvenate the Forest Development Corporation of Meghalaya Ltd. and involve it in new forest-based projects like bamboo and medicinal plants sectors.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department.

**7. Education :-** During discussions the Board expresses concern over high drop out rates and percentage of untrained teachers in the state. Enquiring on Mid-Day Meal Programme it was informed that the Department would be able to provide a more decent meal to the children as Govt. of India has agreed to raise the conversion cost to Rs.2.00 per child per day. After discussing the schemes of the Department at length the Board recommended the following proposed thrust areas envisaged for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To achieve 100% enrolment at the Elementary Stage and to provide satisfactory quality education through the various interventions under SSA.
2. To ensure quality training teachers both pre-service and in service to raise the percentage of trained teachers to 95% at the Elementary State.
3. To raise the salary of Primary Teachers from Rs.1000 – Rs. 3000.
4. Improvement of infrastructure.
5. Step up the support to the community for implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Programme.

### **2.8.2006**

**8. PHE :-** During discussions on the thrust areas of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan as envisaged by the Department the Board enquired on the action of the State Pollution Board regarding water pollution. It was informed that the MSPCB is taking up monitoring the water bodies in the state and at present has completed study of the Wah Umkhrah in Shillong. On Protection of Catchment area

it was assured to take up the matter with Forest Department and submit a note to State Planning Board.

The Board recommends the following thrust areas on the Department's approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To complete all spill over water supply schemes within the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.
2. 100% coverage of all rural habitations.
3. To implement the Shillong Sewerage Scheme with JNNURM funding/ADB assistance.
4. To provide sanitation facilities to 50% rural habitations.

**9. Community & Rural Development** :- Reduction of poverty ratio and improvement of social and economic condition of rural poor remains to be a major task of the Department in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The implementation of schemes during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan is in a slow pace as state share is available only at the fag end of the financial year for matching contribution. Due to ways and means position the Department desires that the sharing pattern be changed from 70: 25 to 90:10 ratio.

The Meghalaya Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has started implementing in 2 districts of the State, West Garo Hills and South Garo Hills. On Public and Private partnership different Committees were set up for different programmes as a substitution to the Panchayat Raj System. A special livelihood project is being implemented through the MRDS in all districts of the state.

The Board recommends the proposed approach/strategy submitted by the Department with special attention to (i) provide Rs.1 crore for each MLA under the SWRP scheme and (ii) strengthening of CD normal schemes.

**10. Sericulture & Weaving** :- The Department has vast potential for generating self employment in the rural areas. To boost up the Sericulture and Weaving industry in the State the Board recommends the following thrust areas for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To increase the area of plantation at the farmer's level and organize a cluster approach.
2. Setting up of mini-cocoon markets in 5 district of the state.
3. To integrate with DRDAs and MRDS for financial support for implementation of Rural Development Schemes. Under Handloom Sector (i) Setting up of common showroom for selling of fabrics. (ii) To develop Website to showcase the product. (iii) To set up a mini yarn bank in the State. (iv) To provide self employment for educated unemployed youth for setting up of Handloom Enterprise.

**11. Tourism** :- The Department is making a positive approach regarding proposal to construction 4 cottages in Nongkhnum Island and creation of additional infrastructure and tourist attraction in the Umiam Lake Complex. For works at Umiam tender has been floated by ITDC. In

Garo Hills Destination Tura and development of Chisobibra in Williamnagar are some of the schemes proposed to be taken up.

After a brief discussion the Board endorses the following strategies of the Department in its approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. Highlighting tourism as a vehicle for generating awareness and understanding about the environmental, economic and social dimensions of tourism.
2. Creation of employment avenues-direct employment opportunities for local educated unemployed youths and local entrepreneurs, and indirect economic benefits for local community at large.
3. Creating remunerative sustainable assets with local participation capitalizing on local skills and resources.
4. Upgradation of socio economic status-through development of local entrepreneurship in managing tourism assets.
5. Defining effective management approaches for such partnership-through constituting of a project management committee with the government, specialized agency and community as equal partners to facilitate participatory planning for sustainable rural tourism
6. Enhancing conservation education-to sensitized students as well as general community at large towards the importance of conservation of both natural and cultural assets of the region.

**12. Information Technology :-** In view that Information Technology Industry in the state is in its nascent stage and a comprehensive study is necessary to simultaneously address the various issues involved the Board recommends the following thrust areas for the Department's approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To build up core Information Technology infrastructure in the state viz., State Data Centre (SDC) State Wide Area Network (SWAN) and Common Services Centre (CSC).
2. Promote Meghalaya as a destination for Information Technology investment with focus on creation of jobs through ICT within the State.
3. To keep open options of Public Private Partnership (PPP).
4. Building up of skill sets and capabilities among the youths as well as teaching institutions to create an adequate pool of employee personnel.

**13. Health & Family Welfare :-** During the course of discussions it transpires that the target of the Department is to make people more healthy by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The main problem which the Department is facing is shortage of doctors and specialists to man the CHCs/PHCs. The Department is proposing to appoint more doctors on contract basis to boost the people's confidence by making CHCs/PHCs Referral Units.

The development strategies proposed by the Department for its approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan are

1. Achieve the goals set for various health parameters under NRHM.
2. Strengthen Public health infrastructure.
3. Improve professionalisation of health service delivery.
4. Improve convergence of activities of various sectors of Government.
5. Increase Public Private Partnership.
6. Improve monitoring, accountability and transparency of the system.
7. Popularisation of alternative medicine systems like AYUSH.
8. Ensure access to essential drugs in public health systems.

After a brief discussion on the above strategies the Board recommends the approach of the Department for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. Further the Board recommended (i) Completion of all spill over schemes during the first 2 years of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan before taking up new construction scheme with the exception of Sub-Centres in which new scheme have to be taken up to some extent. (ii) To intensify Malaria Preventive Measures especially in rural areas.

**14. Transport**:- The Department proposes for continuation of the existing schemes during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The schemes of the Department are discussed at length and the Board recommends the following thrust areas for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. An innovative scheme for subsidized school buses to be extended to selected schools per year at 50% of the cost of chassis to ease the traffic problems in Shillong city.
2. To upgrade the process of computerization in order to achieve the optimum connectivity for implementation of smart card in Driving Licence, High security Registration Plate, Issue of Permits etc.
3. Convergences of activities with other Departments for setting up Joint Check Gate at the Entry and Exit Points of the state.
4. Construction of Helipad in Shillong, upgradation of Umroi Airport and upgradation and completion of Baljek Airport.

Commenting on the functioning of the MTC which is still running at a loss the Board stressed upon an all out effort at all levels to make the MTC a self sustained body by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

**15. PWD (Roads & Buildings)** :- The road density in Meghalaya is about 35-95 Kms/100 Sq Km which is very much below the national road density of about 100 Kms/100 Sq.Km. Enquiring on the bank of sanction of road schemes it is informed that anticipating that there will be no sanction of new schemes in the last year of the Plan period the total no of schemes that will spill over to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan is 1507 with a bank of sanction amounting to Rs.638.32 crores.

As such the Board fully endorses the Department's Approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan as follows:-

1. The first priority is to complete all the spilled over schemes costing Rs.638.32 crores.

2. Secondly to take up new roads and bridges projects of economic importance and high traffic intensity.
  - (ii) **Medium Irrigation and Flood Control** :- The Board endorses the approach of the Department for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.
    1. To complete all spill over schemes.
    2. To complete the Rongai Valley Medium Irrigation Project.

The Board further recommended that all spill over schemes under PWD (Buildings) should be completed within the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period.

### **3.8.2006**

**16. Sports & Youth Affairs** :- It appears that due to fund constraints there is lack of standard facilities for sports activity in the state. There are only 16 coaches for 7 disciplines. 3 districts are without coaches. On construction of stadium it was informed that all districts are covered with the exception of Baghmara. The stadiums are in different stages of implementation. Regarding establishment of sports school the idea of tapping talent in the already organized institutions may also be examined.

The Board recommends the following thrust areas for the Department's approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. Completion of all spill over schemes.
2. Development of infrastructure.
3. Strengthening of voluntary organizations.
4. Strengthening of sports activities.
5. Provision of quality coaches for all disciplines.

**17. Social Welfare** :- The emphasis is to bring tranquility, social and economic development of women, children, disabled and juvenile delinquents, old and aged. This requires optimization of available resources with strategic planning through the Department and convergence of approaches with other Departments and NGOs.

The SNP in urban areas operates in 63 centres covering 13200 beneficiaries. It is proposed to cover 1000 beneficiaries during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. In the rural areas the SNP is proposed to cover 3,22,818 beneficiaries for the 39 ICDS Projects. 19 more Anganwadi Centres and 4 urban ICDS Projects 2 in Shillong and 2 in Tura are proposed during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The Board recommends (i) Strengthening of the Village Co-ordination Committee (ii) Infrastructure Development of Anganwadi Centres.

**18. Urban Development** :- The Department apprises the Board of 3 new schemes under Central assistance (90:10 ratio) to improve urban infrastructure and governance and basic services. On the New Shillong Township acquisition of 150 hectares of land is under process in addition to



250 hectares acquired earlier. The Department has engaged consultancy for preparation of Detailed Project Reports for roads, power infrastructure etc. Funds are to be raised from various sources including NLCPR, market borrowings and also from Public Private Partnership in select areas. On annual assessment of property/holdings in Municipal areas, an Annual Assessment Committee has been set up and its report will be completed next year.

The Board recommends the following thrust areas in the Departments Approach.

1. To provide the desired level of civic amenities in the urban areas.
2. To acquire more and more land and enhance action for setting up of the New Shillong Township.
3. To increase fund mobilisation for urban development.
4. Private Sector participation for development management and financing of urban infrastructure.

**19. Border Areas Development** :- After a brief discussion on the strategies of the Department for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Board recommends the following thrust areas.

1. To concentrate on infrastructure development and employment generation activities.
2. Encourage tourism related activities and fruit processing units.
3. To create/develop infrastructure in the Land Custom Stations of Borsora, Dawki and Borsora for international trade with Bangladesh.
4. Resumption of Border Trade with Bangladesh. In view of O-Import, from Bangladesh the Bangladesh Government may not be too keen to resume border trade. Infrastructure in Bangladesh may be taken up by Govt. of India as done in Myanmar.

**20. Industries** – During discussions it transpires that availability of power is a major constraint in setting up of industries. The Department is trying to encourage able Industries to set up Captive Power Plants (Thermal) in Byrnihat and supply it to the neighbouring units. While discussing agro-based industries the Hon'ble Member Shri A.H.Scott Lyngdoh suggested for using indigenous fruits and local available potato for manufacture of vodka and wine to help the farmers. This may be examined by the Department. The Board suggested for doing away with industries which are not operative.

Based upon industrial opportunities and potential available in the state the Board recommends the following thrust areas for promotion and development of industries.

1. Agro-Based Industries with special attention to Food Processing and Sericulture and Weaving activities.
2. Meat Processing Industries.
3. Mineral Based Industries.
4. Cluster Development scheme to help rural population earn sustainable income in their place of living.
5. Promotion of traditional industries.

**21. Mining & Geology :-** Highlighting the schemes of the Department it is informed that the schemes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan will be continued during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan by creating additional infrastructure on man power and sophisticated machineries effective decentralization and resource mobilization.

After a brief discussion the Board recommended the following thrust areas for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To create awareness and educate the people to conduct mining scientifically.
2. Installation of electronic weighbridges in different outlets of the State. Priority to be given to installation of 3 weighbridges at Dainabubi, Garo Hills, Umkiang Jaintia Hills and Byrnihat, Ri-Bhoi.
3. Survey and mapping of various mineral deposits and evaluate potential of minerals within the state by remote sensing technique.
4. To set up mineral based industries in the state and for this to work out a Mining Policy in convergence with Industries Department.

**22. Employment & Training :-** Discussing on the priorities and strategies of the Department during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Board recommended the following thrust areas for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. To gear up all areas of activity not only for students/individuals to secure jobs but to venture into self employment and employ others as well.
2. To introduce more trades in the Vocational Training Centres to cater to the organized sector and also un-organised sector outside NCVT.
3. Development/Creation of Industrial Training Institutes into Centres of Excellence with more autonomy to make the Training Institutes more accountable and feasible.

**23. Arts & Culture :-** The main activities under the Arts & Culture Sector relates to preservation, conservation, promotion and protection of the rich cultural heritage of the people of the State. Emphasis is given to the encouragement of cultural activities through voluntary organizations, research activities, enrich collection of Museum exhibits, collection of documents in Archives, etc. The preservation of cultural activities are also being encouraged through the local MLAs in all the constituencies of the State, and in the field of performing Arts, dance, music and drama specially in traditional forms as well as contemporary activities are also being encouraged.

The thrust areas during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan is to intensify the Department's activities in (i) giving financial assistance towards various programmes such as holding of seminars, dance competitions, songs and drama competitions music, etc. (ii) development of manpower in various branches for smooth functioning and implementation of schemes. The Branches like Institute of Culture, Archaeology, Museum, Libraries and Research wings are needed to be streamlined with adequate manpower.

The Board endorses the thrust areas specified by the Department for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

**24. Printing & Stationery :-** Discussing on the Department's objectives for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan the Board endorses the view of the Department for improving the standard of the Govt. Press to the up-to-date status. Modern technology and costly machineries are required by the Department. The Principal Secretary, Planning Department, Shri J.M. Mauskar advises the Department to examine the possibility of making the Govt. Press an earning centre as the Central Govt. Press in New Delhi.

The Board recommends the following thrust areas for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. Procurement of modern printing machineries for the presses at Shillong and Tura.
2. Construction of additional office Building at Govt. Branch Press, Tura.
3. Training of Officers and staff to upgrade the standard of Printing.

**25. Labour Welfare:-** The thrust of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan as proposed by the Department will be laid on improvement in Industrial relations and promote productivity among workers formulation of appropriate wage policy; focusing the problems of child labour, the contract labour, bonded labour, women labour and other unorganized labour; providing social security cover to the unorganized workers including the landless agricultural labour. Implementation of Labour Welfare Schemes, review of labour laws in tune with the present economic liberalization and creation and strengthening of the enforcement machinery for better implementation of various labour laws.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

#### **4.8.2006**

**26. Information & Public Relations :-** Making information easily accessible to the public particularly at the grassroots level, the Department continues to play a significance role in projecting, promoting and publicizing on various schemes, projects and developmental activities undertaken by different Departments. Disseminating information has assumed greater significance. Lack of manpower and non-availability of office building are the problems faced by the Department.

After a brief discussion the Board recommends the following thrust areas.

1. To organize awareness campaign, workshop etc. especially in the district, bring out booklets CDs etc on Right to Information Act and creation of posts to man Meghalaya Information Commission.
2. To encourage Public Private Participation by outsourcing Mass Media specialists in the production of films etc.
3. Hoardings in prime locations both inside and outside the state to project tourism potentiality of the State.
4. To streamline functioning of fixed loudspeakers System in all the District and Sub-Divisional headquarters in the state

**27. General Housing :-** The thrust is on provision of housing facilities to the Economically Weaker Section and Low Income Group particularly in the rural areas.

The Board enquired on the cluster of houses at Nongmynsong, which the Department stated that out of 100 Nos. only 50 Nos. are still fit for occupation. The Night Shelter constructed in Williamnagar is very useful especially to the poor villagers. It is proposed to take up the scheme for other districts also. The Board recommends continuance of all Housing Schemes during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan with special emphasis on.

1. To help every houseless family to own an affordable shelter.
2. To encourage people to build and improve their own houses by providing assistance.
3. To promote renovation, upgradation of existing houses.
4. Houses to be constructed in a cluster in selected locations. To be allotted to deserving beneficiaries on hire purchase basis.

**28. Weights & Measures** :- The Board recommended on creating awareness among the public/consumers on functions of the Department by interaction with NGOs.

**29. Cooperation** :- Two main components under this sector Managerial Subsidy and Share Capital Contribution. There are a total of 1197 Cooperative Societies in the State out of which 1003 are functional. The Board observed that in Meghalaya some people/community are more enterprising than others. The Department should take initiative to create more awareness in order to have more exposure to the Cooperative movement by all sections of the community.

The Board recommends the following thrust areas for the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. Co-operatives to be oriented as micro business enterprise and nucleus of rural development.
2. Improving managerial skill and bringing professionalism in all aspects of Co-operation.
3. Securing active participation and involvement of SHGs and traditional village institutions.
4. Strengthening and revitalization of Co-operative credit structure.
5. Development and strengthening of marketing network at the grassroots level.
6. Co-operatives be given preference as beneficiary organization in implementation of plans and programmes of other development Departments.

**30. Police Housing** :- In the approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan, emphasis is on achieving at least 80% of the level of Housing satisfaction especially for L/S and U/S quarters and construction of Administrative building in the various districts. The Police Department plays an important role in the society by way of providing safety and security to the citizens of the State thereby improving the social life of the people and paves the way for uninterrupted development to the state. As such it is proposed to provide the important basic needs to its personnel especially in the fields of housing accommodation by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

The Board endorses the Approach of the Department.

(i) **Fire Service** :- Fire fighting and protection measures need all round improvement to reap the fruits of socio-economic development and production and as such, the availability of a professionally equipped and highly trained Fire and Emergency Service is imperative. The thrust areas envisaged by the Department are as follows :-

1. Strengthening of manpower.
2. To procure more modernized equipments and appliances.
3. Purchase of 1(one) No Revolver/Van, 2 Nos Foam Tender etc.
4. To improve accommodation infrastructure. Only 112 personnel have accommodation facilities against the sanctioned strength of 881.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department.

(ii) **Jails** :- The main thrust of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan is to implement new schemes like purchase of vehicles, uniforms security system and also to create posts in various categories in the Inspectorate as well as in the District level. Computerisation is also very essential in order to enable the Department to cope with various correctional programmes. A separate building for the Inspectorate is of utmost importance for the smooth functioning of the official works.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department and laid stress on (i) completion of Phase I & II of the Shillong Jails by the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan (ii) Strengthening of manpower and (iii) Strengthening of Security System in Jails.

**31. Home Guard and Civil Defence** :- The function of the Department is to train youths in areas of minimising damage in time of calamities, give moral support to the people and to assist the police in law and order situations during disturbances. The Department may be seen as a human resources development organization and also as an employment generation organization. The Department informed that the land is available for its District Offices at Jowai, Shillong and Tura but so far construction works cannot be started due to non-availability of funds Additional Central Assistance has been provided for construction of the Home Guard and Civil Defence Complex at Mawdiangdiang, Shillong which is nearing completion.

The Board recommends for provision of funds under State Plan for construction of the District Offices during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan period.

**32. Land Records & Surveys** :- Cadastral Survey has not made any headway in the State with the exception of Garo Hills. Under Government lands in Shillong and Williamnagar the survey is in its final stage of completion. Department to take up digitization and computerization of the documents. 2 departmental officers are sent for training outside the state in the field of satellite mapping, identification and demarcation. Presently the response for cadastral survey is becoming better in West Khasi Hills.

The Board advises the Department to intensify its activities during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan by convergence of activity with other Departments to encourage the people to realize the importance of survey and documentation of their lands.

**33. Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs** :- The Annapurna scheme serves 9263 destitute and old age beneficiaries who are provided with 10 Kg of rice per month. The Antodaya Anna Yojana Scheme provides 35 Kg of rice per month at the subsidized rate of Rs.3 per Kg to 70,200 families.

In addition to the above two schemes the approach of the Department is to continue the following programmes during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

1. Mobile Fair Price Shops.
2. Ensure Protection for consumers in the wake of industrialisation and liberalization of trade barriers.
3. Create Consumer Awareness especially among the consumers in the rural areas.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department.

**34. District Council Affairs** :- Protection of the tribals with respect to their social customs, tradition, rich cultural heritage and protection of their land from exploitation, the State Govt. in consultation with Planning Commission is extending grant-in-aid from time to time for small development programmes in areas like approach roads, footpaths, village markets etc. Grants-in-aid is also given for construction of District Councils administrative and functional buildings. The funds available for the 3(three) Autonomous District Councils is in the ratio of 9:8:3 on area-cum-population basis.

The Board recommends the Department's approach to the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. To continue to support the District Councils to enable to carry their functions as provided in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Board noted the presentation made by the Department on the need of decentralization. Department to submit a note on this.

**35. MATI & PETC** :- Training programme covers a large variety of subjects viz., Computer Awareness and IT, Administrative Reforms, State Financial Management, etc. The benefits are improvement in the quality of governance of Government employees in terms of (a) Upgradation of skills (b) capacity building of officers/staff at different levels. (c) Exposure to new concepts and techniques in Administration. It was informed that a plot has been allotted at Mawdiangdiang and all Administrative and Hostel Buildings to start construction during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan. The thrust area is to complete construction of all buildings by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

**PETC** :- The centre will continue to impart training/coaching to the Civil Services Candidates as long as the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment continues the scheme. There is no need to construct a separate structure for PETC. It will be housed in the MATI Complex.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department to complete construction of MATI Complex by the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.

**36. Survey & Statistics** :- The Board endorses the Department's proposal to take up new scheme viz., District Income Generation and Budget Analysis in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan in addition to continuation of earlier schemes..

**37. Science & Technology** :- During the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan, the activities carried out in the state through various S & T programmes will continue. However, efforts will be made to strengthen and enhance such activities suitably. Efforts for promotion of sustainable utilization of bio-resource in the State will receive a special attention during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan through a specific new programme.

The thrust areas proposed by the Department are –

1. Strengthening and enhancing the process of promotion of the application of appropriate technology to bring about improvement in the quality of life of the people.
2. Continuing the programme for creating science awareness in the State up to the village level with a mission to generate scientific minded citizens in the State to facilitate the process of S & T intervention in the State.
3. To promote intervention of S & T for supplementing the various developmental efforts in the State.
4. To promote the application of S & T for employment generation particularly self-employment generation, enhancement of earning of the people, skill development and development of entrepreneurship in general.

The Board endorses the approach of the Department.

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

Sd/-  
(Dr. Friday Lyngdoh)  
Co-Chairman  
State Planning Board