

Mr Speaker Sir,

I rise to present the Budget for the year 2016-17.

National Scenario

2. The global economy witnessed a decline in the growth rate from 3.4% in 2014 to 3.1% in 2015. This had a negative impact on the financial markets as well as global trade. Even in these trying and uncertain circumstances, India's growth story has largely remained positive and the country has maintained a steady pace of economic growth in 2015-16 as it did in 2014-15.
3. As per the latest Economic Survey, India registered a robust growth of 7.6 % in 2015-16. It is expected that the economy will grow by more than 7% during 2016-17, and is further projected to grow at 8% in the next couple of years. The combined average Inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index, has shown a steady decline in the last three years, thus providing relief to the public. For 2016-17, the fiscal deficit target is pegged at 3.5% of GDP.

State Finances

4. Sir, as I present the budget, the challenges faced by the State are the revenue shortfall, due to the rippling effect of the restrictions imposed on mining of minerals and reduced transfer than what was projected in the share of central taxes.
5. The State was able to keep its fiscal deficit within the comfortable limits of 2 to 3% of GSDP during the years 2009 to 2014. However, during 2014-15, on account of the NGT ban on coal mining in the State, the revised fiscal deficit increased to 3.89%, which was slightly higher than the target of 3%. The debt-GSDP ratio for the same period was at 26.55%, which shows significant improvement over the target of 31.70% set by the 13th Finance Commission in

its fiscal road map for the State. During 2015-16, the debt-GSDP ratio was projected at 27.05% and the fiscal deficit at 2.8 % of the GSDP.

6. As per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and based on the fiscal assessment of the expected performance of the economy during the award period, the State is entitled to share in Central taxes of ₹ 4,291 crore. However, based on its current assessment, the Govt. of India has determined the entitlement at ₹ 3,668.82 crore only for 2016-17. This would mean a reduction of ₹ 622.18 crore.
7. As I mentioned in my last Budget speech that, in order to sustain the growth momentum, we will continue with our strategy of balancing the investment in development sectors without disregarding our commitment to administrative expenditure. The Government, therefore, is committed to make adequate budgetary provision in 2016-17 to defray additional expenditure on account of creation of SF-10 to tackle law and order, the need to provide necessary infrastructure to the four newly created Districts and for new District Courts on account of separation of the judiciary from the executive, amongst other things.

Tax and Non Tax Revenue

8. In 2015-16 the State's own tax revenue was estimated at ₹ 1,035 crore, and State's own non tax revenue at ₹ 312 crore. For 2016-17, the State's own tax revenue is estimated at ₹ 1,269 crore, and State's own non tax revenue at ₹ 466 crore. The total revenue from State's own tax and non tax sources for 2015-16 was estimated at ₹ 1,347 crore and for 2016-17 it is projected at ₹ 1,735 crore.
9. The Government has taken necessary measures to generate additional revenue by way of increasing the rates of taxes under the Meghalaya Value

Added Tax Act on cigarettes etc., High Speed Diesel (HSD) and other internal combustion oil but excluding petrol. This measure is expected to generate additional revenue of about ₹ 18 crore in the current financial year.

10. With the implementation of the Meghalaya Clinker Cess Act, 2015, the Government has collected an amount of ₹ 63.72 lakh till February, 2016 as cess levied and collected from sale of clinker at the rate of ₹ 20 per metric tonne.
11. The Government is gearing up for implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), as and when it is introduced. The concerns of the State Government, with respect to implementation of GST, have been appropriately articulated to the Government of India, through the platform of the Empowered Committee. Trainings and workshops are being conducted for smooth transition to GST in future.

Planning

12. Our developmental initiatives in the preceding years have generated a better growth momentum and developmental outcomes. Besides creating durable assets in infrastructural sector, the Government has been able to make appropriate interventions to address the critical gaps in social sector. The humble but innovative initiatives in social sector such as “Human Capital Development Program”, the “Residential Schools in the Rural Areas”, “Scholarships for the Teachers Training Program” and “Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme” amongst others are creating visibility of our endeavour. The various State Livelihood Missions being implemented are opening up opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship and generating new hopes amongst the poor and most vulnerable groups. The Government’s investment priorities for development will be designed to further leverage upon the gains emerging out of earlier initiatives.

13. Comprehensive mechanism for effective and expeditious implementation of projects and promoting convergence in the implementation of programs for ensuring optimum outcome of all initiatives will remain as centerpiece of our developmental agenda.
14. Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Program (IBDLP) will continue to act as a catalyst in promoting convergence both at the formulation and implementation of various developmental programs with the core thrust on building institutional partnership, partnership with stakeholders, promoting entrepreneurship, facilitating complete value chain and thus creating an eco-system for inclusive growth and sustainable development.
15. The recently launched externally aided project viz; The Megha: Livelihood and Access to Markets Project (Megha: LAMP) is an outcome of institutional partnership which focuses on market access development to help the farmers fetch more remunerative price for their produce and development of Integrated Village Cooperative Societies.
16. While adopting a balanced and holistic investment strategy to further accelerate the growth momentum, we will upscale our investment to promote sustainable livelihood options and employment opportunities for the poor, the other most vulnerable groups and the youth in Agriculture and allied sector including Tourism. Our investment on infrastructure for multimode connectivity, 24x7 power and on social sector for quality education, quality healthcare, sports and culture will receive priority.
17. We are conscious of our responsibility towards climate change issues and therefore will embark upon innovative action plan to ensure that the developmental projects will be both resilient to climate change effects and work towards climate change mitigation.

18. An enabling framework for responsive, effective and accountable governance is required to realize the desired outcome of developmental initiatives. The creation of four new districts has enabled the Government not only in effective delivery of various developmental programmes but also in proper monitoring of programme implementation at the field level.
19. In order to further fulfill the aspirations of the people and keeping our promises to the people, four new Civil Sub-divisions will be created at (1) Mawshynrut in West Khasi Hills, (2) Pynursla in East Khasi Hills, (3) Chokpot in South Garo Hills, and (4) Raksamgre in West Garo Hills, while two new Administrative Units, at Ranikor in South West Khasi Hills and Rongjeng in East Garo Hills will be established.
20. Bringing down inequality is crucial to our objective of ending poverty and building society capable of coping with the unforeseen challenges of natural calamities and other crisis. We need to build strong and resilient society which is able to recover from crisis. We need to therefore reach the unreached for achieving equitable growth and development. The existing C&RD Blocks will be reorganized and four more new C&RD Blocks will be created. Myllem C&RD Block would be reorganized to create one more Block at Mawlai, East Khasi Hills District; Umsning C&RD Block would be reorganized to create one more Block at Bhoirymbong, Ri-bhoi District; Sellsella C&RD Block and Betasing C&RD Block would be reorganized to create two more C&RD Blocks at Dendema, West Garo Hills District and Rerapara, South West Garo Hills District.

Law and Order

21. The Government remains committed to ensure the safety and security of our people. While a number of initiatives have been taken to strengthen

the Police, the Government will continue to provide all the necessary support to the State Police with a view to achieving self reliance in tackling the menace of insurgency and any other law and order situation, for the benefit of the people and the State as a whole. The Special Force - 10 Commandos, who have completed their basic training, would be inducted for Counter Insurgency Operations after their specialized training.

22. As a continuous measure of the Government in strengthening the Internal Security apparatus to deal with the ever challenging law and order situation by extending the reach of the Police services to the remote places of the State and instill sense of security amongst people across the State, fifteen new Police Stations at (1) Diengpasoh in East Khasi Hills, (2) Umsohlait in Ri-Bhoi, (3) Nonghyllam in South West Khasi Hills, (4) Mawshynrut in West Khasi Hills, (5) Lumshnong in East Jaintia Hills, (6) Nartiang in West Jaintia Hills, (7) Damal Asim in West Garo Hills, (8) Hallidayganj in West Garo Hills, (9) Salmanpara in South West Garo Hills, (10) Damalgre in South West Garo Hills, (11) Gasuapara in South Garo Hills, (12) Siju in South Garo Hills, (13) Silkigre in South Garo Hills, (14) Sangkhinigre in South Garo Hills, and (15) Chiading in East Garo Hills will be established in 2016-2017.
23. Three existing Police Outposts, viz; Mawngap Outpost in East Khasi Hills, Jengjal Outpost in West Garo Hills and Kharkutta Outpost in North Garo Hills will be upgraded to Police Station.
24. Under the 'Safe and Secure City' Project, the Government has initiated various programmes, commencing with 'Visiting My Police Station' in Shillong, to remove the apprehension of young people and bring about better understanding of the functioning of a Police Station. This programme will be

- replicated in other parts of the State, too. This project will also assist in tackling crimes, managing traffic and dealing with law and order situations.
25. Modern traffic management systems and practices are being adopted to improve traffic management. The Government had added three more Traffic Branches in Shillong for better control and management of traffic in the city. Further measures will be taken to strengthen the traffic management systems across the State.
 26. As part of our efforts towards creation of a robust security environment for our men in uniform and their families, the Integrated Police Welfare Complex is being set up at Baghmara, for which the Ministry of DoNER has recently released an amount of ₹ 4.62 crore as first installment. The Government will take appropriate steps to further improve police housing facilities and other welfare activities.
 27. We are confident that our comprehensive developmental initiatives will strengthen our endeavour for lasting peace, generate sustained growth and prosperity and help citizens achieve comprehensive wellbeing.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 28.30 crore is proposed for the year 2016-17.

Judiciary

28. The Government has made sincere efforts to effect separation of Judiciary from the Executive as mandated by the Constitution of India. So far, the Government has been able to complete this process in six Districts and four Sub-Divisions. The Government will continue to support development of infrastructure for the newly set up District Courts.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 14 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

District Council Affairs

29. The Government will continue to support the three Autonomous District Councils in all fields of developmental works to enable them to strengthen their administration and discharge their assigned responsibilities in order to meet the needs and aspirations of the indigenous tribals as envisaged under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 100 crore is proposed for the year 2016-17.

Power

30. Meghalaya is one of the few States, which has signed the “24 X 7 – Power For All” State Specific Document with the Ministry of Power. With adequate rainfall during 2014-15, the State Power Utility was able to provide uninterrupted power supply without having to resort to scheduled load shedding and this favourable dispensation has been continuing till date. The State Government has been implementing a number of schemes for improving generation, transmission and distribution of power in the State. Works for survey and investigation of new hydro-electric projects and preparation of detailed project reports are in good progress.
31. In order to achieve 100% village and rural household electrification, an amount of ₹ 100.14 crore has been sanctioned initially to electrify 463 villages and 16,997 BPL households through the grid and an amount of ₹ 9.91 crore has been earmarked to electrify 77 villages and 1,541 rural households through stand-alone solar PV systems under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY). Sanction of ₹ 8.28 crore for the electrification of 29 villages through stand-alone solar PV systems has also been issued recently. Letters of Intent are being issued to the successful bidders and the works are likely to start soon. Further, proposal for electrification of

364 villages through grid connectivity has been submitted for approval and sanction by the Ministry of Power.

32. System improvement works have been proposed under the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) to strengthen the sub-transmission and distribution systems, including metering of distribution transformers, feeders and consumers, in urban and semi-urban areas. Rooftop solar projects and IT enablement of the distribution sector are also included in the scheme. The scheme will improve the performance of the distribution sector through the application of new technology. Sanction of the Ministry of Power to the proposal is awaited.
33. The Government is focusing on the Off-Grid and Solar Thermal Applications under the New and Renewable Energy Programme. 315 Kw SPV Power Plant of various capacities are under installation in various Government buildings and rooftops and a 10 Kw Wind-Solar Hybrid System at Tura Government College has been taken up during 2015-16. Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, 362 Solar LED Street Lighting Systems have been installed in 18 villages in the State.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 158.70 crore is proposed in 2016-17.

Roads and Bridges

34. Road infrastructure development plays a vital role in the economic growth of the State. The Government, therefore, has given high priority to the development of roads and bridges in the State.
35. During 2015-16, under State Plan, 22 kms of new roads, 63 kms of Kutcha roads and 180 running metres of RCC bridges have been constructed at an expenditure of ₹ 38 crore.

36. Under the Central Road Fund Scheme for improvement of State Highways & Major District Roads in the State an amount of ₹ 155.44 crore has been sanctioned.
37. Eight schemes sanctioned by the Ministry of DONER are expected to be completed by 2015-16.
38. PMGSY is a centrally sponsored scheme which aims at providing all weather road connectivity to unconnected, eligible habitations with population size of over 250. Total investment in the sector since the commencement of the scheme has been of the order of ₹ 411.51 crore. 218 eligible habitations have been connected till date, with completed road length of 687 Kms. For the year 2016-17, 60 numbers of habitations are targeted to be connected, covering a road length of about 300 Kms.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 471.80 crore is proposed for road sector in 2016-17.

Transport

39. Road transport plays a very vital role in the development of the State, especially in a hilly State such as ours. The Government will, therefore continue to encourage a healthy growth of road transport both in the public and private sectors. Efforts to explore and develop other modes of transport are also being pursued.
40. To improve public transport in the rural areas, the Government has implemented the 'Public Transport System for Rural Areas' scheme, under which buses are provided by the Government and the services are operated through the local service providers identified by the District Level Committees headed by the Deputy Commissioners. An amount of ₹ 29.74 crore has been

generated as revenue upto December, 2015 from this sector.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 34.35 crore is proposed for Road Transport and other Transport Services in 2016-17.

Education

41. Education is the corner stone for economic, social and cultural development of a State. An appropriate education system cultivates knowledge, better skills, positive values and attitudes among the people. It is the endeavour of the Government to build up educational institutions with potentiality for excellence and also take initiatives for development of soft skills of the youth through exposure trips, trainings and capacity building. Science and mathematics streams are also an important area of focus. The Government has sanctioned an amount of ₹ 3 crore for scholarship to Basic Science students and guidelines for the same are being formulated. During 2015-16, an amount of ₹ 90 lakh has been earmarked for funding of educational and excursion tours for students of Government Colleges. The Government is also continuing its efforts in setting up residential schools in the State.
42. Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) which provides strategic funding to eligible higher educational institutions. Under this scheme, the State has got the approval for setting up of technical colleges in Shillong and Tura and also for improvement of the approved NAAC accredited colleges in the State. An additional allocation of ₹ 10 crore has been provided for construction of engineering colleges in Ampati and Jowai during 2015-16. We are also in the process of creation of posts for teaching and non-teaching staff in engineering colleges in Ampati and Jowai and Capt. Williamson A. Sangma Technical University at Tura.

43. SSA, RMSA and Mid Day Meal Programme would continue to be supported in the State with the overall objectives of ensuring higher enrollment and arresting the dropout rates. All the interventions under these programmes are being implemented and we hope to achieve significant reduction in the dropout rates. To ensure inclusive education, the State is supporting, from its own resources, the Inclusive Education Volunteers to help students who are differently-abled.
44. Under the project “Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya”, work has already been initiated on upgrading the infrastructure of 117 Government aided private secondary and higher secondary schools of Meghalaya to improve the overall learning and teaching environment, improve access for the physically challenged and meet the seismic safety standards.
45. To ensure quality learning at the elementary stage, the Government has started the Diploma in Elementary Education Course in all the DIETs with full scholarship to all registered students. In addition, a two year Diploma in Elementary Education Course through Open Distance Learning Mode, has been offered through the National Institute of Open Schooling for the untrained teachers of Government and Government aided SSA elementary schools.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 677 crore is proposed for Education in 2016-17.

Sports and Youth Affairs

46. One of the objectives of the Government is to promote sports and games and to empower the youth. With this end in view, Government will continue to extend financial assistance for the creation and up-gradation of sports

infrastructure, besides revamping the already available infrastructure such as indoor sports stadia and playgrounds etc.

47. The Government is also facilitating participation of aspiring sports persons to compete at the regional and national championships, through the District Sports Promotion Societies (DSPS), which has been launched specifically to facilitate easier access to funds for accelerating sports promotion at the grass roots level.
48. With a view to tap the youths' passion for football, an initiative started as the Chief Minister's Football Tournament will now be vigorously promoted under Mission Football. The Government endeavours to encourage and groom young talent to compete in a competitive league format with an overall aim "To Play and Prosper". Leveraging on the people's enthusiasm for football, the Government will facilitate holding of national level tournaments in the State. This will also promote Sports Tourism.
49. To enable the youths to take up professional careers, and also to equip them for various competitive examinations, coaching classes for entry into professional courses are being organized.
50. Youth Exchange Programmes at both State and national levels are regularly held, wherein selected youths are periodically sent for exposure in both national and International exchange programmes.
51. Proactive steps are taken to incentivize sports achievers by felicitating sports persons who have excelled and brought laurels to the State.
52. The Government played a major role in organizing and hosting the 12th South Asian Games from 6th to 16th February, 2016 in 8 sports disciplines, wherein 8 South Asian countries including host India, competed. Unprecedented success of this international sports extravaganza in terms of crowd support and visible improvement in sports infrastructure is bound to inspire a whole

new generation of sports lovers, besides raising the confidence levels of the State to successfully organize such mega sporting events in the future.

53. With a view to celebrate the 50th year of Statehood, in a befitting manner, the State is also gearing up to actively bid for hosting the 2022 National Games.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 40.90 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Health and Family Welfare

54. The National Health Mission (NHM) strengthens and supports health care system in rural and urban areas through the Reproductive-Maternal-Neonatal-Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A), and Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases in order to achieve universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to peoples' needs.
55. The key features to achieve the goals of the National Health Mission (NHM) include making the public health delivery system functional and accountable to the community, human resource management, community involvement, decentralization, rigorous monitoring and evaluation against standards, convergence of health and related programmes from village level upwards, innovations and flexible financing and also interventions for improving the health indicators.
56. The Phase II of the Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS II) has been designed in convergence mode with the Centre's existing health insurance scheme – Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY). While RSBY provides ₹ 30,000 cover to only the BPL families, MHIS II provides an enhanced coverage of upto ₹ 2 lakh to all the families of the State, excluding State and Central Government employees. Under the scheme, beneficiaries are entitled to a comprehensive spectrum of health services including super speciality

treatment, advance diagnostics, comprehensive out-patient services to pregnant women and children and long term consultation and treatment services for life style diseases such as diabetes and heart diseases subject to certain limits.

57. The Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong was given the Best District Hospital award for excellence in cleanliness, safety and service delivery by the Government of India. The award carries an amount of ₹ 50 lakh and a citation. The District Maternity & Child Hospital, Tura was also awarded the second prize for excellence in service. The award carries an amount of ₹ 3 lakh.
58. Setting up of Medical College in a PPP mode at the site of Reid Provincial Chest Hospital, Shillong and shifting of the T.B. hospital to the new site at New Shillong Township is being expedited.
59. The construction of the Government Medical College at Tura will be started once the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is approved by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
60. The successful PPP model of taking over of the management of some of the health facilities located in the most difficult and hard to reach areas has been up-scaled to the Integrated Health Care Project. It proposes to further expand the operation and management of CHCs and PHCs by inviting more private health service providers and NGOs. The project will follow a Composite Hub and Spoke Model, whereby interested parties would take up a CHC and also all or some of the PHCs attached to it.
61. The State Government, through technological innovation of Public Health Foundation of India, will introduce low cost and rapid diagnostic services in remote rural areas. I have earmarked ₹ 10 crore for the same. This initiative is

expected to bring affordable and diagnostic healthcare within the reach of the poor.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 470 crore is proposed in 2016-17.

Social Welfare

62. Financial assistance to voluntary organizations will continue to train women folk with an aim to uplift and improve their living standards and to strengthen children support services. Government Observation Homes, separately for boys and girls, have been inaugurated in Mawdiang-diang. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) has been re-structured into a Mission Mode with 41 Project Centres and 5,864 Anganwadi Centres. Further, 500 Anganwadi centres will be provided with new buildings including crèches for children of working mothers. In addition, to further improve health and nutritional status of women and children below 6 years, pregnant and nursing mothers and adolescent girls, supplementary nutrition programme will continue with a new scheme namely 'Early Childhood Care & Education' (ECCE).
63. The 'Chief Minister's Social Assistance to the Infirm, Widows and Disabled Persons' scheme will continue in view of good response and acceptance by the stakeholders. The beneficiaries covered during 2015-16 are 33,614 infirm, 21,095 widows and 8,477 Persons with Disabilities. During 2016-17, an amount of ₹ 3 crore is provided under the scheme. A separate website for Persons with Disabilities was launched for filing of on-line applications. Wedding assistance scheme to orphan girls will continue and ₹ 3 crore is earmarked for 2016-17.
64. Construction of hostels at Resubelpara, Betasing and Mawsynram has been taken up for implementation. Construction of working women's hostel in

Shillong and Tura will continue, with a financial assistance of ₹ 5 crore being provided in the next financial year.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 274.10 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

65. The main channel of providing food security to the targeted groups such as BPL and AAY is through the Public Distribution System covering 4,49,078 beneficiaries in the State. To ensure that the AAY beneficiaries avail of their monthly quota, the Government has provided subsidy of ₹ 1.47 crore annually at the rate of ₹ 50 per quintal to cover transport and other incidental charges incurred by the dealers in the transportation of stocks from the FCI depot to the fair price shops. Besides, free distribution of rice to old age persons under ANNAPURNA and to inmates of SC/ST hostels will continue.
66. The Government has given all support to help consumers settle their disputes in a speedy and affordable manner. A total number of 1,345 cases were registered since the inception of the Consumer Courts, out of which 1,236 have been disposed off up to October 2015.
67. Sir, as I had promised last year in my budget speech, the National Food Security Act was launched in Tura on the 12th September 2015 for implementation of the same throughout the State. The beneficiary households have been identified through the Socio Economic & Caste Census, based on parameters such as residential vulnerability, occupational vulnerability, land holding status, movable and immovable property, status of having facilities such as electricity, running water, mobile, internet and other household requirements, as per the guideline issued by the Government of India. 77.79 % of the rural population and 50.87 % of the urban population will be covered under the Programme. Altogether 21,82,430 beneficiaries have

been identified to be covered under NFSA and allocation of foodgrains for the State under NFSA has been received. All steps are being taken to implement NFSA in a transparent manner. The Government has taken serious steps for End-to-End computerization of PDS. Digitization of beneficiary data has been completed and this has been made available on the State PDS portal. Grievance redressal mechanism, including a grievance toll free number has been put in place and Nodal officers have been notified at the State, District and Sub-Division levels. A State Food Commission has been notified to which the Chairman and members will be appointed shortly.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 85 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 – 17.

Water Supply and Sanitation

68. Government is committed to provide safe drinking water & sanitation facilities to all the inhabitants. During the current financial year, 266 Slipped Back Habitations, 19 Quality Affected Habitation, 387 Schools and 99 ICDS centres were covered with adequate safe drinking water supply.
69. Rural sanitation is being implemented by the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSMs). The Swachh Bharat Mission, which was launched in the year 2014 in the State Capital, has now been extended across the State. A total of 3,26,987 individual household latrines, 13,922 school toilets, 359 sanitary complexes and 2,161 Anganwadi toilets have been constructed up to April 2015.
70. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, the incentive for construction of Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL) is also now extended to APL families in ST dominated areas, landless labourers and woman headed households apart from the BPL families. This will result in majority of households receiving incentive for construction of latrines in their houses.

71. Out of 6,785 villages in the State, 2,079 villages have been verified and declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF). For the current financial year, 1,671 villages are marked under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) for making them ODF.
72. With the increased number of villages in the State becoming ODF, necessity has also been felt to address the problem of waste management in order to make these villages clean and green, and initiatives have been taken for Solid & Liquid Waste Management.
73. In respect of urban sanitation, initiatives are also being taken to implement sewerage projects in all the District Headquarters to achieve full sanitation.
74. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, coverage of rural villages with Individual Households Latrines (IHHLs) has reached 76.30% and the State is gearing up to achieve full sanitation along with the rest of the country.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 253 crore is proposed for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in 2016-17.

Agriculture and Horticulture

75. Agriculture is the key to rural prosperity and food security, and it continues to play a significant role in the economy of the State. The Government is committed to ensure farmer-centric, holistic, sustained and equitable interventions towards attaining food security and sustainable use of natural resources for improved livelihood and generating gainful rural employment opportunities to alleviate poverty and striving towards an overall balanced economic development of the farming community, who constitute more than 70% of the State's population. The contribution of agriculture to the State's economy is around 22% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). With the record high foodgrain production of 3.54 lakh metric tonnes during 2014-15,

the Government continues to lay emphasis on achieving higher levels of productivity through the State Rice Mission Scheme, the National Food Security Mission and improved varieties with SRI method of cultivation. Due to its outstanding performance in foodgrain production, Meghalaya recently received the Krishi Karman Award for the third year in succession from Government of India.

76. The Government is consciously discouraging the use of chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides which have a deleterious effect on the soil in the long term. Instead, the Government is actively promoting judicious use of eco-friendly bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, bio-control agents, green manure and Integrated Nutrient Management. The Government has recently introduced the cultivation of Ramie Crop, which is a valuable semi-perennial and multi-benefit crop that can be grown in a fairly wide range of agro-ecological conditions. The fibre and green portion of the crop can be used as feed for livestock. The crop is also a textile fibre crop of great potential. The Integrated Agriculture Training Centre (IATC) at Upper Shillong has helped in meeting the training, capacity building and skill upgradation needs of officers, field functionaries, farmers, unemployed youth and entrepreneurs.
77. Horticulture has a huge potential in the State. The Government is giving due emphasis to area expansion of fruits, vegetables, spices, plantation crops and floricultural crops; promotion of organic adaptation and certification; protected cultivation by using plasticulture interventions; construction of water harvesting structures; setting up of post harvest management and marketing facilities; and human resource development. The impact of such Government interventions for the development of Horticulture in the State is evident from the substantial increase in area, production and productivity of various horticultural crops during the last decade.

78. During 2016-17, popularization and commercialization of indigenous crops such as Sohiong, Sophie, etc. would be given impetus. Further, new initiatives of the Government, namely, organic plantation of bamboo and agar, would continue to be given priority to generate livelihood opportunities for the rural communities while maintaining a healthy eco-system. Another new initiative, Mission Organic will be continued to promote organic farming. The Government will also facilitate organic certification of some important selected crops in addition to tea which has already been certified by the competent agency.

**For 2016-17, a Plan outlay of ₹ 279.15 crore is proposed for the
Agriculture and Horticulture Sector**

Fisheries

79. The Government has entered its 4th year in the implementation of Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission (MSAM). So far under the Mission, the Government has invested around ₹ 184.33 crore in the development of various activities of the Mission.
80. About 1,875 hectares of potential area has been covered under area expansion of individual and community fish ponds, in which 18,494 farmers have been assisted so far. The Government aims to develop another 600 hectares. The State has recorded a production of approximately 8,000 metric tonnes of fish through creation of additional water areas. With the commissioning of 26 hatcheries, about 428 lakh fish fingerlings were produced and distributed to farmers of the State.
81. The State has established 3 fish seed mills with production capacity of 2.40 metric tonnes per unit per day. To optimise returns on investment, the Government upgraded several Departmental fish seed farms across the State.

82. The Government has taken a new approach in conservation of mahaseer fish. In collaboration with Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research, Bhimtal, one mahaseer hatchery will be established for propagation of mahaseer fish seeds. An amount of about ₹ 10 lakh will be utilised for this purpose. For marketing of fish products, the Government will establish modern hygienic markets at several potential areas of the District. As an initiative of this programme, one fish market will be established in Ri-Bhoi District with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 40 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary

83. The Government is committed to provide support to all aspects of livestock development such as production, processing, marketing and animal health care, besides training and capacity building of farmers.
84. In order to increase production, the Government has taken up activities such as upgradation of poultry farm at Phulbari with assistance from North Eastern Council. Two demonstration farms, one at Kyrdemkulai and the other at Rongkhon have been completed.
85. Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), one poultry farm at Williamnagar is under construction. About 10,200 farmers have been sensitized on the importance of livestock and poultry farming. Two new Vocational Training Centres, one at Upper Shillong and the other at Williamnagar have been completed.
86. Kuroiler rearing is a new initiative being taken in the current financial year, to increase meat and egg production. The Government will further encourage progressive farmers, women groups, young entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups etc to take up this scheme. This will promote nutritional security, self

sufficiency and at the same time create additional income opportunities. An amount of Rs 13 crore is earmarked in the present financial year. The scheme will be further augmented and continued in the next fiscal year.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 53 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17

Water Resources

87. As on March 2015, the irrigation potential created in the State was 73,573.48 hectares, which was about 34% of the identified irrigation potential of 2.18 lakh hectares. During the year 2015-16, another 6,400 hectares is likely to be added. Apart from minor irrigation projects, efforts are being made to increase the irrigation coverage also with the help of the network of small water harvesting structures and increased water use efficiency.
88. An externally aided project for supporting creation of multi-purpose reservoirs is also being taken up for implementation with the help of Government of India and Japanese International Cooperation Agency.
89. To promote participatory approach in management of the irrigation projects, Water Users' Association in 289 minor irrigation projects have been formed and registered.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 137.40 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17

Soil and Water Conservation

90. Under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, 84 ongoing projects are being implemented. In addition, 12 new projects have also been sanctioned during 2014-15. Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, 42 projects are being implemented. Under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, 15 projects are in different stages of implementation. An externally aided project, namely, "Community led Ecosystem Management

Project (CLEMP)” is being taken up for implementation with the support of the World Bank.

A Plan Outlay of ₹ 200 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17

Sericulture and Weaving

91. The Government is committed in its resolve to conserve and promote traditional silkworm rearing and handloom weaving. To address growth in the sericulture and handloom industry, schemes such as the North Eastern Region Textile Promotion Scheme and Integrated Sericulture Development Project are being implemented successfully.
92. A total of 75 Handloom Clusters have been organized in the Khasi and Garo Hills. It is envisaged that this will substantially improve the design and quality of fabric and fetch remunerative returns to the weavers. Moreover, 3,000 sericulture farmers have also been covered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for enhancing the production of silk cocoons and resulting increase in yarn production.
93. Efforts for renovation of existing infrastructure of the State have been proposed. Event based marketing opportunities and exhibition will also be organized for promotion of handloom products.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 18.30 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Forests and Environment

94. Meghalaya has consistently maintained forests cover of 77% though the National Forest Policy prescribes 66% forests cover in the hill States to maintain environmental stability. This has been made possible by eliciting people’s participation in protection and afforestation activities and creation of Community Reserves for wildlife and bio-diversity conservation. Besides, the

Government has introduced scientific forest management system in the areas outside its direct control through the mechanism of working schemes, which applies to the community and privately owned forests. People's participation has been institutionalized through the concept of Joint Forest Management, which is implemented through Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the Divisional level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. A total of 321 Joint Forest Management Committees have been constituted so far, which are implementing the National Afforestation Programme. Since inception of the State, the Government has raised 1,41,769 hectares of plantation, both inside and outside Government owned areas. For biodiversity conservation, 100 Biodiversity Management Committees have been constituted so far. A State Biodiversity Action Plan is under preparation with the assistance of the Wildlife Institute of India. During 2016-17, the Government will implement all continuing schemes to carry out the committed activities of forestry, wildlife and environmental conservation.

For 2016 – 17 a Plan outlay of ₹ 48 crore is proposed for the Forestry & Wildlife sector and ₹ 1 crore for the Ecology & Environment sector.

Community and Rural Development

95. The Government plays a vital role in accelerating the economic and social development of rural areas with a view to increasing the income level and quality of life of the rural people through implementation of poverty alleviation and livelihood programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana and National Social Assistance Programme. The schemes under Article 275(1) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and State Sector Schemes such as the Special Rural Works Programme, Construction of Rural Roads

Programme, Chief Minister's Special Rural Development Fund and other Community Development Schemes will continue to be implemented during the year.

96. Sir, the Special Rural Works Programme and Special Urban Works Programme have played an important role in filling the critical gaps in the rural and urban areas. I propose to increase the present allocation of ₹ 1 crore to ₹ 2 crore per Assembly constituency from the next financial year

A Plan outlay of ₹ 811.85 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Cooperation

97. The Government has taken steps to set up the Integrated Village Cooperative Societies as part of the IFAD funded Meghalaya Livelihood and Access to Market Project (MEGHA:LAMP) which aims at entrepreneurship development, market linkages and business promotion in the rural areas through the Cooperatives. Moreover, the Government is taking pro-active steps for promotion of cooperative sector in convergence mode with Integrated Basin Development Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLP) and other schemes and programmes in different fields.
98. An area requiring special attention in the cooperative sector is capacity building and education. The Government is strengthening the training infrastructure in the Meghalaya Cooperative Training Institute and coordinating with different local, regional and national institutes of repute and also conducting exposure visits for this purpose. To enhance capacity building, the Government has decided to set up a Cooperative Excellence Centre at Shillong and a proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India.

A plan outlay of ₹ 27.25 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Border Areas Development

99. The Border Areas Development Programme focuses on socio-economic development of the people and promotion of well being and a security environment in the international border areas. Development of these border areas is now viewed as a part of the comprehensive approach to Border Management. The Government will continue with the Border Areas Development Programme and also the Inter State Border Areas Development Programme in a focused manner to supplement the other schemes. Scholarships and stipends will be extended to students hailing from the notified border villages.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 33.50 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Commerce and Industries

100. The Government is committed to the promotion and development of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector for generating employment opportunities and also to impart training for skill development, so as to motivate youth to take up self employment ventures. During the current year, Government has promoted 212 units under MSMEs generating employment for 626 persons with an investment of ₹ 21.07 crore in plant and machineries. Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) scheme, 303 units were set up creating employment for 909 individuals.

101. Under the Entrepreneurship Promotion for Women & Youth scheme, the Government has recently launched skill development training programme on Zardozi craft and manufacturing of Meghalaya specific souvenirs and mementos at Shillong and Ampati. This will provide training for about 1,200 unemployed women and youth on Zardozi craft and for 480 youths for

manufacturing of Meghalaya specific souvenirs and mementos. Under the Skill Development Programme on Solar Photo Voltaic System, the Government has imparted training to 160 unemployed women and youths. Under Master Craftsman Training, 789 artisans were trained in trades such as cane & bamboo craft, wood craft and other artistic works. Under the Training Inside and Outside scheme, 1,032 unemployed youths were trained in various fields of industrial activities, so as to equip them to take advantage of job opportunities in the State as well as outside the State.

102. Under the Apiculture Mission, the Government has been able to upgrade the skills of about 2,000 bee keepers. Bee boxes and bee keeping accessories were provided to the farmers to enhance production of honey in the State.
103. As far as the Commerce sector is concerned, Government is focusing on creation of infrastructure for export through the development of Integrated Check Post, Land Custom Stations and by setting up Border Haats along the Indo-Bangladesh Border.
104. The setting up of the four more Border Haats along the Indo – Bangla International Border has been approved recently and an amount of ₹ 18.59 crore has been sanctioned for infrastructure development in these four new Border Haats, namely:-
 - Bholaganj (East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya)-Bholaganj (Companiganj, Sylhet);
 - Nalikata (South West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya)-Saydabad (Tahirpur, Sunamganj);
 - Shibbari (South Garo Hills, Meghalaya)-Bhulyapara (Dhobaura, Mymensingh);
 - Rynku (East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya)-Bagan Bari (Duara Bazar, Sunamganj).

105. Besides these programmes, the Government has been able to sponsor local units to enable them to take part in various exhibitions and trade fairs both within and outside the State, to market their products.

For 2016-17, a Plan outlay of ₹ 34.20 crore is proposed.

Mining and Geology

106. The Government administers mines and minerals for the purpose of economic development of the State and collect revenues on major minerals produced in the State. It also conducts geo-technical studies. Seven field investigations are being taken up, which include one geo-environmental investigation on impact of coal mining on the environment. Mineral investigation is being taken up in line with the Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012.
107. With the latest technology available in the market, the Government is trying to upgrade the process of mineral investigation and field officers are being sent from time to time to undergo various training programmes to update their knowledge.
108. The total production of limestone in the State during 2014 – 15 was 43.45 lakh tonnes. The total revenue collected on the major minerals during the year was ₹ 179.06 crore. Production of limestone during 2015-16 upto September 2015 was recorded at 21.67 lakh metric tonnes and the total revenue collected on major minerals upto September 2015 was ₹ 149.66 crore. Decrease in collection of revenue during 2015 – 16 is due to the ban imposed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on coal mining. The Government has set up 15 check gates on the important routes of the State in order to ensure proper checking of revenue collection on minerals transported outside the state and to check leakage of mineral revenue.

109. The Government is committed to protect the rights of our indigenous people over natural resources. Towards this end, a proposal has been submitted to Government of India for exemption from the operation of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957, by taking recourse to Para 12A (b) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. In order to restart the mining activities in line with the order of the National Green Tribunal, the State Government has framed the Guidelines for coal mining and has submitted it to the National Green Tribunal and the Ministry of Coal, Government of India. This will also require amendment of some relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for which consultations are being held with the concerned Ministries of the Government of India.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 3.20 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 – 17.

Urban Development

110. Urban centres act as engine of growth for economic development and it is imperative to plan for orderly growth of urban centres and make adequate provision for urban infrastructure in order to ensure healthy living condition for economic development. To keep pace with urbanization, attempts have been made to increase the infrastructure development from one plan period to another and a number of Shopping Complexes, Parking lots, Bus Terminus and Urban Amenities have been constructed.

111. Under the newly launched Programme of Government of India, 'Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation' (AMRUT), an amount of ₹ 107.43 crore has been projected for development of a sewerage and septage management system for Shillong over the period 2016-2020. Under Smart Cities Mission an amount of ₹ 1459.60 crore has been projected for

development of Shillong and the city has been shortlisted for the next round of competition. Under the Scheme of Swachh Bharat Mission an amount of ₹ 352 lakh has been released from Government of India for Solid Waste Management, Individual Household Latrine and Community Toilets. These works are being implemented by the respective Urban Local Bodies.

112. In addition, the Housing Project for urban poor at Tura and additional units at Nongmynsong, Shillong as well as Solid Waste Management Project at Tura and Nongpoh are expected to be completed shortly. Construction of housing units at Mawprem and at Lumphira, Nongmynsong has been recently inaugurated.
113. The re-development of parking lot and construction of ISBT at Tura has been completed and will be inaugurated shortly. The construction of infrastructure for vendors and additional parking infrastructure at Tura and the work for improvement of road within Mairang Town and Nongpoh Town are in progress. The Government of India has also sanctioned a new project for construction of Parking –cum-Commercial Facility Centre at Akkhonggre, Tura.
114. The works for the short-term scientific landfill site work at Mawiong, Shillong and development of road network for New Shillong Township are under progress. Construction of a Multi-Purpose Utility Centre at Mawkhar, Shillong has been started recently. With an aim to beautify the city of Shillong, projects such as redevelopment of the junction at Fire Brigade and Laitumkhrah police point area and beautification of the Polo market area have been taken up by the Government.
115. Apart from the development works mentioned above, some legislative measures have also been initiated by the Government which include

protecting the rights and regulating the ownership of apartment owners and also introducing unit area based self assessment system of property taxation.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 107.30 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Housing

116. The Government is rolling out the “Affordable Housing Scheme”, under which houses will be constructed for the Economically Weaker Sections with the objective of providing decent houses to the poor families. The LIG and MIG Houses are also being constructed under the Rental Housing Scheme in the District Offices for providing accommodation to Government employees on rent.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 22 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 -17.

Labour

117. Upgradation of existing Government ITIs has been taken up under the ‘Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya’ project. Training of ITI Instructors is already in progress under this project. Short-term job oriented courses to educated unemployed youth of the State are being provided through private skill providers registered as Vocational Training Providers (VTPs). Over 14,000 youths have been covered under market driven short-term skill development courses leading to placement as well as self employment. Skill Fest cum Job Fair 2015 were organised in all the 11 district headquarters in which around 10,000 youths have registered themselves. These youth will be offered placement-linked skills training.

118. On the basis of the variable dearness allowance for all categories of workers, minimum wages were revised with effect from 1st April 2015 to ₹ 170 per day for unskilled, ₹ 181 per day for semi-skilled, ₹ 191 per day for skilled and ₹ 212

per day for highly skilled workers. Labour cess has been collected for implementation of social security benefits to construction workers. With the appointment of Labour Inspectors in all the Blocks, enforcement of labour laws in the State has been considerably improved.

A plan outlay of ₹ 24.50 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Revenue and Disaster Management

119. The Government has organized awareness campaign for traditional heads of the villages to highlight the benefits of having cadastral maps/land records. As a result, cadastral survey of some villages and Government lands, have been taken up and is continuing. The Government has also taken up construction of new pillars and demolition of old pillars in the adversely held areas under the recently ratified Protocol to the India Bangladesh Boundary Agreement. The Government will continue to organize mock drills to create awareness about disaster risk management in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority in the State.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 2.65 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Information Technology

120. The Government will continue to promote e-governance in the State and strive to add further impetus to Information Technology & Information Technology Enabled Services (IT & ITeS) industry. It will be an endeavour of the Government to facilitate entrepreneurship through policy interventions.

121. The Government has rolled out some citizen centric services through the e-District project to ease the citizens from far flung areas. On a pilot basis, five e-District services are already running in East Khasi Hills District. During the next financial year, services will be rolled out to the other districts.

122. The Government plans to further strengthen the ICT Infrastructure for schools and colleges through Digital Class rooms and other initiatives, and we plan to extend the same to colleges across the State. To improve internet connectivity upto the village level, the Government is facilitating the implementation of the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) and would setup Digital Villages with an aim to improve the quality of education and promote internet-based enterprises.
123. The Government will continue to reward meritorious students with laptops and under the Chief Ministers Digital students Aid programme, tablets with digital content will be provided to higher secondary students for the coming year.
124. Under the Capacity Building programme, the Government will continue the training programmes in e-Governance for State Government Officers of various departments during the year.

The proposed Plan outlay is ₹ 17 crore for this sector in 2016-17.

Tourism

125. The enchanting beauty, rich culture and tradition have attracted tourist to the State on a steady pace. To further improve the tourism experience, major festivals of the State are being promoted to showcase the customs, practice and way of life of the people of the State.
126. A number of festivals have been organized in collaborations with the Deputy Commissioners and other organizations. These include the 100 Drums Wangala Festival, the Simsang Festival, the Nokpante Festival, the Discover Jaintia Festival, the Sohra Indigenous Festival, and the forthcoming Nongkhnum Festival.

127. The Government has also participated in fairs and festivals outside the State like the International Tourism Mart (ITM) at Gangtok and South Asian Travel & Tourism Exchange (SATTE) fair at Delhi. In the recently concluded Destination North East at Delhi, some of our tour operators and hoteliers interacted with tour operators both domestic and international, offering attractive packages for Meghalaya in a B2B meeting.
128. Last year, two recreational Parks were opened, one is the Tiroit Sing Park at Mairang and another at Marngar.
129. To enhance employability in hospitality sector, the Government is continuing with its efforts to provide skill development to the youth in the sector. During the current financial year Foods Craft Institute (FCI) Tura has trained 325 youths under the Hunar Se Rozgar Tak programme and 90 youth with funds received from NEC, in different hospitality trades like Food & Beverage production, Housekeeping, Front Office etc. This year, 32 youths have been trained in boat handling, servicing and safety measures. Similar trainings will continue in the next financial year for other adventure activities. In order to encourage the students of Meghalaya to take up courses at IHM Shillong and Food Craft Institute, Tura, the Government is providing scholarship to eligible local students. The amount of scholarship provided is ₹ 16,000 and ₹ 8,000 per student per year for students of IHM and Food Craft Institute respectively. During 2016 -17, the Government will focus on identifying and developing new tourist destinations and a holistic approach will be taken for promotion and publicity.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 35.60 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Civil Defence and Home Guards

130. During 2015 – 16, the Government has taken possession of land in the District Headquarters of East Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills and Ribhoi to set up Civil Defence & Home Guards Offices.
131. One battalion of personnel drawn from the Border Wing personnel is being trained by the National Disaster Response Force and some of them have been deployed in Tura and Jowai to assist the District Administration

A Plan outlay of ₹ 3.45 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 – 17.

Prison

132. Administration of Jail system in the State is of paramount important for reformation of offenders. Strengthening and improving the infrastructures and quality of life inside the Jails is of a continuous process given the increasing numbers of under-trials in the State. The District Jail at Mawsyntai, Ri-Bhoi District is ready for inauguration. Security Audit Committee was formed to study the requirements for strengthening the security of jails in the State and many of their recommendations have been implemented.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 4.60 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 – 17.

Arts and Culture

133. The Government has taken up various developmental programmes and activities for preservation, development and augmentation of the rich and diverse arts and cultural heritage of the State.
134. In terms of infrastructure development, the “Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts and Culture” project at Mawkasiang is already under progress. Amphitheatres in Shillong and Jowai are on the verge of completion and work has been initiated in Tura. Construction of the “Centre of knowledge for Indigenous Arts at Betasing”, South West Garo Hills has started and

process is on for construction of Phase – I of Sein Jaintia Indigenous Culture-cum-Multipurpose Centre at Iewduh, Shillong and creation of Centre of Indigenous Culture at Mawphlang and Tura. Construction of Cultural Complex-cum-District Library in Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi District and setting up of the infrastructure for Institution of Music and Fine Arts at 15 centres in the State has been completed.

135. Process has been initiated for improvement of the Shillong Golf-course and Golf-Club premises, construction of galleries, show-cases and lighting etc., in the new building of Williamson Sangma State Museum and construction of a building for the existing Institute of Performing Arts and Culture at Brookside, Rilbong. DPR for construction of “Centre for Performing Arts and Culture at Ampati” has been submitted to the Ministry of DoNER.
136. Compilation of Oral Literature in the Khasi and Garo Hills and research projects for documentation of various facets of the traditions and cultures of the Khasi, Garo and Jaintia tribes is going on. The State Central Library is digitized and will be modernized further by using new technology.
137. More than 100 important sites and monuments have been identified and many preservation and protection works have been taken up under the various Finance Commission Awards. More heritage sites and monuments will be identified and given protection in future.
138. Apart from multi-faceted activities through the District Arts and Culture Societies, various mega events such as 18 Degree Festival, Songs and Dances of the North East, Cultural Panorama at Marngar, CALM Festival in Shillong and Rhythm of the Hills at Betasing, South West Garo Hills etc. were organized.

139. The Government also actively contributed to the “Indigenous Terra Madre” and Cultural and Entertainment Programmes during the 12th South Asian Games (SAG) organized in Shillong.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 13 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016-17.

Personnel

140. During 2015–16, Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute has conducted 120 Training Programmes. Off-campus training for Officials of West Khasi Hills District was conducted in collaboration with IBIS Solutions, Kolkata. Awareness Programmes on Disaster Management at the community, school and college level were also held. The Disaster Management Cell of MATI had also organized workshops to assist various State Departments in the preparation of their respective Disaster Management Plan and Standard Operating Procedures.
141. MATI has launched an “Induction Training Programme” for newly recruited frontline Government functionaries sponsored by the Government of India where 218 newly recruited State Government functionaries have so far been trained on generic and domain specific topics.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 6.10 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 – 17.

General Administration Department

142. Government is taking steps to strengthen the infrastructure in the newly created Districts by constructing the Deputy Commissioner’s permanent office building complex and composite residential complex in each District Headquarter. Construction of Office Buildings in these Districts is in good progress. The Governor’s Guest House is under construction in Tura and around 82% of the work has been completed.

143. The State Government along with Central Government have, since the inception of Sainik Welfare Department, spent a total amount of ₹ 8.20 crore for the welfare of ex-servicemen, widows and their dependents and also destitute ex-servicemen.
144. A number of proposals for the welfare of ex-servicemen are under process at various stages, these proposals include construction of Sainik Rest House cum Office building complex at Shillong and at Tura, enhancement of cash grant to recipients of Gallantry and Distinguished Service awards, increase in ex-gratia to soldiers killed or wounded in war or counter insurgency operations. A new office of Zila Sainik Welfare Board for Tura has been sanctioned for the welfare of ex-servicemen in the Garo Hills region.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 60 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 – 17.

Information and Public Relations

145. The Government continues to ensure that people, particularly at the grassroots level, are kept informed about government schemes and welfare initiatives aimed at their socio-economic upliftment. Special Interactive Programmes play a vital role in projecting schemes and policies leading to a better understanding and participation in governance and also bringing about greater transparency and accountability.

A Plan outlay of ₹ 5.70 crore is proposed for this sector in 2016 – 17.

Tax Proposals

146. In order to meet the challenges occasioned by the shrinking resource base on account of the NGT ban on coal mining and to generate additional resources to the State to meet its multifarious requirements in crucial sectors of the economy, I propose to:-

- a. Enhance the rate of VAT on liquor from the existing 20% to 30% by way of amendment of the relevant entry in Schedule V of the Meghalaya Value Added Tax Act, 2003.
- b. Increase the levy on Import Pass Fee and Transport Pass Fee on alcohol, beer and wine and do away with the existing system of calculation of levy on the basis of 'bulk litres'.
- c. Withdraw the remaining rebate of 56 paise per litre allowed in respect of petrol and enhance the rate of VAT on petrol from 20% to 22%.
- d. Increase the rate of cess on limestone from ₹ 40 per metric tonne to ₹ 60 per metric tonne.

Budget Estimates 2016-17

147. Sir, for 2016-17, I have estimated the total receipts at ₹ 10,173 crore. The revenue receipts are estimated at ₹ 8,981 crore and capital receipts at ₹ 1,192 crore. Excluding borrowings and other liabilities, the total receipts are estimated to be ₹ 9,013 crore.
148. On the Expenditure side, I have estimated the total expenditure at ₹ 10,507 crore during 2016-17, of which revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹ 8,594 crore and capital expenditure at ₹ 1,913 crore. Excluding repayment of loans, the estimated total expenditure is ₹ 10,103 crore.
149. Interest payment during 2016-17 is estimated at ₹ 551 crore and pension payment at ₹ 491 crore.
150. I am presenting the 2016-17 Budget with a fiscal deficit of ₹ 1,090 crore, which is around 3.6% of GSDP.

Mr. Speaker Sir, with these words, I commend the Budget to this August House.

Khublei

Mithela

Thank you