

Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chairman of the National Development Council

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission

Hon'ble Union Ministers, My colleague Chief Ministers

Respected Members and Senior Officers of the Planning Commission, Senior Officers from various Ministries, Govt. of India

Friends from the Media

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

It is indeed a matter of pride and privilege for me to participate in this 55th National Development Council Meeting which is being attended by luminaries, distinguished dignitaries, intellectuals and policy makers to apprise and present the hopes and aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. To begin with, I would like to offer my sincere thanks on behalf of my entire State to our beloved Prime Minister and Chairman, NDC, Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji in whose leadership, the people of Arunachal Pradesh have reposed great hope and trust. He has a special soft corner for not only Arunachal Pradesh but for the entire North Eastern Region. We also have in our midst, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia Ji who is so well-versed with the strengths and problems of Arunachal Pradesh that I hardly need to repeat them here before him again. The entire Planning Commission has been strongly supporting the development initiatives of my State and this visibly enhanced technical and financial assistance has generated a lot of goodwill amongst the patriotic people of my State for the Central Govt. and the Planning Commission. I am hopeful that under the present development oriented leadership at the Center, this trend will continue in future also.

However, I must mention that this spurt in the growth momentum is a relatively recent phenomenon and my State suffered considerably under the policy of successive governments at the center of not developing electronic connectivity and physical infrastructure along the Border Areas. It is only when the present visionary leadership at the Center, effectively, and rightly so, reversed this policy that our Border Areas started getting the attention due to them. It is very important and necessary to bear this in mind while doing any appraisal of the development activities in the State.

The 55th NDC meeting assumes a lot of significance because of an important agenda item that is a part of the deliberations today - that of the Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the 11th Five Year Plan. We are at a critical juncture of this Plan period where we need to take stock of the direction and extent of our progress and reflect on the future course of action. The MTA report compiled by the Planning Commission is an extremely well-compiled and well-researched document which has brought out certain significant revelations. I am sanguine that at the end of deliberations today, we will be able to come out with a road-map, or atleast agree on the modifications that we need to introduce in our present strategy of achieving our 11th Plan goals.

Now, I would like to share my views on some of the important issues and recommendations slated for discussion in the agenda and also dwell upon some important issues pertaining to my State.

1. Macroeconomic Overview, Sectoral Growth and monitorable indicators - The State GSDP has shown more or less,

a stable growth rate trend from the 9th Plan period onwards. During the 9th and 10th Plan periods, the State had average GSDP growth rates of 6.6% and 6.5% respectively. The State expectation for the 11th Plan period is 6.4%, against which the State recorded growth rates of 6.4% and 5.9% in the first two years. The fall in growth rate in 2008-09 was in lines with the fall in other parts of the country due to the Global Economic crisis. There is normally a time lag for the national growth cycle to replicate in Arunachal Pradesh and hence, the growth rate in 2009-10 is also likely to be in the range of about 6%. However, many of the mega infrastructure development projects (roads, airfield, railways link and hydro-power projects in particular) are likely to reach implementation stage during the last two years of the 11th Plan and I expect a substantial increase in the growth rate during this period. Infact it is quite likely that the State will exceed its expected growth rate during this Plan period.

The per capita income of the State (at current prices) in 2008-09 was Rs. 33,302/- which was slightly lower than the national figure of Rs. 38,084/- However, it has shown a consistent upward trend and the increase from the year 2005-06 onwards is particularly steep.

Against the 11th Plan expectation of growth rate of 2.8% in the Agriculture sector of the State, the first two years of the Plan period have recorded growth rates of 7.3% and 2.4%. The target growth rate for the Plan period is likely to be met. Similarly, in the Services sector, against the expected growth rate of 7.2% for the Plan period, the first two years have recorded impressive growth of 7.5% and 10.1% respectively. The plan period target is likely to be exceeded for this sector as well.

However, the growth in industries sector continues to cause some discomfort. Against the Plan period target of 8.0%, the first two years have recorded growth rates of only 4.3% and 3.0%. The growth rate is likely to pick up significantly during the remaining Plan period as many of the mega infrastructure development projects mature. However, a downward revision in the expected figure cannot be ruled out at this stage.

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of the State in 2008-09 was 32, which was better than the national average of 53. However, there is a wide gap between the IMR in urban and rural areas and bridging this gap is a priority area for the State Govt. Sufficient data is not available for arriving at a reliable value for the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the State.

The Total Fertility rate in Arunachal Pradesh is 3.0 (NHFS - 3, 2005-06 estimates) which has increased from 2.5 in 1998-99. It is also higher than the National Average of 2.7. However, at this point of time, it is not really a cause of concern because of the very low population base of the State.

As per the MoRD estimates (BPL census 2002), 65.82% of the total rural households live Below the Poverty Line in the State, which has risen from the 1997 figure of 54%. However, to get a more accurate picture, we will have to wait for the results of the latest BPL census which is under process. Even the Planning Commission estimates for poverty are based on the NSS survey of 2004-05 and next estimates, i.e. for 2009-10 will be available only from the year 2011 onwards. We expect a significant reduction in poverty ratios but it is difficult to assess at this stage whether

the targeted rate of 2 percentage points reduction per year would be achieved.

For literacy rates and sex ratios, no official figures are available after the 2001 census. However, as the results of the 2010 census will start flowing in, we will have a better data for analysis.

The monitorable indicators on measuring child malnutrition are better than the National averages. The ratios of anemia among women and girls and elementary school drop-out ratios are more or less in line with the national trends.

2. Agriculture and allied Sectors - Arunachal Pradesh has a high proportion of tribal population which lives in relative isolation, sustaining on Shifting cultivation and terrace cultivation. Agriculture is the backbone of the state's economy. My Government continues to promote mechanization of agriculture by providing subsidy for purchase of such machinery. The total production of food crops actually available for consumption came to 72.38% of total food requirement of the state during the year 2008-09. Commercialization of agriculture is the top priority of my government and all-out efforts are being made in this direction

However, agriculture in Arunachal Pradesh is beset with problems of a poor and deteriorating land resource base, small and fragmented land holdings, lack of assured irrigation facilities, lack of appropriate technology and inadequate credit and marketing facilities. The traditional farming is mainly subsistence based and it is today compounded with problems of low yields, increase of population, shrinking jhum cycle and decreasing

productivity of land. Poor extension support to agriculture, lack of technical know-how and R&D facilities are the other constraints being faced by the State.

During the 10th Plan period (2002-07), the Agriculture sector in the State achieved a growth rate of 3.13%, which was better than the National Average of 2.47%. During the first two years of the 11th Plan also, the State has achieved higher growth rates than the National Average - 7.34% in 2007-08 (Nat. Av. - 4.7%) and 2.47% in 2008-09 (Nat. Av. - 1.6%). In 2008-09, the growth rate remained low due to drought like conditions in most of the parts of Arunachal Pradesh. The low growth rate is likely to persist in 2009-10 also because of the severe nation-wide drought. While individually, the State is likely to achieve its target growth rate of 2.8% for the 11th Plan, achieving the National target of 4% seems a difficult, yet not improbable task.

Achieving this growth rate would definitely call for multi-pronged measures like introduction of location specific technology and adequate package of inputs mix. Since agriculture continues to be a significant contributor to the State's income, increasing productivity in agriculture by using modern cultivation techniques, such as double cropping and increased irrigation is a priority. Diversification of agriculture and intensive cultivation with double cropping would be of utmost importance with a view of not only attaining self-sufficiency in food grains, but also increasing employment opportunities and income generation avenues with particular emphasis on development of marketing infrastructure. As the yield levels in major food crops are comparatively low in my State, we will have to embark upon high value commercial

crops. Accelerated agricultural development based on increase in productivity and income will ensure food security in hilly States like ours.

Also, in an underdeveloped state like Arunachal Pradesh there are urgent and competing demands on available resources from various sectors. In order of priority of the State Government, Social Sector, Infrastructure sector (like road transport) and development of Hydro Power etc. take precedence over agriculture and allied activities. As a consequence not enough is left in the pool of resources for allocation to agriculture and allied sector to the tune of 7.20 percent of overall plan expenditure. While the need for substantial expenditure in agriculture and allied sector is appreciated by the State Government, urgent demands of social and infrastructure sectors preclude any scope of earmarking of 7.20% of total plan expenditure for agriculture and allied activities. This is impacting the ability of State Government to access fund under RKVY schemes resulting into lower investment in this crucial sector. This might ultimately develop into vicious circle, which can be broken only if RKVY funding is not linked to the State Government expending not less than 7.20% of plan expenditure in this sector, atleast for the next five years. NDC may take a decision to exempt the State of Arunachal Pradesh from this eligibility criterion in the interest of higher investments in agriculture and allied sector in the State. This would bring in more employment in rural areas and arrest migration to urban areas.

The State is rich in bio-fertilizers and farmers do not use fertilizers traditionally. Use of fertilizer is limited only to a few pockets of the state and its use is also declining. My State is promoting organic farming which requires technical and financial support

from Govt. of India for setting up of bio-fertilizer and compost production centres. The recommendations/ suggestions of MTA such as diversification of high value agriculture and augmentation of farm incomes, and reforming the three 'I' - investments, incentives and institutions as priorities for the remainder of the Eleventh Plan are welcome steps.

I strongly believe that due to the unique natural advantages enjoyed by our State, horticulture and allied activities can be a prime mover of the economic progress. Under the Horticulture Technology Mission, almost 50,000 hectares of area has been brought under horticulture crops and assistance for organic cultivation, honey production and floriculture has been provided to farmers. I have always advocated that Bee-keeping and honey production should be taken up in a mission mode with an ultimate aim of making our State, the largest producer of Honey in the Country. Honey production should not be limited to being merely a subsidy scheme of the Govt. but should mature as a self-sustaining income generating activity for the farmers like it is being done in many foreign countries and states of India like Punjab & Maharashtra.

Despite huge potential, animal husbandry & dairy sector as well as fisheries sector remain underdeveloped. Effective control of animal diseases, scientific management of genetic stock resources and up-gradation, breeding, quality feed and fodder, extension services, enhancement of production, productivity and profitability of livestock enterprises are the specific areas which require immediate intervention and support. Further, the vast potential of pisciculture in my State could be tapped through scientific exploitation of fresh water aquaculture, cold water



aquaculture in mid and high altitude areas, rivers and reservoirs, transfer of technology to the farmers from lab to land and streamlining of marketing networks etc.

3. Industry - The lack of socio-economic development in the state can be directly linked to the weak resource base and vice-versa. In order to break out of this vicious circle, rapid and sustained industrialisation of the State will have to be given high priority as this is the only long term solution for creation of adequate infrastructure to meet the basic requirements for removal of regional industrial imbalance. Industrialisation will not only help to strengthen the resource base of the State by way of enhancing the potential for greater tax and non-tax revenues but will also open up alternative avenues for employment. There is immense scope for agro-based and forest-based industries, electronics, food processing, handlooms and handicrafts, commercial exploitations of mineral resources etc. in Arunachal Pradesh. However, Arunachal Pradesh is lagging behind badly in terms of industrialization.

The State Government has announced the New Industrial Policy 2008 which envisages various incentives to entrepreneurs. While we fully appreciate and support the liberalised industrial policy of the Central Government, it needs to be borne in mind that the North-Eastern States cannot be expected to readily attract meaningful private investment, either domestic or foreign, without Government support. In addition, much greater flow of credit at different rates of interests by banks, financial institutions, industrial promotion institutions and refinancing institutions will be necessary. Further, scope of activities under NEIIPP-2007 requires review and activities like processed tea and Inter District Transport Subsidy

should be brought under the purview of Central Transport Subsidy Scheme. Industrialization in the North Eastern States has to be planned in a different manner after taking into account the local conditions and characteristics.

Several proposals for setting up of Food Processing Industries have been submitted to the Central Govt. and I would request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to ask the concerned Departments to consider these proposals on priority.

4. Education - Arunachal Pradesh started from a very low base in the field of education. The literacy rate in the State is only 54.7%, which is amongst the lowest in the country. There is also a glaring gender gap in literacy rates in the State. The education sector in the State is plagued with problems of poor physical infrastructure, non-availability of trained teachers, inadequate text-books and poor financial condition of the residents. With the implementation of SSA, there has been a noticeable improvement in enrolment and a visible decrease in the dropout rates. Education has been recognized as a priority area in this year's annual plan and the allocation on this sector has increased from 9.40% to 10.15% in this year's budget.

My Govt. has taken steps for the Universalization of Elementary Education with appropriate improvements in infrastructure. The Mid-day Meal (MDM) scheme is being implemented successfully in the State in which 1,20,699 Children upto Primary Level and 60,650 in the Middle Level have benefited. My Govt. is also providing grants-in-aid to 38 different schools being run by NGOs. I am happy to inform you that a student of RK Sarada Mission School, Khonsa has won the first prize in the

National level Science seminar 2009. The Sakshar Bharat Mission has been launched in the State and the proposal for inclusion of five Districts in the first phase has already been sent to the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India. The Govt. is geared up for implementation of Right to Education (RTE) Act in the State.

Under the flagship Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan Scheme, 774 primary schools, 396 upper primary schools, 160 residential schools and 2658 additional classrooms have been built across the State. In addition, keeping in mind the special focus on girl child, 36 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas have been established. This year, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan has been launched on the lines of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan.

I am glad to inform you that to check the problem of teacher absenteeism and providing quality education to children under monitorable parameters, my Govt. has recently brought out a new Education Policy 2010, under which rural stints for primary teachers have been made mandatory. At the same time, the Govt. has taken up projects for construction of teachers' quarters in remote areas, especially for science and maths teachers. We will also set-up Model schools on PPP basis in the current financial year.

In the field of higher education, a National Institute of Technology (NIT) has been sanctioned in the State and will start functioning with the academic year 2010-11. It is a matter of great satisfaction and happiness that young boys and girls of Arunachal will now pass-out with the prestigious engineering degree of an Institute of the repute of NIT. The Central Govt. has also sanctioned the setting up of seven polytechnic institutes in the State. A giant step has been taken by the Department of Higher education in

bridging physical distance by commissioning the EDUSAT project for the State by setting up 50 Satellite Interactive Terminals at various locations of the State. The students of my State can now have access to education material and teaching of a similar quality as is available in metropolitan cities. I am proud to share with you that the University Grants Commission (UGC) has identified JN College, Pasihat as a center of excellence amongst the 149 colleges identified by it all over the country.

5. Health - Health care is one of the prime attention areas of my Govt. and we are giving utmost priority to it. In spite of problems of accessibility of remote areas as well as constraints of resources, efforts are being made by my Govt. on improving health status of people in rural and urban areas. Under National program for Control of Blindness, 1,172 cataract operations have been done till December 2009 and 14,235 school children have been screened for vision related tests. Intensive Pulse Polio immunization campaign in the State has been conducted and 3,38,910 doses have been given to children below the age of five years. Till December 2009, 3,744 pregnant women have benefited under the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), creation of infrastructure at primary, secondary and District levels is being taken up. However, availability of para-medical staff and doctors continues to be the biggest problem and of the 550 sub-centers in the State, 290 do not have any medical staff. There is an absolute lack of specialist doctors even in the District Hospitals other than the State capital, as a result of which the poor patients have to go to places like Chennai, Vellore and New Delhi for specialized treatment. Unfortunately, the State has not produced many doctors

and doctors from outside the State are not willing to join at the salaries provided under NRHM. To address such teething problems, my Govt. has recently come out with a new Health Policy 2010 on the lines of the new Education Policy.

It is therefore my submission that for special category States like Arunachal Pradesh, there should be a substantial increase in the salary structure for specialists under NRHM so that doctors from outside the State willingly join our institutions. At the same time, I have been trying hard for getting a medical college sanctioned for the State, but we have not yet received any formal approval. Even once the medical college is operational, the first batch of specialist students from my state would pass-out only after about seven years and during this period, we would urge the Central Govt. for our hand-holding.

6. Social Welfare - The focus of the developmental planning of my State is on the welfare of the socially and economically disadvantaged groups and weaker sections of the society, namely, persons with disabilities, juvenile delinquents, destitutes and women and children. More than one-third of the total Plan Size of the State (34.4%) is ear-marked for Social Sector and Social Welfare components. The State Government has extended preventive-cum-curative-cum-rehabilitative services to meet the special needs of these vulnerable groups as mandated in the Constitution of India. The State Government has constituted a Women Commission in the State to initiate the process of empowerment of women in socio-economic and political arena.

However, there are glaring disparities in the urban and rural nutritional status in the State. Because of resource constraints,

various programmes and activities under ICDS projects have been jeopardized. Due to the twin problems of accessibility and lack of infrastructure, the full intended benefits of Anganwadi Centres and Special Nutrition Programme are yet to reach the targeted groups in the remote and far-flung areas of the State. The major hurdle in the effective implementation of ICDS is State's inability to provide the 10% matching share. Further, due to resource crunch we are not in a position to provide basic infrastructure under ICDS projects. Under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for social security, infrastructure, education and economic development, Govt. of India has identified 7 (Seven) districts of the State as minority concentration districts based on the population and socio-economic and basic amenities parameters of 2001 Census. The State Government has decided to implement the Multi Sectoral Development Programme in these Districts and has already constituted a State Level Committee and District Level Committees.

7. Employment generation - Due to the absence of a vibrant industrial sector in the State, the problem of unemployment amongst the youth in organized sectors has reached disturbing proportions. This problem is a harbinger of multiple and much more serious problems like social tension, youth unrest and drug addiction etc. Rural based employment generation activities like rubber cultivation , organic farming , production of honey through beekeeping, floriculture and bamboo related activities along with tourism are capable of generating maximum employment opportunities in Arunachal Pradesh. The thrust of self employment and skill development programmes should be a process oriented approach involving micro finance and micro credit flow. I would

like to suggest that promotion of small scale sector should be given adequate stress for generation of employment opportunities in case of Arunachal Pradesh.

My government has taken several steps to boost the employment opportunities, particularly in the rural areas. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has now been extended to all the Districts and during the last year, 32,735 households in the state were provided employment under the scheme. Under the flagship Govt. of India - Pradhan Mantri Employment Guarantee Program, the State was able to achieve 100% target with a result that additional targets from other States of the country were diverted to Arunachal Pradesh. 886 youth are being trained at present at different craft centers across the State. A Skill Development Center has already been established and the proposal for setting up of Entrepreneur Training Institute has been approved. Further, the daily minimum wage rate has been increased from Rs. 55 to Rs. 80 this year.

8. Rural Development - Under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), 17,165 new housing units were constructed and 73,339 units upgraded for BPL families during the last three years. A total amount of Rs. 100.64 crores has been released under this scheme over the last three years.

All the Districts of the State have been brought under the coverage of MGNREGA scheme and during 2009-10, Rs. 6366.44 lakhs were released which generated an employment of 31.2 lakhs mandays in the State. A total of 1,70,200 rural households will be provided guaranteed 100 days employment under this scheme each financial year.

Under the Hariyali (Integrated Watershed Management Program), 135 projects, covering 4,29,471 hectares have been taken up and an amount of Rs. 250.44 crores has been released over the last three years.

1905 Bharat Nirmaan Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendras will be constructed (@ 1 per Gram Panchayat) at a total cost of Rs. 190.50 crores over the next four years. All BPL families, consisting of a minimum of five members will be given medical insurance at a cost of Rs. 4.00 crores annually.

However, there are several constraints which are plaguing the successful implementation of these programmes, primary amongst which are the State's inability to provide the matching share, non-coverage and non-cooperation of banking sector, absence of forward and backward linkages and organized rural markets and inaccessibility of interior border areas. The Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Arunachal Pradesh need to be intensified, modelling them appropriately for the requirements in the State. Special dispensation of the Central Government is urgently needed in waiving off the population criteria while allocating funds for development keeping in view the difficult terrain, remoteness and low density of population. Arunachal Pradesh is a mountainous State and habitations are widely dispersed. Therefore, norms and parameters of development of most of the schemes are not fully applicable to this State. Unit costs of delivery of services are also very high. The guidelines of the various schemes should be framed keeping such regional variations in mind.

The suggestions put forward in the MTA as regards capacity



building for MGNREGA, use of IT for wage payment, social audits of MGNREGA, proposed partnership with UIDAI and banking sector, restructuring of SGSY as the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), transparency and social audit and adoption of habited development approach under IAY are welcome and are endorsed in totality.

9. Road Connectivity - In Arunachal Pradesh, lack of road connectivity is the single biggest constraint for undertaking developmental activities such as development of hydropower, tourism, marketing of agriculture and horticulture produces, extraction of mineral and forest resources etc and opening up of commercially productive areas will largely depend on road connectivity to such economically potential areas . The magnitude of the problem can well be judged from the fact that as against the national road density of 73.00 km per 100 sq km, Arunachal Pradesh has only 22 km per 100 Sq km, which is probably the lowest in the country. Even in comparison to the North Eastern Region, the State is at the bottom of the ladder. We have a vast area including 22 administrative centres still to be connected by road. The development activities in those administrative areas cannot be taken up at a desired pace due to transportation of various development inputs including building materials and essential commodities. Ironically, the State's small size of population and sparse pattern of habitations are proving a big constraint in availing funding under various road construction programmes.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) a road length of 2650 km has been constructed with an expenditure of 842.29 crore since inception i.e. 2000-01 which has provided

connectivity to 405 habitations. During last three years (2007-2010) a road length of 1208 km has been constructed benefiting 114 habitations with an expenditure of Rs. 540 crores. So far, 54 habitations have been connected under Bharat Nirman program. A road length of 1081 km is under construction to provide connectivity to 325 habitations. Under PM's package road construction work to provide connectivity to 160 habitations in border areas located on international border is in progress. A total of 513 habitations are to be connected under PM's package. Total road length of 2000 km is proposed to be constructed under PMGSY in the next three years to provide connectivity to about 150 habitations in remote, far flung and border areas. As per the master plan a total road-length of 10,976 km is proposed to be constructed in next ten years to provide connectivity to remaining 1874 habitations in the state for which the funds should be provided by the Govt. of India on a regular basis.

The Prime Minister's visit to the State on 31st Jan. 2008 provided a major boost to the roads sector in the State through his announcements for a Trans-Arunachal highway, 4-lane connectivity to Itanagar and two lane connectivity to District headquarters. I once again place on record my sincere thanks to our Hon'ble Prime Minister for addressing this urgent need of the State Govt.

10. IT, Science and Technology and Telecommunications - The resulting benefits from electronic Governance (e-Governance) towards making the Govt. more accessible and flexible and responsive for improving public access to wide range of government services, providing anytime access, reducing cost of delivery of government services, improving the quality of

government services, and increasing efficiency etc. can hardly be over-emphasised. With the development road-map of traditional sectors already in place, the State has also started taking its first steps in the field of Information and Technology. Single-window facilitation centers - JANSUVIDHA are being set up across all the DC offices of the State. The implementation of State Wide Area Network (SWAN) and Citizen Service Centers at 200 locations is likely to be completed within this financial year. A State Center for excellence in IT has been established and the State has become amongst the first in the country to upload the progress of various development schemes on its website. Two districts of the State telecast the poll proceedings from various polling stations live over the internet which was appreciated by the Election Commission of India and it has asked other States also to adopt the same technology.

The telecommunication and electronic facilities in the North Eastern Region are far behind the national levels in terms of both coverage and performance. The telecommunication links both within the State and to the rest of the country and the world are fragile and prone to frequent disruptions either due to poor maintenance of equipment or due to satellite and microwave link failures. Even mobile telephony, which can serve as an important link in bridging the physical distances in a geographically large but tough State like Arunachal Pradesh, has not developed to desired standards and the performance of the existing networks continues to be poor.

The reluctance of private telecom operators to expand their networks in North-East may be attributable to the fact that sparsely distributed population of the State may not offer them consolidated

profit making nodes. Therefore, I on behalf of all the North-Eastern States would request our Hon'ble Pradhan Mantri ji to ask the BSNL authorities to qualitatively and quantitatively improve the telecommunication networks in the State.

11. Urban Development - In the last few years, there has been rapid urbanization in Arunachal Pradesh. Accelerated growth of urban population in the state during the recent past has brought alongwith, a greater demand for housing and other civic services like transport, water supply and sanitation, electricity, education, public health and communications. The problem of large exodus of rural population to administrative centers and urban areas and catering for their gainful employment are causes of concern. The smaller towns are facing inadequacies of financial and other resources to cope up with increase in demands on services. The existing institutional arrangements are not in a position to cater to present demand. Migration of rural poor to urban areas has a destabilizing effect on urbanization and arresting such trends requires enhancement of income generation and employment opportunities in rural areas through both the farm and non-farm sectors.

The effective implementation of JNNURM scheme, an excellent initiative of the Govt. of India requires substantial State's matching share, which the State is unable to provide due to resource constraints. Therefore, there is a need to review the programme and there should be some flexibility and relaxation in funding pattern. We solicit that Govt. of India may agree to provide 100% funding under this initiative to the North-Eastern States.

The Department of Urban Development and Housing has

taken up several important schemes like Valmiki Ambedkar Malin Basti Yojana (VAMBAY) under which the Department has constructed 1293 dwelling units in eleven towns of the State. The Govt. of India has sanctioned 2 (two) projects - municipal solid waste management for Capital Complex and Construction of shelter for urban poor/safai karamcharis at Pasighat and Naharlagun. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has enacted 2 (two) Acts viz AP Municipal Election Act' 2009 and AP Municipality Disclosure Act' 2009 to pave way for setting up of Municipal Councils and Corporations in the State. At the same time, the Draft Master Plan for Itanagar Capital region has been completed by the Town Planning Department.

12. Power - The Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has visualized development of Power as the key sector, which would provide catalytic effect in development of other sectors. This sector will be the future engine of growth for the State's economy. Once the total hydro-power potential of the State (to the extent of 56,000 MW) is realized, the State will cater to more than half of the country's power requirements. The development of this sector has now been taken up in a streamlined manner. Whereas from the year 1971-2006, we added only 1 MW of power capacity per year, in the last three years itself, we have added about 35 MW. The State Government has already prepared its Visionary Plan to develop Arunachal Pradesh into a Power Rich State by the end of 2022. The Visionary Plan includes development of Hydropower, development of Trans-Arunachal State Grid, Transmission System for evacuation of Power from Mega Hydro-Power Projects and Automated Distribution System etc. The State Govt has also notified the Hydro Power Policy on Private Participation in

Hydropower Generation. On realization of envisaged vision, the whole of Assam and the neighbouring States will have a new corridor of Power from Arunachal power projects.

The State Govt. has also visualized the need for development of High Capacity Evacuation Systems with the involvement of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL). There is a plan for construction of 4 or 5 Pooling Stations from which the power shall be evacuated and transmitted to the National Grid through multiple circuits of Double Circuit Bi-Pole Transmission Systems. The State is also gearing up its capacity building for planning, integrating and developing of tie lines between the Generating Stations and the Pooling Stations in collaboration with the hydropower developers. The proposed Trans-Arunachal Grid would also be inter-connected with the Pooling Stations to link the State Grid with the National Grid. So far 274 Villages have been electrified under RGGVY and 1258 BPL households provided with free service connections. The total sanctioned amount under RGGVY is Rs. 825.55 crore and thus the grant component which is supposed to be raised as loan from REC is Rs. 92.56 Crore. The nation-wide problem of T&D losses also plagues Arunachal Pradesh. We have an ultimate objective of transforming the entire distribution system into a High Voltage Distribution System with 100% Automated Meter Reading with application of Information Technology and State-of-Art Intelligent Smart Meters for bringing down the AT&C loss below 15% from the present high AT&C loss of about 60%.

13. Water Resources - Till date, the Department of Water resources has created an irrigation potential of 1.88 lakh hectares which is inclusive of ground-water potential. Flood Control

schemes amounting to Rs. 68.29 crores are under implementation under various Flood Management Programmes. Under the Bharat Nirmaan Program, the Department is contemplating to create additional potential of about 30 thousand hectares.

However, as the scope for major and medium irrigation projects is limited, development of minor irrigation is the only viable option. Technological innovations to efficiently harness minor irrigation potential and to develop sound systems of water distribution at the farm level need to be introduced. My State is not in a position to accrue tangible benefits from Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) because only small-localized irrigation projects can be taken up. The potential created by such small projects has not been utilized effectively due to inadequate follow up through Command Area Development activities. Command Area Development works also need to be taken up in a big way to bridge the huge gap of about 60% between creation and utilization of irrigation potential in the State. There is a need to bring the Command Area Development programme at par with the funding pattern of AIBP so as to make it a more effective instrument for ensuring transformation to irrigated agriculture and optimizing water efficiency. I would like to suggest that the funding pattern of CADWM programme may be enhanced at par with that of AIBP i.e., from 50:50 Centre-State Share basis to 90:10 Centre-State share basis in order to bridge the gap between potential creation and potential utilization.

Because of the adverse effects of Global warming and its subsequent impact on water resources, the surface water is depleting and hence a Central Package for Ground Water exploration and re-charging programme is required for Arunachal

Pradesh. As regards people's participation in renovation and maintenance of MIPs and MICs it has become imperative to implement the programme of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) in an effective manner. With a view to gainfully utilize the created potential, it is also necessary to take up repairs, renovation and rejuvenation of completed projects affected by landslides due to geological fragility. In addition to field channels, field drains etc. land leveling and shaping should be included as one of the component in CADWM activities.

14. Environment and Forests - Arunachal Pradesh has 81.92% of the total geographical area of 83,743 Sq km under Forests and it falls in one of the richest zones of biodiversity of the world. The State is considered as one of the 12 mega bio-diversity "Hot Spots" in the world. The socio-economic life of the tribal population of the State centres around the forests. The thrust areas of the State Government in the forestry sector include strengthening of forest organizations, monitoring & evaluation, forest protection, creation of information database and need-based human resource development, protection, conservation, management and development of forests, wildlife and biodiversity in the notified areas, bio-diversity conservation through protected area network to strengthen existing infrastructure for socio-economic development of the area, involvement of communities in forest sector development programmes etc. While dwelling on forestry sector, let me place my deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of India on record for enhancing the award of 13th Finance Commission substantially in the forestry sector.

Chairman Sir, our long-felt demand of setting up of National Institute of Bio-diversity Studies, which was announced by the



Prime Minister long ago, has not yet materialized. There has been no follow-up action from the Government of India to set up the institute. The State shares a long (1863 km) international border with China, Myanmar and Bhutan and almost same length of inter-state boundary with states of Assam and Nagaland. The thin population density and vast porous borders with poor connectivity on the Arunachal side of the border renders the areas highly vulnerable for illicit removal of forest produce. With a very large area to protect with limited staff, there is a need for augmenting the existing frontline staff to enhance protection capacity in terms of mobility and communication and equipping them with sophisticated weapons as are being used by the poachers. A strong need is felt to establish a dedicated Forest Protection force to augment the existing protection measures in the state especially in vulnerable and problematic areas.

Environmental protection calls for development to be secured in harmony with ecological imperatives as also the restoration of already degraded environment. The recommended policies highlighted in the MTA document as regards capacity building in forestry sector, intensification of Forest Management Schemes, integration of tourism infrastructure and wildlife tourism, strengthening of State Pollution Board etc. are laudable and fully supported by us.

During 2009-10 the department proposes to re-generate almost 7,095 hectares of forests under various schemes. For reclaiming of the abandoned jhum lands and degraded forests, the State Government is promoting the unique Apna Van plantation Scheme on Community land by providing subsidy @ Rs. 1200/- per hectare. Under the National Bamboo Mission, the Bamboo

Mission Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Environment and Forests through Forest Development Agencies over forests lands and by Block Development Agencies over Non-forests land through Horticulture and Panchayati Raj Department. Measures are being taken by my government for improvement of Forest Rest Houses and Inspection Bungalows of the State and I am happy to share with you that a project for this is under the active consideration of NEC.

15. Unique ID - Arunachal Pradesh has already executed the MoU for the implementation of the project with the Unique ID Authority of India and because of the low and stable population base, shall strive to be amongst the first States in the country to successfully implement this important project.

16. Tourism - Arunachal Pradesh, a veritable treasure house of nature, with its picturesque hills, lush-green valleys and mighty rivers, simple, hospitable and friendly people and salubrious climate should ideally be the tourist capital of the country and a preferred international tourist destination. Although the domestic tourist arrivals have grown by over 400% (from 40,000 to almost 2 lakhs in the last five years and the foreign tourist inflow has grown by more than 12 times over the same period, the absolute numbers are still relatively low compared to what the State should be attracting.

It is my Government's endeavour to promote tourism without disturbing the ecological and cultural balance of the State. My State has numerous attractions for tourists seeking natural and adventure tourism. Last year, our Tourism Department received the best State award for development of tourism

infrastructure from Ministry of Tourism, GOI. While our designs of Tourist resorts must continue to be rooted in tradition, the construction and lay-out has to be state-of-the art and in accordance with the latest trends prevailing at International Levels. We must also focus on building modern convention centers with professional consultancy.

Identifying the employment generation potential of this sector, tourism has been identified as a thrust area for the Annual Plan 2010-11. The focus would be on upgrading the existing facilities such as tourist lodges, forest guest houses etc and promotion of rural, religious and cultural tourism on the one hand and eco and adventure tourism projects on the other. A project for online issuance of ILPs (Inner Line Permits) is also under implementation. The Govt. of India has been liberally supporting these efforts of my Tourism Department and I am sanguine that we will continue to receive such support in future also.

17. Law and Order - A series of recent brutal attacks on the Central Reserve Police Force and the State Police by the Naxalite cadres in Chhatisgarh has raised many questions and concerns about internal security of the country. Peace is a pre-requisite for development, and since my State lies in a region which is under the active grip of insurgency movements since even before the violent Naxalite movement raised its ugly head, I share the pains and difficulties of the people and security forces in the States affected by red terror and express my solidarity with them.

My Govt. has always given highest priority to the maintenance of Law and Order in the State. 62 cadres of various UG organizations surrendered in Tirap District in the last one year,

which is perhaps the highest ever in any single District of the country. The Govt. is actively considering the adoption of a Surrender Policy for the State which will inspire even more misguided boys and girls to give up the cult of the gun and join the mainstream. Two (2) District Jails and seven (7) judicial lock-ups have been newly created under Directorate of Prisons. The District Jail at Itanagar has started functioning w.e.f. 3rd Nov. 2009. Infact, Arunachal Pradesh has been an oasis of peace in the entire strife-torn and troubled North-Eastern region of the country.

However, the security scenario in the two eastern Districts of Tirap and Changlang is quite delicate due to the presence of insurgency in these two Districts are from outside the State - mainly Manipur, Nagaland and Myanmar. In addition, cadres of banned organisation of Assam are making their presence felt in the foothills of the Districts of West Kameng, Papumpare, Lohit, East Siang and Lower Dibang Valley through sporadic incidents. On most occasions, the Army authorities have been taking a stand that these are law and order issues and hence should be dealt locally by the State Government. However, it is my considered submission that the scale of the problem is actually much more complex and large than an ordinary law and order issue and hence, we require strong support from the Central Govt. and the Indian Army in particular to rid the State of this menace for once and for all.

A related problem which has been causing a lot of concern in the State recently is the increase in the number of illegal Chakma and Hajong immigrants, who have infiltrated the State in large numbers and joined the original Chakma-Hajong settlers in the areas where they were originally settled as refugees by the Central Govt. by providing them tracts of land. As a result of the increased

numbers, they have started spilling outwards from their demarcated areas, thus encroaching further reserved forest areas and coming in conflict with the local tribal communities (indigenous people) over land related issues. In the last three to four months, there have been series of clashes between the local populace and the Chakma-Hajong refugees and this issue has been raised at various forums by Student organizations, human rights groups and civil society organizations. Whereas we would want the original settlers to stay and enjoy the fruits of development which they are so genuinely entitled to, we certainly resent any attempts at any increase in the original numbers through illegal immigration. In this context, I would request the Central Govt. to form a committee whose mandate should be to recognize the original refugee settlers and also re-demarcate the original area beyond which the settlements should not spread.

I am thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Planning Commission of India for providing tremendous and unflinching support to the development efforts of my Govt. over the last few years. When on 31st Jan. 2008, the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced in Itanagar that Arunachal Pradesh, Our Land of Rising Sun, will rise from the East... , he struck an instant bond of solidarity with his Arunachali brothers and sisters and series of announcements that he made for various mega infrastructure projects that day launched Arunachal Pradesh onto an unprecedented phase in its development trajectory. The progress on most of the infrastructure development projects like construction of New Secretariat Building and Legislative Assembly Building and connectivity oriented projects like the Trans Arunachal Highway, railway line to Itanagar, 4-lane highway to Itanagar, up-gradation of Advanced Landing Grounds etc. has since been

satisfactory. Under the Border Village Illumination Programme, we have so far electrified 1185 Border villages of the State. Projects of such magnitude are being implemented for the first time in the State and it is my proud privilege to be a part of this golden phase of developmental history of the State, under the able guidance of our ever-helpful Prime Minister.

On our part, we recognize and appreciate the fact that we now need to stand up to the faith reposed in us by the Central Govt. and deliver, and deliver effectively in all these projects and initiatives. My Govt. has initiated several reform measures and strengthened the monitoring mechanisms on ground for improving delivery mechanisms.

Under the guidance of the Planning Commission, Arunachal Pradesh has become the first State in the North-East to make 3rd Party monitoring mandatory and with the successful results of PM Package monitoring, has extended the scope to BADP and SPA projects also. The State Level Monitoring Committee for PM package has till date held 11 review meetings in the State Capital. District and Sub-division level monitoring committees have been formed and the progress of works is being uploaded regularly on the Department websites. A monitoring software for NLCPR schemes has been developed recently which can be used by other States of North-East and the Ministry of DoNER as well.

Almost 13,000 posts have been transferred from Plan to Non-Plan head which has helped us utilize the savings on the salary of this staff on Plan Developmental Schemes. The State Govt. has imposed a general ban on creation of non-plan posts, and even contingency posts are being allowed only with the prior

approval of the Planning and Finance Departments. Posts which are lying vacant for more than one year are being abolished, and at the time of each recruitment against Group C and D posts, 50% of the posts are being abolished. Severe restrictions have been imposed on Non-Plan expenditure of non-developmental nature.

The year 2009-10 was a financially difficult year for Arunachal Pradesh in which the State faced two Elections and also implemented the recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission for all its employees, with arrears. These together led to an additional burden of Rs. 1500 crores on the State exchequer. In spite of the additional burden of the 6th Pay Commission implications and other serious financial constraints, the State Govt's budgetary borrowings have been under control and we have been consistently honouring the borrowing limits imposed by FRBM Act. Within the budgetary borrowings also, we have increased the share of negotiated loan which is used for Plan Activities rather than market loan which generally goes to serve non-plan expenditure.

The State Govt. has set up a committee for Additional Resource Mobilization which will look into issues such as Property Tax, Registration Fee, Increased Land Revenue payments, imposition of civic charges, improving compliance of payment of electricity and water supply bills etc. The committee has held several meetings and will soon submit its recommendations, the implementation of which is likely to bring significantly enhanced revenues to the State Govt. A separate project monitoring and implementation unit has been set up under the Planning Department to periodically monitor and review the progress of

developmental schemes.

Due to the reform measures adopted as highlighted above and strict financial discipline observed by the State, the Plan size for 2010-11 has risen to Rs. 2,500 crores, which is a more than threefold increase over the Annual Plan Size three years ago. I am happy to inform you that for the first time in the last five years, the State had a positive projection of its own resources. The State's own resources component increased from negative Rs. 365 crores last year to positive Rs. 42.00 crores this year. The percentage expenditure figures against the outlay of the Annual Plan 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been more than 99% and 95% respectively. All the Departments have recorded impressive financial achievements.

Chairman Sir, with your kind permission, I would now like to highlight certain State specific issues for your kind and personal consideration.

This juncture is an appropriate time to introspect inwards and have a re-look on some of our administrative procedures and policies which, though unintentionally, delay many of our decisions beyond repair. The MTA document, on Pg 324 (15.63 - Emerging New Challenges) has so rightly brought out the fact that issues like forest clearance, environmental clearance, procedural bottlenecks and issues regarding relief and rehabilitation cause a delay of anywhere between 3 to 5 years in hydro-power projects, even before the project has actually started. We need to remind our Departments that they are each others' enablers and not competitors. For a frontier State like Arunachal Pradesh, in addition to the above, we also have to take defence clearances for projects



in forward areas. It is my strong appeal to this august house that a single-window system for providing all necessary legal and other technical clearances be set-up for hydro-power projects in Arunachal Pradesh. Such a single-window committee should have a mandate of time-bound issuance of all clearances under one roof.

We also have to be more flexible in our approach and move out of the mindset of delaying implementation of critical projects on mere technicalities. An instance in this regard is the holding up of release of funds for the Itanagar Water Supply Project - an important project of the historic PM Package for Arunachal Pradesh for almost one and a half years now by the Ministry of Urban Development on the grounds of non-constitution of municipal bodies in the State (Urban Reforms). My State Govt. has already given its written commitment of holding the Municipal elections within the next six months and hence there is no reason to hold up funding as this would ultimately translate into escalated project costs and the demand for water once again exceeding the supply by the time the project is commissioned.

Another instance in this regard is the Itanagar Greenfield Airport - a project of immense emotional and sentimental value for the Arunachalis since the State is one of the only two in the country which do not yet have an airport of their own. This prestigious project of the PM package has also been delayed for more than two years now - first due to PIB observations on the project costing and environmental clearance and now due to non-identification of a funding agency or source which could fund the balance 10% cost for the project. I humbly submit that such projects should not be guided by cost-benefit analysis and should be

supported more liberally by the Central Govt. It is all the more important because the announcement for the project was made by none other than the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India himself.

The progress of work on several stretches of roads being constructed or upgraded by Border Roads Organization (BRO), including some of strategic national importance like the Tezpur-Tawang highway is quite tardy and not of the desired quality standards. This needs to be addressed on priority.

While my State shares the developmental concerns and priorities of the rest of the nation, some of its requirements are unique because of its strategic location, distinctive socio-cultural mosaic, limited availability of resources and very low baselines of development. If I were to prioritize the responsibilities and areas of concern of the State Government, then effective Border Management and inclusive development of the Power sector in the State would probably emerge as the top two priority areas. It is therefore imperative that the Central Govt. supports the efforts of my Govt. in these areas through technical and financial assistance.

Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are the only States in the country which share international border with three countries. The location of Arunachal Pradesh is all the more strategic because of the irrational claims of our Eastern neighbour - China, over our territory. We have an almost 1100 km long mountainous and snow-clad border with China, an over 520 km treacherous, porous and infiltration prone border with Myanmar and an almost 150 km long border with Bhutan, which is gradually becoming sensitive from security point of view. This makes the task of border

management in the State, a particularly arduous one. While the State Govt., Administrative units at the Border, successive District Administrations, army and paramilitary units and the patriotic citizens of my State deserve due credit for carrying out this onerous responsibility with efficiency, sincerity and dedication since decades, a lot still needs to be done to augment our present International Border Management capacities.

The strategy on this front has to be two-pronged - Infrastructure upgradation for the residents in the border areas and strengthening of security apparatus (both personnel and infrastructure) along the actual boundary. I have earlier highlighted the baseless claims of China over the territory of Arunachal Pradesh. China has also been consistently objecting to India's attempts at raising Asian Development Bank or World Bank Loans for Arunachal Pradesh specific projects. Even in March this year, there were media reports of Indian Govt. representatives stating that Arunachal Pradesh projects would not be projected for World Bank funding. This deprives my State of valuable resources through which we could have undertaken several critical projects.

The people of my State are fiercely patriotic and yield to none in their love for the motherland. They, especially, the younger generation, are curiously watching these developments on the international front. Their aspirations and spirits will certainly be dampened if it becomes the stated position of the Centre that Arunachal's specific projects will not be projected for financing from International Financial Institutions merely because China erroneously claims the State to be a part of its territory.

The entire terrain along the International Border is

treacherous and is marked with high hills, deep gorges and dense forests. Large portions of tract close to the Border are un-inhabited and it is only the presence of a few isolated habitations and small villages of Arunachalis which establishes the territorial dominance of our nation over these areas at the ground-level. Many of these habitations require multiple days of foot-march. It has therefore been the consistent policy of my Govt. to provide basic administrative and civic services to the residents of these habitations at their door-step so that they do not migrate to better developed areas, leaving these strategic centers un-populated. In such areas of national concern therefore, the Central Govt. should also not apply the typical formulae of economic cost-benefit analysis before sanctioning infrastructure development projects.

One way in which my Govt. has been ensuring our nation's administrative presence in Border Areas is by setting up of Circle Offices in remote locations in clusters of villages along the International Border, and by posting Circle Officers (akin to Tehsildars) in these locations. However, there are 22 such strategically located Administrative Centres in the State which are not yet connected by Roads. You would agree with me that road connectivity is a basic pre-requisite for development, and the ability to provide better services to these habitations would increase manifold if the Circle Head-quarters are connected by all-weather roads. Connecting these Centres to the nearest road-heads would require construction of about 1134.00 km of roads, at a total cost of Rs. 2835.00 crores. I have already submitted this proposal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and would today urge this august Council to strongly recommend our project 'Connecting 22 unconnected Administrative Centres along the International Border' for funding in a phased manner over a period of three

years. It is to mention here that when funding from International Financial Platforms like the ADB and the World Bank for projects in Arunachal Pradesh was objected by our neighbour China, the Union Government assured us of compensatory funding from domestic sources. I would therefore urge earmarking of additional funds to the requested extent for taking up this project.

Alongwith physical connectivity, access to clean drinking water has to be ensured as a bare minimum requirement for sustaining populations in Border areas. As I have stated earlier, most of the International Border in Arunachal Pradesh is either thickly forested or lies along a very high altitude. There is thus no option of tapping groundwater locally, and whatever natural streams exist, are not perennial in nature. Round-the-year provision of piped drinking water supply facility to atleast one point in the habitation will therefore require specific projects to be undertaken by the State Govt. During his speech in Itanagar on 31st Jan. 2008 the Hon'ble Prime Minister had committed, I quote - 'We will surely provide the required funds for providing drinking water facilities in remote villages and settlements of Arunachal Pradesh' Unquote. We have accordingly identified 1087 habitations covering a population of 1,21,380 in the Border Blocks of the State which should be taken up on an accelerated basis under this project. I earnestly request that the project amount of Rs. 383.56 crores may be sanctioned to the State over a two year period to execute this important project.

I need hardly overstate the importance of a secure International Border in the North-Eastern Sector of the Country. It is no coincidence that the only two Districts of Arunachal Pradesh which are insurgency affected are the ones which share a long

border with Myanmar. Because of the porous nature of the Border and the rugged terrain, the insurgents find a safe haven by simply crossing over when pursued by our security forces. The insurgency movement in Arunachal Pradesh is not a home-grown movement, but a spill over from its neighbours. It is better to stop infiltration across the border rather than fight the terrorists on our own soil. As of today, the 500 km or so long border with Myanmar is being guarded by only three battalions of Assam Rifles which is grossly inadequate. It is my request that atleast five additional battalions of Assam Rifles should be deployed immediately along this Border. Further, the Central Govt. now also seriously needs to think and take steps on sealing this border through boundary fencing on the lines of Pakistan and Bangladesh Border. On this front, we are already much delayed and I would urge the Chairman to immediately take up this project as we can ill-afford any further delay.

We share a friendly border with Bhutan but the activities of some UG organizations from neighbouring State Assam in some Districts of Arunachal Pradesh which share the border with Bhutan has been becoming a growing cause of concern of late. The existing deployment of SSB along this border therefore needs to be strengthened by inducting more Battalions.

Porter Tracks, Log Bridges and Foot Suspension Bridges in hilly terrains provide a very valuable communication support to our valiant and brave troops during their patrolling sorties to forward areas along the International Border. Many locations would become inaccessible, or would require multiple days of foot-march if this physical connectivity link breaks down. Maintenance of the existing tracks and bridges and construction of new ones is also

important to maintain the supply lines to the forward posts of our defence forces. My Govt. has received numerable references from army and para-military forces for proper upkeep, maintenance and renovation of these important links. We have done a detailed exercise and ascertained about 17,000 km of existing porter tracks needs to be renovated and an additional 8,000 km of track needs to be constructed. Additionally, 542 Foot Suspension Bridges require urgent repair and renovation and an additional 320 need to be constructed as per the requirements of the security forces. My State Govt. has worked out the cost requirement to be Rs. 352.00 crores and over the last two years, we have tried to tap every possible source for securing this funding. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to do so till date. Facilitating communication links in extremely difficult areas is the least we can do for our jawaans and I would urge this Council to strongly support and recommend this project of national importance for funding to either the Planning Commission or an appropriate authority.

Alongwith Border Management, the second priority area for my Government is development of the Power Sector. Arunachal Pradesh, with its estimated hydro-power potential of more than 56,000 MW will be the next power-house of the country. Till date, my Govt. has allotted about 40,700 MW of this potential for development to various Public Sector Undertakings and Independent Power Producers. By 2022-23, when this entire potential is realized, the annual inflow of revenue streams from proceeds from sale of Power by the State Govt. are expected to be to the tune of Rs. 5,500 crores which is more than double the size of Annual Plan of the State for 2010-11. In the next ten years therefore, Arunachal Pradesh is likely to have the highest per capita income in the country.

It is imperative that as this potential starts getting realized, we have adequate Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure in place. During the 12th Plan period, the Power Department has estimated a load growth of upto 1000 MW within the State, majority of which would be due to increased internal requirements as well as the increased demand during setting up of the mega hydro-power projects. By the second year of the 12th Plan, an additional capacity of almost 2700 MW is likely to be realized and unless we have a robust and efficient distribution system, it would not be possible to handle capacity additions of such magnitudes. I am glad to note that the urgency of such a system has also been recognised by the Mid-Term Appraisal Report in Chapter 15 (15.72).

This can only be made possible by setting up a 132 KV Trans Arunachal Grid, covering all the Districts of the State. Such a grid will help balance the power shortages and excesses in different parts of the State and will provide a corridor for extraction and transmission of power to the neighbouring States, and in particular, Assam. High voltage transmission will not only help reduce transmission losses but also provide a backbone for the RGGVY and the Rural Electrification Schemes of the Govt. of India. The State Govt has approached various agencies like the Ministry of DoNER, PMO, Planning Commission for financial assistance for setting up this grid. Some isolated sections of this grid have been considered but a large section still needs to be sanctioned to make it functional. The total project cost is about Rs. 1,275 crores and as we have only a three year window, the construction of this grid needs to commence without any further



delay. It is my sincere request to the Central Govt. and the Planning Commission that this request may be considered on high priority.

The food security among people living in remote and scattered habitations along the international border in my State is dependent mostly on effective functioning of PDS. The Public Distribution System therefore, has always remained as one of the priority areas of my Government. In our continued efforts in streamlining of the PDS, a separate regional office of FCI for Arunachal Pradesh was established at Naharlagun with couple of depots in the State. In spite of the fact that My State Government is ready to provide land and manpower support to FCI for establishment of depots in all the 16 districts of the State, the foodgrains under PDS still continue to be transported to consumers in the State from FCI depots in Assam and a considerable amount of money is still required to be spent from our resources on Carriage Charges of PDS items. The annual requirement of fund for transportation of food grains is assessed at Rs. 200 Crores. There already is huge backlog of payments to be made on carriage charges of PDS items since 2005. In the light of these facts, my Government will be happy if FCI itself arranges for transportation of the foodgrains to the consumers in the State or else funds to the tune of Rs. 200 Crores per annum may be provided to the State Government for transportation of the foodgrains. I request the Hon'ble Pradhan Mantriji to have a considered view on this issue and provide much required succour to the resource deficient State of Arunachal Pradesh.

Chairman Sir, once again, with your kind permission, I would like to draw attention of this august house to a point which assumes lot of significance for remote, landlocked, mountainous and

sparsely populated State of Arunachal Pradesh. I would request that to appreciate the implementation difficulties on ground for several of the Govt. of India programmes and schemes, senior officers from various Ministries should actually visit the various States (especially difficult States like Arunachal Pradesh) before framing Scheme guidelines. I shall be happy if the Govt. of India starts framing State-specific guidelines keeping in view the ground realities and target to be achieved for various schemes. In any case, population should not be the defining criterion and the difficult terrain and the geographical area of the State should be given due weightage.

Today, the NDC meeting will provide us a platform for assessing our progress on various development fronts and evolving policy guidelines for the future. I am sure that the deliberations on the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 11th 5-year plan here today will kindle some thoughts, ignite some sparks and leave us in a mood of introspection on what further action needs to be taken on the road to sustainable and inclusive development. The outcomes of the appraisal shall help us in fine-tuning our policies and administrative systems for ensuring better and more efficient outputs. I shall be glad if the proceedings of the meeting are documented early and shared with various State Governments, Civil Society representatives, planners and industry leaders so that meaningful follow-up action can be initiated in time. I am positive that our Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Union Govt. will continue to have special focus and a special place in his heart for the North Eastern region of India in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular and strengthen our hands in all our developmental efforts.

With these words, I once again thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, all members and everybody associated with the Mid-Term Appraisal of the 11th 5-year Plan for organizing this meeting, and wish all the participants well, and the deliberations, a grand success.

Jai Arunachal. Jai Hind.