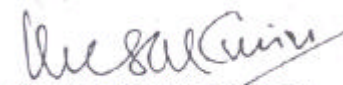




## INTRODUCTION

1. The Assam Development Report, prepared by the Union Planning Commission and Government of Assam with the assistance of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, is one of the seminal State Development Reports being prepared by the Planning Commission, thanks to the initiative taken by our Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Shri K. C. Pant.
2. We have initiated under his direction and in coordination with the States concerned, preparation of State Development Reports (SDR) for thirteen States so far. Over the Tenth Plan period, this exercise will be expanded to include most of the States in the country. The salient aim of these Reports is to provide a quality reference document on the development profile and strategies for accelerating the growth rate of the States. These SDRs are to act as major inputs in Development.
3. This exercise is particularly relevant in the case of Assam, since in the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000, when the all India rate of growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was around 6.68%, the growth of the State Domestic Product (SDP) of Assam was only 2.49%. In the Tenth Plan we are aiming to achieve a national growth target of 8% per annum, and this would require achieving a growth rate of over 6 per cent per annum even in less developed States like Assam. The Assam Development Report hopes to catalyse policy action towards the desired growth strategy that will enable Assam to achieve the growth rates of over 6% per annum, that are now being targeted for the State for the Tenth Plan and beyond.
4. Assam is a very important border State and a developed Assam will be a great asset to the Nation as a whole. I trust that the report will also be a useful working document, which will impart value for development practitioners interested in the State. I commend this report to the people of Assam, and look forward to it setting out a road map for accelerated growth and intensified poverty reduction for the State in the future.
5. I would like to place on record my deep sense of appreciation of the significant work of Prof. Kirit Parikh, Chairman, IGIDR, Mumbai and Dr. Rajan S. Katoch, IAS, Adviser (SP-NE) of the Planning Commission in addition to officers of the Assam Government.

New Delhi Date  
20.08.2002

  
(K. Venkatasubramanian)