

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the year 2015-16.

2. Government of India has recently presented the Union Budget for 2015-16. The Economic Survey 2014-15 indicates that the Indian economy appears to have now gone past the economic slowdown, persistent inflation and elevated fiscal deficit. Inflation has shown a declining trend with the latest CPI inflation at 5.1%. The fiscal deficit is projected at 3.9% for 2015-16. The GDP growth increased from 6.9 % in 2013-14 to 7.4 % in 2014-15, according to advance estimates. The growth estimates for 2015-16 are between 8% to 8.5% on account of expectations that the monsoon will be favourable and due to a number of reforms that have already been undertaken and more that are being planned.

### **New Financial Architecture**

3. Sir, the replacement of the Planning Commission by NITI Ayog, the recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission and the Union Budget 2015-16 have brought about significant changes in the overall financial framework within which the State's Budget was prepared. In line with the long standing demand of the States, we now have greater flexibility in using the overall resources available to us. There has been an increase in the quantum of overall devolution to Meghalaya from 0.58% to 0.61% of the divisible pool and this devolution subsumes the erstwhile Normal Central Assistance, Special Plan Assistance and Special Central Assistance. With the recommendation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, the distinction between Plan and Non Plan is no longer there in respect of transfer of resources. We, therefore, need to design a balance

mechanism in our investment strategy to maintain developmental momentum and achieve the growth trajectory vis-à-vis efficient investment for administrative expenditure. Alongside, some Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been discontinued and funding patterns are expected to be changed for certain schemes. The implication of these changes is that we must become more proactive in utilizing the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. We have to ensure that our Government is not only effective in accessing funds from Government of India but is also efficient and accountable in managing its resources. This will also need to be further supplemented by effective measures to ensure stringent fiscal discipline.

4. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members of the House that the Centre has accepted the recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission on the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2015. The report, inter-alia, indicates how much each State would receive from the share of central taxes, grants-in-aid for revenue deficit, grants-in aid for Local Bodies and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) . The entitlements are based purely on the methodologies and formula adopted by the Commission. The devolution of 42% of divisible resources to the States and the shift from scheme and grant based support to tax linked devolution are among the standout features of the report of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
5. The State's share of tax devolution out of the divisible pool is projected at ₹ 25,347 crore, grants-in-aid for revenue deficit is ₹ 1,770 crore, grants-in aid for SDRF is ₹ 121 crore and grants-in aid to Urban Local Bodies ₹ 32 crore. The State received ₹ 9,842 crore as total transfers during the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. The projected transfer for the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission period is ₹ 27,270 crore, which is an increase of 177% over the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission's award. Meghalaya's share of

grants-in-aid for revenue deficit is comparatively lower than most of the other North Eastern States. This is because our revenue gap is much smaller than other States of the North East.

6. One of the challenges emerging out of the recommendations of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission is creating the fiscal space for supporting ongoing projects under Special Plan Assistance which amount to over ₹ 2000 crore. We have resolved that we shall vigorously pursue this matter with Government of India so that the State receives all its due entitlements to complete these ongoing projects in a time bound manner.
7. The likely transition to a new tax regime of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is expected to result in changes to our tax devolution and our tax administration. With unified rates of taxation for goods and services we will be required to review our strategy of taxation and tax collection. Necessary changes in this regard will be made by us during the course of the year.

### **Fiscal Roadmap**

8. During 2013-14, the fiscal deficit was 1.74 % and the debt-GSDP ratio was 28.63%, which is below the ceiling of 3% and 32% respectively set by the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. During 2014-15, the debt-GSDP ratio was projected at 27.44% and the fiscal deficit at 2.2% of the GSDP. As per the fiscal roadmap of the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, the fiscal deficit of our State is to be anchored to an annual limit of 3% of GSDP. The State will be eligible for flexibility of 0.25 % over and above this for any given year for which the borrowing limits are to be fixed if the debt-GSDP ratio is less than or equal to 25% in the preceding year. The State will be further eligible for an additional borrowing limit of 0.25% of GSDP in a given year for which the borrowing limits are fixed if the interest payments are less

than or equal to 10% of the revenue receipts in the preceding year. Thus, the State can have a maximum fiscal deficit of 3.5% in any given year. But, the Finance Commission has recommended that the flexibility in availing the additional limit will be available only if there is no revenue deficit in the year in which the borrowing limits are to be fixed and the immediately preceding year.

9. The most daunting task in presenting the Budget this year is the huge revenue shortfall faced by the State due to the impact of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ban on coal mining. The State's own revenue is reduced by around ₹ 600 crore annually on account of the ban. I am exploring all other possible sources to generate additional revenue. These unforeseen challenges will only motivate us to work harder and maintain fiscal, social and economic stability.

### **Tax and Non Tax Revenue**

10. As mentioned, the imposition of the NGT ban has significantly affected the revenue of the State. In 2014-15 the State's own tax revenue was estimated at ₹ 1206 crore, and State's own non tax revenue at ₹ 679 crore. For 2015-16 State's own tax revenue is estimated at ₹ 1035 crore, and State's own non tax revenue at ₹ 312 crore. The total revenue from state's own tax and non tax for 2014-15 was estimated at ₹ 1,885 crore and for 2015-16 it is projected at ₹ 1,347 crore.
11. The recent enhancement of the rate of tax from 13.5% to 14.5% under Schedule –IV of the Meghalaya Value Added Tax Act will generate an additional revenue of approximately ₹ 25 crore annually. Further, the Government is also expected to raise revenue of ₹ 5.28 crore during the fourth quarter through the increase of Advolarem levy and the re-

classification of Brand of IMFL. Shouldered with the responsibility of ensuring better financial management, the Government intends to rationalize taxes and introduce efficient revenue realization mechanism. Other measures are being worked out for creating alternative sustainable sources of revenue.

### **Destination Meghalaya**

12. The Government has announced 'Destination Meghalaya' as a comprehensive and convergent approach to development. Destination Meghalaya encompasses a cogent strategy of Government investments as well as facilitating private partnership in education, health, tourism and industry including information technology.
13. The first facet of this approach relates to education and health. We have already earmarked funds for three Pinemount International Schools as well as other residential schools elsewhere in the State. Premier institutions like NEIGRIHMS and IIM already attract students from the North East and from other States of the country. In order to further increase the opportunity for such higher education, we are now setting up 2 medical colleges and 2 engineering colleges in the State. This is in addition to 2 new colleges for Arts and Commerce. These institutions and colleges of higher education are not just vehicles for investment and teaching but will also provide a pool of expertise for technical assistance to the State for research and development and provide inspiration for the youth.
14. The second facet of this approach is our focus on tourism. This includes developing tourism in various forms – eco tourism, adventure tourism, national and regional sports events, golf circuits, rural tourism and cultural tourism. In a major boost to our efforts, Meghalaya will be the

host State for the Indigenous Terra Madre named “Mei Ram ew” in November this year. The Government is providing comprehensive support for this event, which will be attended by delegates and visitors from 40 countries across the globe. The event is supported by several Foundations in US, Germany and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. This Slow Food Initiative ties in well with the Mission Organic which has been launched by the Government to ensure that the cereals, fruits and vegetables produced by us are organic. These are an attraction in themselves and will ensure better markets for our farmers as well.

15. The third facet of Destination Meghalaya is encouraging investments in industry and information technology by nurturing an enabling environment. To this end, 80 acres of land has been earmarked for setting up of an IT estate at Mawdiangdiang. This will focus in particular on industries which rely upon renewable natural resources. Proposals for spending on agro forestry and bamboo plantations are based on making this linkage with industry sustainable and promoting a green economy for faster, comprehensive and inclusive growth. The Government will set up an Investment Promotion Council for facilitating dialogue, attracting investments, recommending a strategy for creating a pool of competitive skilled work force and facilitating faster clearances. Integrated Enterprise Incubation Centres shall be set up next year for providing necessary support for startups by youth and women. One of the key deliverables identified by Government for Destination Meghalaya will be the expeditious removal of administrative bottlenecks. Funds have been set aside for an industrial land bank, which is a key parameter for ease of doing business.

## **Mission Green and the Green Economy**

16. For a State with extensive forest cover and greenery, my announcement of a Mission Green under the IBDLP is a logical extension. It is also a fact that our green cover is under increasing pressure and water shortages are endemic in winter in a State which has places that hold the record for the highest rainfall in the world. Mission Green is, however, more than just restoring green cover. It is designed to link sustainable livelihoods to sustainable ecology. Starting with the launch of programmes such as Green volunteers and awards for Clean and Green Villages, the Government has now set aside funds for additional interventions. These include Green Technology Centre, a programme for promotion of sustainable livelihoods through ecological sustainability, funds for clean energy, bringing new areas under agro forestry, sustainable and organic agriculture and catchment protection. This Budget will accordingly support ground water management, water technologies and measures for water use efficiency which will make Mission Green comprehensive. The State Government resolves to effectively address the issues of climate change in a much more pro-active manner.

## **IBDLP**

17. The Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Promotion Programme (IBDLP) was launched by the Government of Meghalaya in April 2012 and aims at promotion of livelihoods in enterprise mode within the framework of inclusive growth and sustainable development. It promotes leveraging of renewable natural resources of the State for building enterprises, engagement with the citizens in partnership, simultaneous utilization of traditional and modern scientific knowledge for natural resource management and enterprise building, and holistic

interventions to make the products of Meghalaya competitive in the market.

18. Under the programme, the overall strategy has been to create a comprehensive ecosystem and enabling conditions for nurturing both social and private enterprise as well as on inspiring and enabling citizens to take initiative for individual and collective progress. Towards this end, the existing institutions have been strengthened and new ones created wherever necessary to ensure facilitation services to the citizens. Knowledge, skill upgradation, capacity building, business incubation, financial inclusion, infrastructure support and market access have been the areas of focus for the facilitating Institutions.
19. Sir, this programme has been launched with a long term vision to ensure that we in Meghalaya having been blessed with bountiful natural resources should be able to completely eradicate poverty by the time we gather to celebrate golden jubilee of our Statehood. While achieving this target we also need to ensure that our ecosystems remain robust and lively. Such an ambitious goal can be achieved only if all the citizens are proactive partners in this endeavor. Therefore, while envisioning the strategies for achieving this goal of transforming our beautiful State, the focus has been on promoting creative engagement and enterprise of the citizens and not on government trying to do everything by itself in supply-driven mode.
20. One of the studies had revealed that the average income of people in our State was higher than the national average before the partition of India. This would have been on account of greater access to markets for our produce at that time. Under this programme we are trying to enable our entrepreneurs to once again regain the comparative advantage in the market place. Several initiatives have been taken to make this happen.



Mission Organic and thrust on value addition within the State being important ones among these. The Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centres (EFCs) set up at all the Block Headquarters are being upgraded to further improve the delivery of business incubation services. Under the new IFAD supported project Megha-LAMP Integrated Village Cooperatives are being promoted to ensure that citizens mobilize themselves to ensure effective delivery of financial services and market access for themselves. We are grateful to the large number of development partners who have registered at the EFCs. Some of them have been already given necessary training, some have been sent for exposure trips to see the successes, get inspired, pick up knowledge and become entrepreneurs.

21. I am happy to share some of the successes under this programme. During the last three years we have been able to create more fisheries area than what we achieved since independence, more irrigated lands than what we could achieve since independence, several convergence projects such as Simsang river bridge, Gasura Park, reservoirs in Village Mawlyngbna etc.
22. I am happy to inform that in a recent study the UNDP have acknowledged our flagship programme as a best practice in the development sphere and various development institutions such IFAD, World Bank, ADB, JICA, UNDP etc have shown keen interest in collaborating with Meghalaya Basin Development Authority and in also making investment in the programme.
23. It is well known that convergence of initiatives of different stakeholders maximizes returns. This has been a focus area under IBDLP and the process will get a fillip with the convergence funds proposed in the budget of different related departments during the year 2015-16.

## **Urban Renewal - Liveable Cities and Liveable Towns**

24. Cities and towns provide opportunities and jobs. However, our cities and towns are increasingly becoming a byword for traffic congestion, high concrete structures and shortage of space. Through this Budget, it is proposed to launch a cross-departmental effort at making our cities and towns more liveable. This will include funds for setting up of parking bays for road safety, incorporating embarkation and disembarkation points, Wifi networks, preparation of projects for mass transit system, extension of solid waste management solutions, clean drinking water, traffic decongestion solutions and safe and secure environment. Departments will be encouraged to work in convergence mode and additional funds have been provided for this purpose, starting with approvals for two lay byes between Umiam and Shillong and one each on NH 44 and NH 51. These will help in enforcement of rules and regulations relating to road safety as well as in pollution control.

## **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Aadhar and National Population Register (NPR)**

25. DBT has already begun in the State. Beneficiaries now receive payments from Government directly into their bank accounts for many social security benefits, scholarships, cooking gas subsidy etc. This has helped in making transfers faster and hassle-free.
26. Nationally, a clear move towards the next level of reforms is already underway through the NPR and Aadhar. Meghalaya cannot afford to be left behind and lose its share of Central transfers on this account. Some groups and individuals have expressed certain concerns. The Government is ready to hear them and allay their apprehensions and make changes where required.

## **NEC Schemes**

27. The sectors which have received financial support from the NEC are Power, Transport and Communication including Roads, Agriculture, Horticulture, Border Areas Development, Sports and Youth Affairs, Education, Information Technology, Health and Family Welfare, Tourism, Commerce and Industries, Sericulture and Weaving, Arts and Culture and Science and Technology. The Government will continue to persuade Government of India for increasing the outlay for NEC. The tentative outlay for the schemes and projects under NEC for the year 2015-16 in respect of Meghalaya is ₹ 180 crore.

## **Law and Order**

28. For strengthening the hands of the Police Department, a number of initiatives have been taken to deal with various issues of complex nature relating to law and order. To deal with the problem of insurgency, the Government had sanctioned a new battalion of commando force called "Special Force 10". The recruitment process for this has been completed and appointments will be made shortly. Special training will be imparted to them on jungle and urban warfare and riot management. Under the Safe and Secure Shillong City Project, installation of high definition CCTV cameras at strategic locations has been operationalised. Similarly, CCTV cameras are being set up in Tura. This will assist in tackling crimes, managing traffic and dealing with law and order situations.
29. Modern traffic management systems and practices are being adopted to improve traffic management. The State Government had earlier sanctioned additional posts in four Districts for the purpose. These posts have now been filled up and we are seeing improvement in traffic management in these Districts. The officers and men are being sent for

training on traffic management and regulations in a phased manner.

30. So far we have not achieved satisfactory levels of housing for police personnel. A lot more needs to be done in this regard and the Government will continue to provide funding support for this purpose. A proposal for setting up of Integrated Police Welfare Complexes at Baghmara and Tura has been submitted to the Ministry of DoNER for funding under NLCPR. These Complexes will also have facilities such as Dispensaries, Officers Mess, Police Welfare Training Centre, Sports Complex and Recreation Centre.

### **District Councils**

31. The State Government shall continue to support the Autonomous District Councils to enable them to discharge their primary duties of safeguarding the interests of the indigenous tribal people of the State. As done every year, the District Councils will be supported financially in order to strengthen their administration and for implementation of their own developmental works.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 5.50 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Power**

32. The power sector continues to be one of the priority sectors and several schemes have been taken up to address the power shortage in the State. New Umtru HEP (2 x 20 MW) and Lakroh Small Hydro Project (1.5 MW) are expected to be commissioned in 2015-2016. Re-engineering works of Umiam Stage I power house and Stage IV power house are being taken up as part of modernization of power stations. Renovation, modernisation and upgradation of Umiam Stage III (2 x 30 MW) power

station is being proposed under Externally Aided Project. Work on Ganol HEP (3 x 7.5 MW) is progressing as per schedule.

33. The State Government is also taking steps to improve and augment the transmission network. The State is now connected to the Regional Grid at 400 KV and 220 KV through the sub-stations at Killing and Byrnihat. This has enabled the State to draw its Central Sector share of power and additional power through bilateral arrangements to meet the ever increasing demand. Extension of the 400 KV network up to Garo Hills and the 220 KV network up to Shillong is also under consideration.
34. To improve the power supply and associated services and reduce the losses in urban areas, the Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme is being implemented in nine towns, namely Shillong, Jowai, Tura, Nongstoin, Nongpoh, Wiliamnagar, Resubelpara, Mairang and Sohra with a sanctioned amount of ₹193.70 crore . The work is in progress.
35. The total number of villages electrified in the State is 5,702 and the balance number of villages to be electrified is 1,059. Unelectrified villages shall be electrified under the new scheme “Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana” into which RGGVY has been subsumed.
36. The Meghalaya Non-Conventional and Rural Energy Development Agency has implemented several projects to popularize renewable energy technologies. The main programmes of the Agency are to harness the renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biogas, biomass and distribution of energy saving devices.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 96 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

## **Roads and Bridges**

37. Road connectivity provides access to better quality of life, particularly in remote areas. The Government is implementing various projects for improving road connectivity in the State. The four laning of the Jorabad-Barapani highway is expected to be completed by 2015-16. The work of two laning of Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura road is making good progress. The Government also proposes to take up five projects, namely , two - Laning of Western Shillong Bye-Pass, Upgradation of Nongstoin – Rambrai – Kyrshai – Chaigoan road, Upgradation of Nongstoin-Domiasiat – Mawthabah road, Upgradation of Wahkaji - Phlangdiloin – Ranikor road, Improvement and widening of Ranikor – Nonghyllam – Maheshkola – Baghmara road. In addition, the State Government has launched many new initiatives for upgrading existing State Highways and Major District Roads, providing last mile connectivity, constructing strategically important roads for connecting unconnected villages along the International Border and also improving the condition of the existing ones.

The proposed Development Plan outlay is ₹ 555.20 during 2015-16.

## **Transport**

38. The Transport Department generated revenue of ₹ 38.07 crore during 2013-14 and ₹ 28.48 crore upto December, 2014 during the current year. Total number of vehicles registered in the State stood at 2.46 lakh as on December 2014. To improve public transport in the rural areas, the State Government has implemented the Public Transport System, under which buses are provided by the Government and the services are operated through local service providers identified by the the District Level Committees headed by the Deputy Commissioners. To improve

connectivity in the remote regions of the State, the Transport Department has sanctioned four ropeway projects for villages located in the South Garo Hills District and the West Garo Hills District. The construction of an Inter State Bus Terminus at Mawlai Mawiong has commenced with a project cost of ₹ 48.31 crore, which would ease the traffic congestion in Shillong.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 7.44 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Education**

39. Education is the single most important input in promoting human resource development to achieve rapid economic and technological progress. An appropriate education system cultivates knowledge, better skills and positive values. With these objectives in mind, the Government has initiated a number of new initiatives in the past years and would continue to supplement the effort in the forthcoming year too.
40. To improve quality, teacher training has been undertaken to train untrained teachers in 78 centres through National Institute of Open Schooling. Pre-service teacher training was launched during 2014 in all the District Institutes of Education and Training in the State. Midday Meal Scheme has covered more than 11,000 elementary schools and more than 5.7 lakh children. The Government has also provided funds for kitchen sheds and cooks at all the schools. The scheme will continue to provide cooked meal to every child in Government and Government Aided Lower Primary Schools. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme, 'Swaach Bharat' initiative to ensure universal coverage of sanitation facilities is being given priority. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme would also supplement the Government's initiative in the secondary level.

41. The ADB assisted project 'Supporting Human Capital Development' in the State aims at improving the quality of and access to Secondary and Higher Secondary School Education. Components of the Project include upgrading the infrastructure of 117 Government Aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools and six Teacher Training Centres and providing appropriate training to teachers.
42. Sir, the Government is setting up three Pinemount International Schools on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with facilities like boarding, co-curricular activities and libraries. Expression of Interest has been floated for the same. The State is setting up Model Schools and facilities for girls hostels in the nine educationally backward blocks. The Government has also decided to set up twenty residential schools on the pattern of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. The Government has also sanctioned new college buildings for the three recently provincialised colleges at Sohra, Williamnagar and Baghmara. Detailed estimates are being prepared for the same and work would be starting soon.
43. Sir, setting up of engineering colleges is a priority and the Government has decided to set up the same at Jowai and Ampati. The establishment of new Polytechnics at Ri-Bhoi, West Khasi Hills and South Garo Hills has already been sanctioned, and construction will start soon. A State University, namely, the Captain Williamson Sangma Technical University at Tura will be set up soon. The proposal to appoint a Vice Chancellor for the University has been initiated.
44. A Foundation Course for lower primary school teachers will be conducted so that they can assist students with disabilities. Refresher Course for untrained in-service elementary teachers who have been appointed



before 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2001 has been initiated during 2013-14 and will be continued during 2015-16.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 681.88 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Sports and Youth Affairs**

45. The Government continues to meet its twin objectives of developing sports and promoting youth capacities by creating a range of sports infrastructure and facilitating youth promotion activities. These activities include construction of outdoor and indoor stadia, development of playgrounds, providing financial assistance to sports associations and schools, training of technical personnel, imparting coaching to budding sportspersons and preparation of State teams for participation in various tournaments at the regional and national levels.
46. In 2014-15, the Government has sanctioned five indoor stadia, two outdoor stadia and six playfields. An amount of ₹ 5 crore was sanctioned for the Chief Minister's Career Guidance and Counseling Scheme to enhance career options for the youth. Another ₹ 8 crore was sanctioned, for development of sports infrastructure in the border areas of Ri-Bhoi District. Construction of dormitories and rooms at J.N. S. Complex, Polo Ground was approved for ₹ 9.61 crore.
47. To encourage youth related activities, under the Chief Minister's Youth Development Scheme, ₹ 6.50 crore was sanctioned and released to all Districts to enable them to undertake meaningful activities for promotion of sports and youth programmes. Further, under the Intensive Sports and Youth Development Programme, ₹ 1.50 crore was released

48. to the Districts to facilitate the active participation of youth, at an earmarked amount of ₹ 2.50 lakh per assembly constituency.

The proposed Development Plan outlay during 2015-16 is ₹ 40.85 crore.

### **Health and Family Welfare**

49. Promotion of health care by strengthening and consolidating the existing health care facilities and extension of outreach services through our network of 12 Hospitals, 28 Community Health Centres, 110 Primary Health Centres, 422 Primary Health Sub –centres and 12 Dispensaries is one of our main thrusts. This is a challenging task, but the Government will not spare any effort to see that proper health care delivery services reach the people. Implementation of the Megha Health Insurance Scheme and National Health Mission will continue. National Programmes such as Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme, National Leprosy Control Programme, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme will continue. Implementation of the Universal Immunization Programme will be further strengthened to bring down the present rate of infant mortality to below 30 as per the goal set under the National Population Policy.

50. Awareness camps on voluntary blood donation are being held regularly through licensed Blood Banks, State Blood Transfusion Council in collaboration with Meghalaya AIDS Control Society. The Blood Bank at Jowai, West Jaintia Hills District has also started functioning in 2014.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 380.50 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Arts and Culture**

51. Investment in Arts and Culture has increased by over 40% between 2011-12 and 2013-14. The Government has taken up various programs and

activities for development, augmentation and preservation of the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the State. The promotion of performing, visual and fine arts has also received adequate attention of the Government through various schemes and projects. Steps are being taken for setting up the Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts and Culture (SICPAC) at an estimated amount of ₹ 151.33 crore. Amphitheatres are being constructed at Shillong, Tura and Jowai and Centres for Indigenous Culture are being set up at Mawphlang and Tura. A Cultural Centre at Nongpoh and 15 institutions of Music and Fine Arts will be set up across the State. In order to encourage the youth to channelize their energy in showcasing their talents and learning the different popular as well as dying art forms, a number of art and cultural events such as 18 Degrees festival, CALM Fest and Rhythm of the Hills have been hosted. Further, to create a pool of talent, who will be able to impart learning to other talented performers, a Centre of Excellence for Indian Classical and Western Music is being set up in the State.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 30 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Social Welfare**

52. The welfare of women and children in the State is addressed through the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). The Government also implements the supplementary nutrition programme under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for children, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls covering 5.20 lakh beneficiaries in 41 ICDS Projects. The programme will cover another 1.05 lakh beneficiaries during 2015-16, thereby, extending the nutrition coverage to 6.25 lakh beneficiaries under the re-structured ICDS. Financial assistance and

support to NGOs engaged in the welfare of Women and Children will continue, and 85 NGOs have benefitted during 2014-15.

53. For the welfare of the physically challenged, significant achievement has been made in providing services such as 1,096 scholarships, vocational training to 87 differently abled, grant for uniforms and books and conveyance allowance to 1,338 students and unemployment allowance to 72 physically challenged. The Chief Minister's Scheme for assistance of physically challenged, infirm and widows will continue during 2015-16. Financial assistance has been provided to 24,409 infirm, 16,782 widows and 7,121 physically challenged during 2014-15. Wedding assistance was extended for 123 orphan girls of marriageable age.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 152.30 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs**

54. Sir, food security particularly for those families living below poverty level is an overarching concern, and the Targeted Public Distribution System will continue to work towards this objective. Rice is made available at subsidized rates to around 4.49 lakh families in the State. Sugar is also being procured by the Government and is being made available in hygienically packed polybags of one kilogram to beneficiaries, through the Fair Price Shops. 35 Kgs of rice per month is being given to Antyodaya Anna Yojana beneficiaries at the rate of ₹ 3.00 per Kg covering 70,200 families. Under the ANNAPURNA scheme, rice is made available free of cost to 9,263 indigent old age persons. Fixed quota of rice at subsidized rate is also distributed to 22,239 inmates of SC and ST hostels and welfare institutions and 21 Vocational Training Centres in the State. The Meghalaya State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums have altogether registered

a total of 1,283 cases, out of which 1,182 cases have been disposed off. Consumer awareness activities have been carried out at the State as well as District level to make consumers aware of their rights as enshrined in the Consumer Protection Act 1986. Preparatory steps have been taken to implement the provisions of National Food Security Act (NFSA). The State is finalizing the list of beneficiaries to be covered under the NFSA based on the Socio Economic and Caste Census that has been completed recently. It is expected that implementation of NFSA in the State will commence in a few months.

The proposed Development Plan outlay during 2015-16 is ₹ 1.30 crore.

### **Water Supply and Sanitation**

55. Another important function of the Government is to provide safe drinking water supply. The implementation of Greater Shillong Water Supply Project (Phase III) is at an advanced stage. The Water Supply Project formulated to cover New Shillong Town area, will benefit a population of around 1.34 lakh people in Phase I of the project. Augmentation work of Tura Phase I and II is also making progress. In the rural areas, work is progressing in water supply schemes for 181 Slipped Back Habitations, 19 Quality Affected Habitations, 564 schools and 585 Anganwadi Centres.
56. Sanitation is another crucial concern. Upto last year, 2.75 lakh individual household latrines, 13,174 units of school toilets, 242 sanitary complexes and 2,035 Anganwadi toilets have been completed . However, the main thrust of the programme is not only construction of toilets but also making people conscious of their responsibility to maintain a clean environment through awareness creating activities. The State was

awarded the Nirmal Gram Puraskar last year for second best performance in the implementation of the programme.

57. The Government is in the process of formulating projects for implementing sewerage projects in Shillong, Tura and Jowai.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 309.40 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Agriculture and Horticulture**

58. Agriculture and allied sector is going to remain the mainstay of our economy as our investment strategy is being rolled out to provide sustainable and attractive livelihood opportunities through adoption of best farming practices and appropriate technology adoption. Special programme in sync with our concept of linking sustainable livelihood with sustainable ecology leveraging upon highly remunerative options of farming on agro-forestry is being introduced which is expected to increase the earning of farmers, attract investments and bring in positive socio-economic transformative changes across the State. Appropriate policy to support plantation and harvest of high valued agro-forestry species in private farmland and their value addition within the State thereof is on the anvil. The Integrated Agriculture Training Centre inaugurated in June 2014 is imparting training to rural educated youth for self-employment in farm-based enterprises. Several skill up-gradation programmes will be conducted for farmers, field functionaries and officers with the latest scientific and technological advances. It is envisaged that the Government would be able to recruit requisite manpower under the Central Government's 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' scheme, through a placement agency.

59. I am happy to state that 'MEG' tea has been accorded organic certification and has also met Indian standards under the National Programme of Organic Production and International Standards. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled 'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture' is being implemented for holistic development of horticulture and a Centre of Excellence has been set up at South West Garo Hills and a Model Floriculture Centre at Ri-Bhoi District. The Department has handed over four hectares of its farm at Byrnihat to the Spices Board for establishment of a 'Spices Park' to provide common infrastructure facilities for both post harvest and processing operations of spices and spice products. The MoU in this regard has been signed recently.
60. In order to reduce health and ecological hazards that emanate from the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the Government is encouraging farmers to switch to bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides by providing subsidy for these inputs. The National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad, will assist in adoption of bio-intensive pest management strategies and decentralisation of production centres for bio-control agents and bio-pesticides through Farmer Self Help Groups.
- A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 147 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Fisheries**

61. Efforts are on to ensure self-sufficiency in fish and fish seed production. With an investment of ₹ 95.34 crore, a total area of 1,630 hectares has been brought under fish culture. An additional water area of 831 hectares will be covered within this year under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and IBDLP. Since the launching of the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission, 12 Eco-Hatcheries and 14 Fabricated Reinforced

Portable Hatcheries have been established. In order to conserve the endangered endemic species, 54 sanctuaries have been identified and are at various stages of implementation. An amount of ₹ 2.70 crore is utilized for this programme. During 2014-15, an amount of ₹ 60 crore has been invested for different development programmes under the Mission.

62. The Meghalaya State Fisheries Research Training Institute imparted training to more than 2,400 farmers across the State. For building the skill base in the fishery sector, Farmers' Capacity Building Centers have been established in each District Headquarter. Training programmes in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development and other Institutes like Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute and Central Institute of Fisheries Education will continue.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 23 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Animal Husbandry and Veterinary**

63. For enhancing the productivity of livestock and poultry, we are concentrating on improved breeding, management and healthcare. It is proposed to set up an Artificial Insemination Production Centre for pig at Upper Shillong to improve production. In order to conserve the local breed of pig (Niang Megha), it is proposed to introduce these pigs in certain Government farms. Innovation technologies are being introduced to ensure availability of quality feed at cheaper rate. Under Dairy Sector, the Dairy Co-operative Societies will be assisted by setting up Milk Collection Centre with bulk coolers.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 50.50 crore is proposed during 2015-16.



## **Water Resources**

64. As the majority of the rural population of the State depends on agriculture, focus will continue to be on providing irrigation facilities aimed at enhancing crop production and productivity. It is anticipated that additional irrigation potential of 6,000 hectares will be created during 2014-15 under AIBP and State Plan schemes. Moreover, 597 Jalkunds are under construction and these will provide irrigation facility to cover another 1,942 hectares. Thrust will continue on participatory irrigation management and towards this end more Water Users' Associations will be formed during the year 2015-16. A programme has been initiated to ensure training and capacity building of the members of the Water Users' Association with the help of institutes like North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM) and National Water Academy, Pune.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 169.80 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

## **Soil and Water Conservation**

65. The Soil and Water Conservation Department strives at conserving and scientifically managing natural resources like soil, water and vegetation and protection of catchment of rivers and streams with the active participation of the stakeholders. To achieve this goal many development programmes are being implemented which include 96 ongoing projects under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Watershed Management Programmes (IWMP), and another 11 new IWMP projects are being proposed for the year 2015-16.
66. Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), 42 ongoing projects which are being implemented will be continued during 2015-16 with the aim to encourage multi cropping activities and scientific

conservation of water resources. 15 ongoing projects under RIDF programme are being actively pursued with a focus on coordinated land development in river valley.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 263 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Sericulture and Weaving**

67. The emphasis of the Government has been on raising plantations of host plants in Eri and Muga Vanya clusters under the ongoing Catalytic Development Programme of the Central Silk Board for enhancing the production of silk cocoons and resultant increase in yarn production. Other components include the supply of rearing appliances and motorized spinning and reeling implements. The Government in collaboration with GIZ has made a breakthrough in the process of degumming which substantially contributes to the sheen and softness of eri silk fibre. In respect of the handloom sector, 10,000 weavers will be trained for improving their skills in silk weaving process such as bobbinning, warping, beaming, denting, drafting and designing. Under the Comprehensive Handloom Development Scheme, the Government of India is providing assistance to the handloom clusters for setting up of yarn depot, product development and diversification, and designing and marketing of handloom fabrics.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 34 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Forest and Environment**

68. Sir, forests play a vital role in maintaining environmental stability in Meghalaya. Government - owned forests are managed through scientific Management Working Plans prepared, using data provided by the North Eastern Space Application Centre. For scientific management of

community and privately owned forests, which constitute a major portion of the forest cover in the State, Working Schemes have been formulated with the assistance of North Eastern Space Application Centre and submitted to the Ministry of Forest and Environment for approval. The Department has adopted a participatory approach with involvement of local communities for protection and conservation of forests as well as for implementation of large scale afforestation or regeneration schemes and forest based resource development programmes. Plantations of 3000 hectares have been undertaken during 2014-15 through 359 Joint Forest Management Committees constituted across the State. Participation of the community in wildlife conservation was also elicited, as a result of which, 11 new Community Reserves under Wildlife (Protection) Act have been notified during 2014 -15, bringing the total to 39.

69. The Meghalaya State Medicinal Plants Board has been sanctioned ₹ 1.73 crore by the National Medicinal Plants Board during 2014-15 for raising plantations and other promotional activities. The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB) has augmented its activities in a big way consequent to the release of ₹ 2 crore grant under the State Plan Scheme to the Board. Activities related to survey, assessment and documentation of biodiversity, creation of awareness and capacity building of all stakeholders have already commenced. So far, 88 Biodiversity Management Committees have been formed in the State under the Biological Diversity Act, 2006 and the process of forming more such Committees is continuing.
70. In addition to conservation efforts, the Department augments the State revenue collection accruing out of sustainable use of natural resources viz. forest produce and minor minerals. To improve revenue collection,

the rates of Royalty on forest produce and minor minerals were revised in June 2014. In the current financial year, the Department is expected to collect ₹ 60 crore as against ₹ 47.53 crore during 2013-14.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 81.30 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Community and Rural Development**

71. In order to uplift the socio economic status of rural people, the Government will continue to implement the poverty alleviation and livelihoods programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana and National Social Assistance Programme. The State Sector Schemes such as Special Rural Works Programme, Construction of Rural Roads Programme and Chief Minister's Rural Development Fund will continue to be implemented during the year.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 509.90 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Cooperation**

72. The Government is making efforts to see that the Cooperative institutions become effective instruments of socio-economic growth. It is heartening to see that cooperative initiatives are enhancing their presence in sectors such as credit, food processing, handloom, handicrafts, fisheries, industries, dairy, livestock and marketing of agricultural produce. 1,410 Cooperative Societies with membership of about 1.73 lakh individuals are working towards ensuring better livelihood opportunities to the people. Steps will be proposed to further streamline the State Cooperative Act with a view to ensure greater

transparency, efficiency and democratic functioning of cooperatives in the State.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 14 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Border Areas Development**

73. The Border Areas Development Programme and the Inter State Border Areas Development Programme will supplement the schemes being implemented by other Departments in the State in a focused manner. Further, the Government is also providing scholarship and stipends to students hailing from the notified border villages.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 39.50 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Commerce and Industries**

74. In order to encourage manufacture of goods locally and increase availability of services to meet various requirements, which in turn will generate employment, the Government will continue to promote the development and growth of micro, small, medium and also large enterprises in the State. A total of 152 industrial units under micro, small, medium and large enterprises were promoted in the current year with an investment of ₹ 19 crore in plant and machineries, and consequently, generated employment for 703 people in the State. Another 82 industrial units will be provided financial assistance of ₹ 38.89 lakh shortly. 191 units were set up under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme creating employment for 662 people. Training and skill development has been initiated for motivating youth and women in different activities like assembly of solar photovoltaic equipment, apparel making, electronics and maintenance, packaging, leather craft and accessories. Under the Master Craftsman Scheme, training has been

imparted to 437 rural artisans for upgrading their skills and enhancing their productivity in trades like cane and bamboo, wood craft and other artistic works. With the launching of Apiculture Mission in Shillong and at Asananggre near Tura, entrepreneurship development and skill training has been imparted to 2,551 Bee Keepers. Under the centrally sponsored ASIDE scheme various projects have been implemented such as, infrastructure development of Export Promotion Industrial Park, Export Integrated Craft Complex, roads, bridges and drinking water supply. Recently, four new border haats have been approved at Bholaganj, Nalikata, Sibbari and Rynku along the Indo-Bangla international border. Development of these border haats will be taken up. Additional land is being acquired for development of the Integrated Check Post at Dawki-Tamabil by the Land Ports Authority of India. Under the National Mission on Food Processing, 12 food processing units have been provided financial assistance amounting to ₹ 2.59 crore.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 70.50 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Mining and Geology**

75. Geological programmes on mineral exploration are being carried out every year. The total production of coal and limestone in the State during 2013-14 was 57.32 lakh tonnes and 44.20 lakh tonnes respectively. The total revenue collected on these minerals during the year was ₹ 456 crore. Production of coal and limestone during 2014-15 upto December 2014 was recorded at 12.39 lakh metric tonnes and 31.25 lakh metric tonnes respectively and the total revenue collected on major minerals upto December 2014 was ₹ 180 crore. An Empowered Committee has been constituted to monitor and periodically review the implementation of the Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012. A Sub-Committee has been

constituted to set out the administrative guidelines and procedures for mining of major minerals.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 5 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

## **Urban Development**

76. Cities are often termed as engines of economic growth, and ensuring that they function efficiently is critical to our economic development. We have developed significantly since the creation of our State. We started with six towns and a total urban population of around 1.47 lakh. Today, there are 22 towns with a total population of around 5.95 lakh. To keep pace with this urbanisation, the Government is upgrading the physical and social infrastructure to improve the standard of living, with special focus on the urban poor. While the physical infrastructure is being upgraded through the various State Plans, Centrally Sponsored and Externally Aided Schemes, the social and economic facilities are being provided through the various urban poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. The Government is ensuring that various urban local bodies in the State become self sustaining by bringing in reforms in accounting, property taxation and e-governance initiatives. The Government proposes to continue with the on-going programmes, upgrade the existing facilities in the Public Transport System as well as availing the benefits of the various newly launched programmes of Government of India like the Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart Cities Programme and Liveable Cities Initiatives.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 169 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

## **Housing**

77. The objective of the Government is to provide decent houses to the poor families in the State, particularly in the rural areas. It is with this aim in mind that the Government has decided to replace the Rural Housing Scheme with the Affordable Housing Scheme. The modality for implementing the new scheme is being worked out.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 43.20 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

## **Labour**

78. During the last three years, 18,000 youth have been covered under various skill development programmes. The upgraded Mechanic (Motor vehicle) Section at Government ITI, Shillong in collaboration with Tata Motors Ltd., India has been commissioned this year. Upgradation of the existing I.T.Is is also being taken up under the Project 'Supporting Human Capital Development' in a phased manner. Government of India has released funds for the setting up of a new ITI at Ampati and has also approved the setting up of one more ITI in the State. The Government also has a mandate of skilling 14000 youth during 2015-16.

79. The Government of India recently approved the setting up of a Model Career Centre at Shillong, which will provide more focus on career counseling and guidance for our youth. Land for setting up of the Regional Labour Institute has been identified at Government ITI, Shillong.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 25.72 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

## **Revenue and Disaster Management**

80. The Government has organized awareness campaigns amongst the Sirdars, Headman, Nokmas and village elders to highlight the benefits of



having cadastral map/land records. As a result, cadastral survey of villages under Elaka Pamsangut, East Khasi Hills and Rasnagre Akhing, under South Garo Hills District has been taken up during 2014-15, and the work is in progress. This exercise will continue during 2015-16. The Government will continue organizing mock drills to create awareness about disaster risk management during 2015-16 in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 60 lakh is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Information Technology**

81. Participation in the IT revolution is essential in order to ensure transparent, measurable and accountable governance. The Government has agreed to allocate 10 acres at IT Park, New Shillong to the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), for setting up its permanent campus. The setting up of the second phase of the Software Technology Park of India at Lumjingshai, Shillong is at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed by early 2015-16. This will enable IT entrepreneurs to set up incubation units at an affordable cost. Once this is completed, the State Data Center will be integrated with the National Cloud called – “Meghraj”. The Government is implementing its Capacity Building programme by imparting training for IT skills. Many students were trained during the current financial year and the training programme will continue. Under the Capacity Building training programme, the IT Department in collaboration with the Department of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, has conducted a series of specialised training in e-Governance Program for officers of various departments during the year.

82. Under the 'Students Digital Learning Aid scheme', mobile tablets loaded with Meghalaya Board of School Education syllabus and Medical & Engineering Entrance Examinations contents, were distributed to Class-XII students in the academic years 2014-15. This scheme will also be extended by providing mobile tablets to the schools and teachers of Higher Secondary Schools with pre-loaded contents. A project is being implemented to provide free WI-FI connectivity to all Higher Secondary schools in the State so that students can access contents available in the net under the guidance of their teachers.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 25.50 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Tourism**

83. In line with the overall tenor and focus of 'Destination Meghalaya', the Government has given thrust to increasing availability of accommodation, skill development in hospitality and promotion of festivals. In order to preserve and showcase our rich culture and heritage, the Government will continue to promote festivals like Wangala Dance, Shad Suk Mynsiem, Nongkrem Dance, Behdeinkhlam and other festivals. Agri Tourism has the potential of attracting tourists in the State. Meghalaya will develop and promote Agri Tourism beginning with strawberries as one of the themes. The State has ideal locations for adventure tourism. During 2015-16, the Government will focus in developing activities such as zip lining, parasailing, mountain cycling, rock climbing, kayaking etc. Bestowed with abundant variety of medicinal plants, the State will promote Wellness and Herbal Tourism. Existing herbal medicinal centres will be encouraged to form part of an important component of Wellness Tourism. During the current financial year, 1,775 youths have been trained and so far placement has been made for 1,195

youths in different trades of hospitality. In the last one year, 75 rooms have been created under the Meghalaya Tourism Development and Investment Promotion Scheme and central schemes.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 107 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Civil Defence and Home Guards**

84. During 2014-15, the Centre approved procurement of 1,000 used but serviceable 7.62 SLR from CRPF as a measure to upgrade the weaponry of Home Guards. Further, a scheme for mainstreaming of Civil Defence in Disaster Risk Reduction has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs amounting to ₹ 10.43 crore for Civil Defence units to be set up in 7 most vulnerable districts, namely, East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi, West Jaintia Hills, West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills and South Garo Hills.

A Development outlay of ₹ 5.35 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Prisons**

85. At present, there are 4 District Jails located at Shillong, Jowai, Tura and Williamnagar. District Jail at Mawsyntai, Nongpoh will be operationalised within this year. Reformative programmes for prisoners including awareness of their legal rights, drug addiction, alcoholism and human rights were conducted during the year.

A Development Plan outlay of ₹ 4.50 crore is proposed during 2015-16.

### **Personnel**

86. To enhance performance and responsiveness of Government employees, MATI has conducted 123 training programmes during 2014-15. This year MATI has also started training programmes such as the Induction

Training for IAS Probationers of Assam-Meghalaya Cadre, training on Gender Budgeting in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, training on Cyber Crime and Secretarial training in collaboration with the Institute of Secretariat Training Management, Delhi.

87. In order to ensure that the resources invested in training are targeted at areas where training is needed, MATI proposes to conduct Training Needs Analysis for important Departments in a phased manner during the financial year 2015-16. The Institute will also develop a pool of trainers through programmes of Training of Trainers in nationally reputed institutes. Priority will be given to mid-career training to State Government functionaries of all ranks with the aim of making administration more efficient and outcome oriented.

The proposed Development Plan outlay is ₹ 7 crore during 2015-16.

### **General Administration**

88. Sir, the new Meghalaya House at Kolkata Russel Street was inaugurated on the 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. Tara Ghar has also been notified as the State Guest House temporarily. The State and Central Government through the Department of Sainik Welfare has spent an amount of ₹ 24 lakh for the welfare of Ex-servicemen, widows and their dependants and also destitute Ex-servicemen in the last one year.
89. Some of the major ongoing projects undertaken for the past two years include renovation of Meghalaya House at New Delhi, creation of infrastructure for the office of the Deputy Commissioner of South West Khasi District at Mawkyrwat, construction of permanent Court Building for Subordinate Judiciary at Tura, construction of Judicial Court Office

Complex at Williamnagar, and construction of the Meghalaya Public Service Commission office buildings at Shillong and Tura respectively. Construction of Land Custom Station at Dalu is completed. Construction of Governor's Guest house at Tura is expected to be completed shortly.

### **Tax and Non Tax Proposals**

90. In order to generate additional resources for the State to meet our various commitments, I propose to take up the following measures :-
- a. Withdrawal of the exemption of 50 paise per litre on diesel which was notified on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2011 to provide a cushion against the then steep increase in the price of diesel.
  - b. Increase the rate of tax on diesel from the existing rate of 12.5 % to 13.5 %.
  - c. Withdrawal of 50 percent of the exemption of ₹ 1.13 per litre on petrol which was notified on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 to provide cushion against the then steep hike in the price of petrol.
  - d. Increase the rate of tax on cigarettes, cheroots, cigars, beedis and smoking mixture from the existing rate of 20 % to 27 %.
  - e. Introduce a cess on clinker @ ₹ 20 per metric tonne as done earlier in the case of cement for the purpose of education.

These measures are expected to generate additional resources to the tune of ₹ 30.91 crore annually.

91. In addition to the above, it is also proposed to enhance the rate of cess on limestone from ₹ 20 to ₹ 40 per metric tonne, Fire Clay from ₹ 5 to ₹ 20 per metric tonne and sillimanite from ₹ 300 to ₹ 350 per metric tonne for the purpose of supporting primary education.

## **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

92. Sir, for 2015-16, I have estimated the total receipts at ₹ 9282 crore. The revenue receipts are estimated at ₹ 8403 crore and capital receipts at ₹ 879 crore. Excluding borrowings and other liabilities, the total receipts are estimated to be ₹ 8434 crore.
93. On the Expenditure side, I have estimated the total expenditure at ₹ 9583 crore, during 2015-16, of which revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹ 7621 crore and capital expenditure at ₹ 1962 crore. Excluding repayment of loans and other liabilities, the estimated total expenditure is ₹ 9253 crore.
94. Interest payment during 2015-16 is estimated at ₹ 471 crore and pension payment at ₹ 446 crore.
95. I am presenting the 2015-16 Budget with a fiscal deficit of about ₹ 819 crore, which is around 2.8 % of GSDP.

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

**Khublei**

**Mitela**

**Thank You**