

Speaker Sir,

It is with a sense of great privilege, and also deep humility, that I rise to present the Budget for the year 2018-19, which is also the first year of the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance. We would like to thank the people of the State for reposing their faith upon us, and we are confident that we will sincerely build a strong and vibrant Meghalaya. Our commitment is to ensure all round development in the State and to accord priority to education, health, rural road connectivity, agriculture, particularly food processing and tourism amongst others.

2. One of the major reforms that our country witnessed in the past year is the transformational Goods and Services Tax (GST), which was launched at the stroke of midnight on July 1, 2017. With a policy change of such scale, scope, and complexity, it is only expected that there would be challenges ahead. However, the Government of India is fully committed to stabilizing GST implementation to remove uncertainty for exporters, facilitate easier compliance, and expand the tax base.

3. With Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth averaging 7.5% between 2014-15 and 2016-17, India can be rated as amongst the best performing economies in the world. The GDP growth at 6.3% in the second quarter of 2017-18 signalled turnaround for the economy. The Economic Survey points to an accelerated GDP growth in the coming year following the initial slowdown after the implementation of demonetization and the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). As per estimates, the GDP is expected to grow between 7 to 7.5% in 2018-19.

State Economy

4. During the year 2016–17, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at Current Market price was ₹ 28,445 crore, as per the quick estimates, which shows an increase of 9.5 % over the previous year. The advance estimates indicate that the GSDP for 2017-18 is ₹ 31,290 crore, an increase of 10 % over 2016-17. The growth of the tertiary sector is registered at 7.24%, the secondary sector at 16.59 % and the primary sector at 2.71 % during the year 2015-16 to 2016-17. The per capita income of the State at current price for the year 2017–18 stands at ₹ 89,432/- as per the advance estimates as against ₹ 85,141 in the year 2016-17 showing an increase of about 5.04%.

State Finances

5. As per the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act 2017, any revenue loss on account of the growth rate in subsumed tax collection which is less than 14% (using 2015-16 as the benchmark year) would be compensated. This coupled with the recent relaxation of the recommendations of the Committee on Road Safety on the sale of liquor has slightly improved the State's own revenue collection during 2017-18. However, the spill over impact of the NGT ban on coal mining on the economy of the State is still restricting the State from realizing its full revenue potential.
6. Despite the above limitations in the collection of the State's own revenue (both tax and non tax), the State total receipts for 2018-19 will improve over 2017-18 on account of the comparatively higher share of Central taxes, earmarked at ₹ 5059.77 crore for 2018-19.
7. The State's total expenditure from its own resources is anticipated to increase substantially during 2017-18 and also in the coming years. This is due, amongst other things, to the commitment of the State Government to support the improvement of judicial infrastructure in the State from its own resources as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the creation of a substantial number of posts required to improve the State's

delivery system and, most importantly the implementation of the Meghalaya 5th Pay Commission for Government employees.

8. Sir, on account of the above fiscal scenario and to ensure that the State is able to meet its committed and unavoidable expenditures as well as ensuring there is enough funds for development works, Government is committed to strictly implement and reinforce the fiscal austerity measures and avoid all wasteful expenditures. The Government is also taking measures to strengthen the enforcement machinery to realize higher revenue under GST, grant mining leases for minor minerals under the Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 to generate more revenue from royalty on minor minerals.
9. Over the recent years, there has been reduction in funds being available for developmental schemes and projects. This is mainly due to the discontinuation of Block Grants such as Special Plan Assistance (SPA), Special Central Assistance (SCA) and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Central Sector Schemes. The State Government will ensure that all available financial assistance which can be leveraged from the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Central Sector Schemes, Grants under Art. 275 (1), Externally Aided Projects (EAP) and the assistance available from NEC and Ministry of DoNER are fully tapped.

Finance Commission

10. The Government will endeavour to improve its fiscal position through the award of the 15th Finance Commission, a constitutional body, which was recently constituted by Government of India. The Commission will carry out an objective study into the fiscal position of the States in relation to their needs to improve the socio-economic infrastructure and administrative set up vis-a-vis their revenue generation capacity and to recommend appropriate financial assistance that would help the State Governments to improve their socio-economic and administrative set up. The 15th Finance Commission is scheduled to submit its Report sometime in October 2019 and its five-year award period will cover the year 2020 upto 2025. We will

appropriately make our submission before the Commission for a favourable award.

Guarantee Redemption Fund and Consolidated Sinking Fund

11. The Government will continue its contribution to the Meghalaya Guarantee Redemption Fund. The purpose of having this amortization fund is for servicing the contingent liabilities arising out of the invocation of State Government guarantees. Further, for providing a cushion for redemption of open market loans, the State has a Consolidated Sinking Fund.

Treasury Computerization

12. The on-line Computerization of Treasuries which is fully operational in all the existing Treasuries has brought about accuracy in the reporting system, leading to improvement in Government payment system and public real time delivery system. Payment of Salaries and Pensions is directly credited to the Bank Accounts of the payees.

Biometric Fingerprint Mobile Validation System

13. In 2018-19, the Government will be introducing the Biometric Fingerprint Mobile Validation System (BFMS) as an alternative automated method of verifying the life certificate of the pensioner through smart phone.

e- Payment

14. Sir, we are focusing on Government of India's policy of migration towards cashless economy. The State has launched the "Meg e-payment" portal which can be accessed anytime, anywhere, on the internet, with multi-bank option and multi-payment mode options such as Internet Banking, Debit/Credit cards, etc. Tax payers can now pay taxes online from the comfort of their homes without having to visit the Treasury or the Bank at all. Besides Taxation Department, the system was also extended to Transport Department. Creation of Employee Database has been fully completed.

Improvement of the Management Information System (MIS) shall be taken into account on priority basis.

Public Financial Management System

15. The Government endeavours to implement Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in the State for various Central Sector as well as Centrally Sponsored Schemes by registering all the State Implementing Agencies (SIAs) as well as for all the Implementing Agencies (IAs) upto the last level. Further, all Treasury transaction relating to Central Government Schemes will be exposed to PFMS via the Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) Server. All Departments/Agencies implementing such schemes will be registered up-to the beneficiary level, and will make e-payments using the Expenditure/Advance/Transfer (EAT) Module of PFMS.
16. PFMS had initially started as a pilot project in the State in respect of the scheme 'NRHM'. Active implementation of PFMS in the State commenced during 2017-18 after the creation and posting of Special Project Management Units (SPMUs) by Ministry of Finance. The State had also constituted a State Advisory Committee as well as a State Implementation Unit in accordance with the guidelines and action plan of Ministry of Finance, for successful implementation of PFMS to link the financial networks of Central, State Government and agencies of the State Government. In Meghalaya PFMS has been implemented by various Departments such as Education, Community & Rural Development, Social Welfare, Border Areas etc.,. There are 25 schemes on-boarded to PFMS by the various Departments with 24 SIAs and 10,977 IAs registered so far.

Direct Benefit Transfer and Banking

17. Sir, following the Centre's policy of reforming the Government's delivery system by re-engineering the existing process in welfare schemes for simpler and faster flow of funds, the State DBT Cell was constituted in 2016 and the State DBT Portal was launched on 4th August, 2017. The portal serves as a dashboard displaying progress of implementation of DBT in the State. So far, 65 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Sub-schemes,

including both cash and in-kind transfers, and one State Scheme have been on-boarded. So far, the number of DBT transactions during the current year has crossed 20 crore and the amount has touched ₹ 360 crore. Since Aadhaar enrolment at present is only 18%, the Government is implementing non-Aadhaar based DBT through e-transfer mode. This mechanism ensures electronic transfer of funds directly to the bank account of the beneficiaries, thereby, curbing pilferage and duplication.

18. One of the important factors for DBT mechanism to run smoothly and effectively is to ensure that beneficiaries have access to the formal banking system. The Government is trying to expand the bank branches, with special emphasis on the rural sector. Many villages with population below 2000 are covered under the Financial Inclusion Plan (FIP) of RBI. The coverage is either through brick and mortar bank branch or Business Correspondents (BCs). So far, there are 398 brick and mortar bank branches, of which 203 are in rural, 85 in Semi Urban and 110 in urban areas. Further, even though all Blocks in the State have been more or less covered by a bank branch, the Government will examine further strengthening of banking services by opening up of additional branches. Where setting up of a bank branch is not feasible, BCs are engaged to facilitate opening of bank accounts and also other banking and financial services.
19. Banks are being directed to conduct Financial Literacy Camps (FLCs), at least once a month to sensitize the people about the need to have a bank account. So far during 2017-18 a total of 640 FLCs were conducted throughout the State. The people are made aware of the benefits they would derive by having a bank account from Government of India's schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), social security schemes such as, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY). So far a total of 4,46,987 PMJDY accounts, 1,24,161 PMSBY and 56,841 PMJJBY accounts have been opened in the State. The number of people under Atal Pension Yojana is 6,219. The progress of the banking sector is being quarterly monitored in the State Level Bankers Committee Meeting.

20. Connectivity is also another issue that requires the attention of the Government. There are 64 grey areas where connectivity is poor and 1 dark area where connectivity is yet to be addressed. The Department of Telecom and Lead Bank are working on this and we expect the situation to improve in the days to come. The Banks are also availing NABARD's financial inclusion fund for setting up VSATs in these areas to improve the network service. The Telecom Policy is being prepared which will also ensure that the right policy is in place to improve connectivity in the State.

e-File

21. Governance processes are based around receipts, creation of files, notings, drafts for approval, etc before arriving at decisions, which may finally be issued out as letters and notifications. Electronic file or e-File aims to bring about efficiency, consistency, transparency and accountability in governance through its inter and intra processes, while also reducing turnaround time and processing delays to meet the demands of the citizens. An automation of file/receipt activities through e-File will play a very crucial role in improving effective decision making and will improve the quality of administration. The Government will implement e-File in a phase manner which will eventually cover all Departments.

Externally Aided Projects

22. An externally aided project which is currently being implemented in the State under the ambit of the Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme is the Meghalaya Livelihood and Access to Market Project (Megha-LAMP) funded by IFAD. Another project, the Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLLMP) funded by the World Bank was sanctioned recently. These projects have been conceived to leverage funds through external funding agencies to address bottlenecks which require convergence between two or more Departments such as the need to provide access to markets through different modes of connectivity, be it roads, ropeways and waterways, to provide livelihood in the inaccessible areas in the State while also taking into perspective the sustainable use of

our natural resources. The Community Led Landscape Management Project aims at strengthening the communities and traditional institutions, management of natural resources, restoration of degraded landscape, reversing deforestation, unscientific quarrying/mining as well as to stabilize the critically hydrological concerns at the village level. Besides these two projects, there are 11 other externally aided projects which have been proposed to the Government of India for clearance and approval which include the Construction of Rain Water Harvesting Structures and Small Ponds/Jalkunds, the Landscape Community Forest & Water Management Project (LCFWMP), the Integrated Transport Sector Development Project for Improvement of Livelihood & Empowerment of Women in Remote Tribal Areas, the Meghalaya Power Sector Improvement Project, etc.. All these projects have been conceived and formulated with the objective of achieving sustainable growth through judicious utilisation of our natural resources as well as to address key infrastructural gaps.

Law and Order

23. Law and order situation in the State is stable and being dealt with firmly. The General Election to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly 2018 was conducted successfully during February – March 2018. A number of measures were taken recently to make the Police more accessible and people friendly. The State Police is also giving special attention to sensitize its officers and personnel in dealing with crimes against women and children. The Department will make an earnest endeavour in the coming year to fill up the existing vacancies.
24. Salaries form a major component of the budget of the Home (Police) Department. The other major components are Rations, Clothing, POL, Motor Vehicles, Travelling expenses, Medical Treatment, Supply & Materials of Housing and other infrastructure. It is pertinent to mention that the expenditure of the department is very often unforeseen and cannot be anticipated as the prime function of the department is to maintain law & order in the State and cater to logistic requirements as and when the demand arises. Due attention will be given to counter insurgency

operations so that the dividends achieved so far are duly leveraged to maintain peace and tranquillity in the State which is a pre-requisite for development.

25. The Government has taken several steps to combat crimes against women and children and also human trafficking. The Government has passed directions that all the heinous crimes against women and children should be transferred to Fast Track courts. Creation of anti human trafficking units in all the districts is being taken up. Women Helpline 181 has been installed. The 'Operation Muskaan' initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, is being implemented in the State to trace, rescue and rehabilitate missing children. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) has also been enacted and Special Juvenile Police Units have been set up by the Government to deal with children in conflict with law and in need of care and protection in all 11 districts of the State. Under the "Safe Secure Shillong Project" 30 CCTVs have been placed in different locations in Shillong City, and 14 CCTVs in different locations of Tura town. The Cyber Crime Assistance Cell set up at CID headquarter has effectively assisted victims of different types of cyber Crime through Face Book, WhatsApp etc. Special Cell for Women at Sadar Police Station in East Khasi Hills District was established to assist victims of crime against women and children.

A development outlay of ₹ 57.80 crore is proposed for 2018 – 2019.

Judiciary

26. Sir, the Government, with a view to expedite the disposal of cases under Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act and Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal , has created 11 posts of Special Judges for each District, out of which three Courts were made functional in the East Khasi Hills, Ri-bhoi & West Garo Hills under the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Act. At present, the Government is continuing its project towards development of infrastructure at the District and Sub-Division level through schemes from the Ministry of Law and Justice. The Government has launched the website www.meglav.gov.in where all the Acts and Ordinances, right from the inception of the State till date, are available. The Separation of the Judiciary

from the Executive in the remaining four Districts viz., East Jaintia Hills, South West Khasi Hills, North Garo Hills and South Garo Hills will be effective soon.

A development outlay of ₹ 55.00 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

District Councils

27. The District Councils are Autonomous bodies constituted under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India to safeguard the interests and rights of the indigenous citizens of the State. Besides, the District Councils also undertake various developmental activities in the areas within their jurisdiction. The Councils have very narrow resource base and largely depend on financial assistance passed on by the Centre and the State Government in the form of grants-in-aid. During 2017-18, an amount of ₹ 71.66 Crore sanctioned by Government of India for Areas not covered under Part IX and IXA was released to the three Autonomous Districts.

A development outlay of ₹ 13.30 Crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Power

28. Sir, the Government has been implementing a number of Schemes in the Generation , Transmission and Distribution Sector in order to improve the availability of Power and Services to the consumers in the State. After the commissioning of the New Umtru (2x20 MW) Hydro Project in July 2017, there are at present 2(two) Hydro Projects under implementation namely Lakroh SHP (1.5MW) and Ganol HEP (3x7.5 MW).
29. An amount of ₹ 145.11 Crore is proposed for Generation Projects, ₹ 21.60 Crore for Distribution Projects and ₹ 50.26 Crore for Transmission Projects. An amount of ₹ 77.36 Crore has been kept as State Share for CSS Schemes and ₹ 60.00 Crore as loans (RIDF) from NABARD for Generation Projects. The Renovation, Modernization and Up-gradation of Umiam Stage-III (2 x 30 MW) have also been proposed for funding under External Aided Project for implementation during 2018-19. The State Government

has also accorded Administrative Approval for construction of Riangdo SHP (3x1000 KW) & the implementation of the project is expected to start soon.

30. The North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) under the funding from the Government of India with World Bank aid is being implemented for further strengthening and augmenting the Intra-State Transmission System. “Renovation and Up-gradation of Protection & Control System of MePTCL” schemes are being under-taken under the Power System Development Fund (PSDF). The Government of India has recently launched 3 (three) schemes namely, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY), Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) and Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).
31. Under the New and Renewable Energy component, many programmes will be undertaken such as Family Size biogas plants, Solar Street Lighting System, Distribution of Solar Lanterns to students, Installation of Solar Home Lighting System in remote and isolated households, Solar Water Heating System, standalone Solar/Bio mass based power plants, PICO Hydro Plants, Installation of Solar Power Plant in remote CHC/PHCs and remote school building. The off Grid solar power of 25 Kw capacities will be installed in all the District and Session Courts in phased manner.
32. The Inspectorate of Electricity will undertake awareness campaign on Electrical safety, notify the Meghalaya Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) and intensify awareness campaign among the Students & public on the urgent need for energy conservation & efficiency.
33. An important scheme for Energy Conservation is the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA). The UJALA Scheme aims at promoting the use of energy efficient energy lighting solution by providing 9W LED bulbs to all MePDCL consumers in Meghalaya at an affordable rate. In Meghalaya, UJALA is implemented by Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Limited (MePDCL) in collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL). EESL procures high quality LED 9 watt bulbs from

leading manufacturers through a transparent bidding process and in turn sells them to the consumers at ₹ 70/- each. This rate is much lower than the market price and comes with a three year warranty. As on 19th March 2018, EESL has distributed 3,38,589 bulbs in the State.

A Development Outlay of ₹ 446.62 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Roads and Bridges

34. Sir, road infrastructure plays a significant role in the growth and development of the State. Development of road infrastructure and providing village connectivity in the State are the main thrust areas of the Government. During 2017-18, the Government has sanctioned 41 rural roads projects and 3 rural bridges under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF-XXIII) at a cost of ₹ 133.77 crore. These Schemes are under initial stages of implementation.
35. Under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), the Government of India through the Ministry of DoNER have sanctioned 3 projects during 2017-18. These projects are i) Rongsang Abagre to Bandalkona road connecting Betasing–Mellim road with bridges amounting to ₹ 13.76 crore ii) Construction including M & BT of intermediate lane of Rongjeng Mangsang Adokgre road including 90.00 m bridges over Illdek river costing ₹ 210.00 crore and iii) Construction of major bridges over river Daru on Jholgaon-Katuli at ₹ 14.67 crore. All works are in the initial stages of implementation.
36. The Government of India under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has sanctioned another three projects under Central Road Fund (CRF). These projects are (i) Improvement and metalling and blacktopping of an approach road from 26th Km of Dkhiah-Sutnga-Saipung-Mulousei-Haflong Road to Lumthari village via Moolasngi Thymme and Moolangsngi Rim amounting to ₹ 3.86 crore (ii) Rehabilitation of Dkhiah-Sutnga-Saipung-Mulousei-Haflong Road portion 19th – 28th and 38th – 40th & 41st Km at ₹ 10.50 crore and (iii) Strengthening of Dkhiah-Sutnga-Saipung-Mulousei-Haflong Road portion 9th, 10th, 11th & 16th Km costing ₹ 3.18 crore. Works for all the three projects are in the initial stages of implementation.

37. Under World Bank funded PMGSY Rural Roads Project-II, the Government has completed 107 road works covering 525 Km and connecting 79 habitations. During 2017-18 (Batch-I), 61 road works covering a length of 267.593 Km, including 5 long span bridges have been sanctioned for an amount of ₹ 200.12 crore during October 2017. These roads are targeted to connect 23 eligible habitations. Tenders have been invited and the works have been awarded. Proposal under Batch-II of 2017-18 for 77 road works costing ₹ 261.65 crore have been taken up with the Ministry of Rural Development for approval. Upgradation of Garobadha to Dalu (NH-51) Road of length 93.40 Km amounting to ₹ 196.82 crore sanctioned by the Ministry of DONER under the ADB assisted North Eastern State Roads Investment Programme (NESRIP) is progressing well and about 85% of the works is completed. The expenditure incurred till December 2017 is ₹ 158.72 crore. The scheme is targeted to complete by March 2018.
38. Under State schemes, during 2017-18 and till September, 2017 the Government has constructed 93 Km of new roads, blacktopped 47 Km of Kutchha roads and constructed 350 running meters of RCC bridges at an expenditure of ₹ 20.53 crore.
39. The Government will focus on Improvement of the existing road network especially the main roads including metalling and blacktopping of kutchha roads. Construction of missing bridges including reconstruction of weak bridges, and also construction and improvement of roads leading to main tourist destinations will be given priority. The Government is committed to providing road connectivity to border areas both international as well Inter-State border and also to unconnected habitations not covered under PMGSY programme. Road transport plays an important role in agricultural development. As such, the Government is committed to improve rural road connectivity to ensure that farmers can easily access the markets.

A development outlay ₹ 628.04 Crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Transport

40. Connectivity is a vital link to progress and development of the State. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the State Government with the Government of India under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN for the un-served Umroi (Shillong) airport. The under-served Baljek (Tura) airport is also under active consideration of the Government of India for up-gradation. Land has also been identified at Mawdiangdiang, Shillong and Tura for construction of a civil helipad. In order to safeguard the safety of road users, the State has constituted the State Council for Road Safety and a corpus fund has been approved to enhance the safety on the National Highways and State Highways. Road Safety Week will be observed throughout the year with active involvement of schools, colleges, civil society and other stakeholders through awareness programmes in seminars, workshops, road shows, short films, etc. The Meghalaya Transport Corporation (MTC) will be comprehensively revamped. Test Pollution Centres will be set up along the major State Highways and National Highways to reduce pollution. Motor driving and testing institute has been proposed. Revision of rates on new registration and renewal of vehicles has been notified. On-line payment gateway and dealer point registration has been upgraded with introduction of Vahan-4 and Sarathi in the transport network.

A Development Outlay of ₹ 19.22 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Education

41. Sir, In order to improve standard of quality for learning and teaching, and strengthen infrastructure for schools, colleges, etc, Government will put in place a robust Education Policy. A task force has been notified to look into the draft Education Policy for providing inputs and finalizing the Policy.
42. Under the SSA, RMSA and RUSA scheme, various interventions are made to ensure better enrolment and improvement in quality with focus on infrastructure and better facilities and capacity building programmes. In

addition, the mid-day meal programme will continue to retain and ensure better enrolment of students at the elementary level.

43. A pre-service teachers training and training to all untrained teachers will continue to be the main thrust of the Government, so as to have quality oriented teaching in the State. To ensure further impetus in this area, upgradation initiatives of 4 DIETS, and 2 Teacher Training Centres for pursuing BEd at Shillong and Tura are being undertaken. The new BEd college in Jowai will be made functional soon in a permanent campus.
44. The other measure being taken by the State is the introduction of the Vocational Education Programme to Schools and Higher Secondary Schools. A pilot project is set to offer few trades ranging from Agriculture, Electronics, IT/ITES, Hotel Management and Tourism, Beauty & Wellness and Health Care under RMSA. These courses have been recognized by MBOSE as additional subjects at Secondary level and as compulsory elective subjects at Higher Secondary level. The Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) convergent framework aims at nurturing a spirit of creativity, love for Science and Mathematics and effective use of technology amongst children and encourages them towards such subjects for achieving excellence in their academic life.
45. The Government is implementing the Teacher Information Management System (TIMS), a Web-based application which will help to have a complete and authenticated data of all teachers in respects of school attendance, service records, retirement time, pension papers and transfers. The Meghalaya School Improvement Plan (MSIP) will continue so as to improve self progress and accountability for better performance of the students. The Saakshar Bharat Programme which helps the illiterate adults at the age of 15 plus to become literate will also continue in the two districts of West Garo Hills and South Garo Hills.
46. The Government will also continue to pursue the establishment of the Pine Mount International School in West Garo Hills District for which the setting up of infrastructure has been initiated. More Polytechnics will be set up in the State in addition to the existing one at Shillong, Jowai, Tura and the recently sanctioned polytechnic at Williamnagar. Work will continue on all

the sanctioned schemes of infrastructure development for residential schools, rural hostels, Williamson Sangma Technical University, engineering college at Ampati and projects under the Asian Development Bank funded 'Supporting Human Capital Programme', NLCPR, NEC, RUSA, SSA and RMSA.

47. The Basic Science Scholarship scheme will continue so as to encourage students to pursue higher education in the field of Science and to provide financial support to the students from the economically weaker sections of the society which will help them to enhance their employability and improve their economic status. Scholarships and stipends will also continue and we will explore the possibility to increase the amount in the coming year.

A development outlay of ₹ 969.64 crore is proposed during 2018-19

Sports and Youth Affairs

48. Sir, the Government will continue to facilitate the development and promotion of Sports and Youth Affairs in the State. Creation of infrastructure for Sports is being given high priority. Stadiums, playfields and also indoor stadiums are being constructed in various places. Schemes such as Intensive Sports and Youth Development Programme, District Sports Promotion Society, Chief Minister's Career Guidance Counseling Scheme, Grants-in-aid, Chief Minister's Youth Development Schemes will continue to be implemented. Training camps and Coaching camps will be organized to build up sporting talent in the State.
49. Steps are being taken to prepare for hosting the 39th National Games in the State. This will be a challenging task involving proper planning, putting in place appropriate systems and building up of infrastructure involving various wings of the Government and mobilizing of sufficient resources to fund the projects and activities. It will also be essential to build up a competitive State team to participate in the National Games 2022.

A development outlay of ₹ 65.76 Crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Health and Family Welfare

50. Government will continue to move towards the goal of providing preventive, curative health care and other allied services for the people of the State. The Government will be taking pro-active steps to upgrade and strengthen the existing health care facilities by providing more beds and good health care delivery system for better medicare services for a wider section of people. Existing CHCs, PHCs and Sub-Centres will be strengthened and upgraded.
51. Government will expedite the setting up of Medical College at Tura, which was sanctioned under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the Medical College at Shillong, which is on Public-Private Partnership mode.
52. Steps are being taken to make the following institutions which were inaugurated recently, fully equipped and functional, namely Ampati 100 bedded hospital, Mawphlang CHC, Wahkaji PHC, Khongjoy PHC, Damas PHC, Manikganj PHC, 50 bedded Maternity College and Child Hospital at Umniangbyrnai, 50 bedded Maternity and Child Hospital at Mahendraganj, PHC at Umsaw Nongbri.
53. One AMRIT (Affordable Medicines & Reliable Implant Treatment) Pharmacy has been set up at Civil Hospital, Shillong and several more AMRIT pharmacies will be set up in other parts of the State. This will help patients to a large extent to procure medicines at very affordable rates, thereby, reducing the strain on out of pocket expenses on health care services.
54. Under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP-IV), two Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTCs) have been set up, one in Shillong and one in Tura. There are targeted NGO-based interventions for providing prevention services including behavioral change communication, Sexually Transmitted Infection care and creating enabling environment for the High Risk Groups, etc.
55. The third phase of MHIS is being implemented, under which the insurance cover is ₹ 2,80,000/- per family for the policy year July 2017 to June 2018. In view of the recently announced National Health Insurance Scheme

(NHIS) of Government of India, which is likely to be launched later this year, we will examine ways to converge the State MHIS with the Central NHIS.

56. Implementation of National Health Mission will continue with greater focus on the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child health and Adolescent Services (RMNCH + A) and control of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases. Some new schemes have been launched under NHM namely Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRCs), Infant & Young Child Feeding (ICYF), National Urban Health Mission (NUHM), National Programme for Control & Prevention of Diabetes, Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Strokes (NPCDS).
57. To reduce maternal mortality significantly, a new initiative has been launched under the name of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA). This new programme is being implemented in order to provide quality Ante-natal check-up to every pregnant woman on a fixed date i.e. on the 9th day of every month in health facilities having qualified Medical & Health Officer/Obstetrics & Gynaecologist to ensure that no high risk pregnancy goes undetected and if needed, referral to Tertiary Health Care Services.

A development outlay of ₹ 613.31 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Arts and Culture

58. Government will continue to play a major role in depicting, protecting, preserving, popularizing and promoting the unique, rich and diverse cultural heritage of the State and its people. In this connection, a number of important projects are being implemented.
59. The construction of Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts and Culture (SICPAC) is at an advanced stage and is likely to be completed soon. Work is in progress for the Centre of Knowledge for Indigenous Art at Betasing, the Sein Jaintia Indigenous Culture-cum-Multi-Purpose Centre at Iewduh, the Infrastructure for Institution of Music and Fine Arts in fifteen different locations in the State, the Institute of Performing Arts and Culture

at Brooksite, Rilbong. The construction of Tribal Research Institutes at Tura and Mawphlang, the Kiang Nangbah Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre at Jowai, the Pa Togan Sangma Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre at Williamnagar, the U Tirot Singh Knowledge and Cultural Centre cum Museum at Nongkhlaw are also in progress. Construction of Galleries, Showcases, Lighting arrangement in the new building of Williamson Sangma State Museum is taken up.

60. Steps are also being taken to initiate some new projects such as, Centre of Excellence in Indian and Western Music at Shillong and Tura, Improvement of Aitnar and Seinraj Cultural Complex at Jowai, Construction of Cultural Centre at Taktaki, Cultural Centre at Gasura, Cultural Centre at Pynursla, compilation of oral literature in Khasi, Garo and Jaintia.
61. Government will also continue to organize important events for promoting art and culture in the State.

A development outlay of ₹ 34.31 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Social Welfare

62. The Government implements various schemes and provides grant-in-aid for the development of women and children and marginalized section of the society. The Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Indira Matritva Sahyog Yojana Scheme and Chief Ministers Social Assistance Scheme will continue to be implemented. The One Stop Centre and Women Helpline scheme have been set up in the State for victims of sexual harassment and domestic violence.
63. During 2017-18, scholarship have been given to 960 students, uniform and book grant to 446 students as well as unemployment allowance to 203 physically disabled. Under the Accessible India Campaign, 24 Government buildings have been identified and finalized for creation of barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities. During 2017-18, an amount of ₹ 4.66 crore was sanctioned for four buildings. The State of Meghalaya has

started with the generation of Unique Disability Identity (UDID) disability certificates and UDID cards to provide a unique disability ID across the country. Two District Disabilities Resource Centres (DDRCs) in Tura and Nongstoin have been set up to serve the needs of the persons with disabilities. A total of 873 beneficiaries have benefitted through the State Resource Centre on Disability Affairs under ADIP (Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances) scheme. Under SIPDA scheme (Scheme for implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act), an amount of ₹ 72 lakh was sanctioned for establishment of Early Diagnostic Intervention Centres at Shillong, Jowai, Nongstoin and Tura.

A development outlay of ₹ 537.72 Crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

64. Sir, the Government continues to implement the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for the identified beneficiaries based on the Socio Economic & Caste Census (SECC). Out of the total beneficiaries covered in the State, 18,45,631 are in the rural areas and 3,03,464 in the urban areas. Under NFSA, Government is committed to provide subsidy to Fair Price Shop Dealers and Wholesalers for intra-State transportation, handling charges and for profit margin, at the rate of ₹ 243/- per quintal and this cost is shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio of 75:25.
65. Government will continue to implement the Annapurna scheme. With support from Government of India, the Government will continue to assist SC/ST Hostels and Welfare Institutions by providing 15 kg of rice per inmate at a subsidized rate of ₹ 6.15/- per kg. The “Chief Minister’s Special Sugar Supplementary Scheme” under which 1 kg of sugar is provided per household per month to the identified beneficiaries at the subsidized rate of ₹ 30/- per kg will continue.
66. A total of 1,313 cases have been disposed off upto October, 2017 by the Consumer Courts Cases under the Consumer Protection Act. Government will continue with the consumer’s awareness programmes. The State Food Commission, which has been constituted under the provisions of the

National Food Security Act, will continue to monitor and ensure that the provisions of the Act are being implemented smoothly.

67. Work is progressing on end to end computerization of PDS. Online allocation of foodgrains under NFSA is being done and customization of supply chain management is an ongoing process. A pilot project on FPS automation will be implemented shortly.

A development outlay of ₹ 34.27 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Water Supply and Sanitation

68. Rural Water Supply schemes are funded under the Centrally Sponsored National Rural Drinking water Programme (NRDWP) on 90:10 funding basis and under State schemes. Water Supply to Schools and Integrated Child Development Services scheme is also taken up under the programme. During 2017-18, so far 38 habitations in rural areas have been provided with adequate Safe Water Supply. It is proposed to improve the water supply schemes in all the District Headquarters.
69. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), sanitation coverage in the State has reached 100 % in January 2018. With the State becoming Open Defecation Free (ODF), implementation of Solid & Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) would also be taken up for improving the hygienic environment in these villages. Under Rural & Urban Water Supply Programme, the focus will be for completion of ongoing schemes under NRDWP with the available fund and take up prioritized schemes under State plan.

A Development Outlay of ₹ 293.26 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Agriculture and Horticulture

70. Sir, agriculture still occupies an important place in the economic development of the State, where more than 70% of the population is still dependent on this sector for the livelihood. The contribution of this sector to the State's economy is around 22% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Our focus is to increase production and productivity of food grains

as well as doubling farmer's income as envisaged by the Government of India. The Government has also developed and promoted cultivation of vegetables, flowers, spices and plantation crops.

71. The Government implemented the first-of its kind innovative project named 1917-iTEAMS (Integrated Technology Enabled Agriculture Management System) to connect farmers with the markets through enhanced services of logistics and extension on a real-time basis. The Government shall take steps to bring awareness to register more number of farmers and potential aggregators and buyers to enable remunerative prices to the farmers.
72. This year, over 40,000 hectares of agriculture land is under the final year of conversion under the State Mission Organic. The Government will take steps to brand the certified organic produce of Meghalaya to provide new opportunities of agri-business for both farmers as well as entrepreneurs.
73. The Government is taking steps to obtain Geographical Indications (GI) for Lakadong Turmeric to promote greater value and business for this unique produce of Meghalaya, which has the highest curcumin content (anti-cancer properties) in the world.
74. The Agriculture Department is introducing new package of practices for helping farmers doubling their incomes. These include: 1) Training of farmers on 18-Day composting technique to help farmers produce organic fertilizer by themselves with little or no cost. 2) Introducing 'seed mission' to develop seed farmers in the State by connecting them to foundation seeds supplied by the Agriculture Universities. 3) Trainings of farmers on preparation of 'Bio-pesticides' like Jeevamruth. 4) Introduction of SRI method of cultivation for enhancing the production of food grains. 5) Training farmers on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) 6) Providing marketing and logistics support through 1917-iTEAMS project.

A development outlay of ₹ 252.26 crore is proposed during 2018-19.

Fisheries

75. Sir, more than 25,000 rural employment opportunities has been generated through fishery activities. So far, the Government has developed about

2,598 hectares of potential area to aquaculture. The Sanctuaries established under the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission (MSAM) has not only helped in propagating the germ-plasm of the endangered native fish species but also boosted rural eco-tourism to a great extent. The CSS Blue Revolution has further developed this sector in which an additional 70 hectares of water area has been developed within this year. The Government is committed to provide clean and hygienic fishes for consumption of the general public. Oxygenated Vans/ Refrigerated Vans will be utilised for this purpose. Assistance towards development of hygienic fish retail outlets will be taken up both at Shillong and Tura and about 20 stalls have been identified for this.

76. The State faces major challenges in fish seed production. About 160 lakh fingerlings are required annually. As such, the Government plans to adopt all MGNREGS ponds for fish seed rearing areas. Further, community ponds and potential individual ponds within a cluster will also be utilized for this purpose. The Re-circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS) financed by the Government of India will further improve the aquaculture in the State. This Project will be implemented in the Meghalaya State Fish Brood Banks.

A development outlay ₹ 58.39 Crore is proposed for the year 2018-19.

Animal Husbandry and Veterinary

77. Given the latent potentiality of the sector for sustainable rural livelihood and enterprises, the overall development of the livestock sector is today a priority in the planning process of the State Government which would help in increasing the supply as well as ensuring the economic prosperity and livelihood security of the rural poor in the State. To this end, the Government in its effort to scale up livestock related activities, has launched in a convergent mission mode 'Meghalaya State Livestock Mission' (MSLM) which aim to impact 1,95,500 households over the next five years. Further, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary (DAH&V) in convergence with the Department of Community & Rural Development (C&RD) and the Meghalaya Basin Development (MBDA) have now come together to jointly develop and roll out livestock interventions across the

State through the creation of an institution that will take forward and implement the Meghalaya Piggery and Livestock Development Society (MP-LDS) Mission.

78. The Government has recently set up the East Khasi Hills District Milk Union Cooperative Limited Shillong and an Memorandum of Agreement is on the offing between the Government of India and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, to enable the Milk Union to function as the End Implementing Agency under the National Programme for Dairy Development which will work for the overall development of Dairy Sector like supply of wholesome milk to the consumer. The capacity upgradation of Dairy Plant Mawiong from 10,000 litres to 50,000 litres per day is in progress and expected to be completed soon.

A development outlay of ₹ 59.84 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Water Resources

79. The Irrigation potential created in the State is about 77,108 hectares as on March 2017, which is about 35.37% of the identified irrigation potential of 2.18 lakh hectares. Efforts are being made to increase the irrigation coverage through Minor Irrigation Projects, Jalkunds & Water Harvesting structures in order to have a positive impact on crop production & productivity which will result in improving the livelihood of the people. While more irrigation projects are being proposed for funding under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaye Yojana (PMKSY) of Government of India, implementation of projects are also being taken up through State schemes and NABARD loan.
80. One of the initiatives taken up by the Government is the implementation of Jalkund & multipurpose reservoirs for maximizing water use efficiency and to cater to the different water needs of the communities.
81. To promote participatory approach in management of the irrigation projects, Water User's Association in 293 Minor Irrigation Projects have been formed and registered. The anticipated achievement on irrigation project during

2017-18 is 4551.40 hectares, and the proposed target for 2018-19 is 6,400 hectares.

A development outlay of ₹ 190.41 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Soil and Water Conservation

82. The Government is committed to ensure sustainable natural resource management. To achieve this objective, many developmental programmes are being undertaken. There are 84 ongoing projects under the Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (Watershed Development Component), the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme. Furthermore, 10 outgoing projects financed by NABARD under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund are being actively pursued for implementation during 2018-19.
83. The Government is also continuing with the “Springshed Development Works for rejuvenation of springs for climate change resilient development in water stressed areas in Meghalaya”, a scheme funded by Government of India. The Cash Crop Development and Afforestation works will continue in 2018-19.

A development outlay of ₹ 183.07 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Sericulture and Weaving

84. In the present scenario of global warming, the eco-friendly industry of sericulture and weaving can play an important role in restoring the greenery. Around 95% of the workers in this industry are women. Therefore, this industry can bring about women empowerment which is given much relevance today.
85. The long-term vision of the Government is to achieve annual production of 84 MT of Mulberry, 69 MT of Muga and 2,241 MT of Eri raw silk, and also to raise additional 3,360 acres under Mulberry, 6,000 acres under Muga and 28,700 acres under Eri plantation. Further, the Government is also committed to achieve the targeted production of handloom fabrics and to organise additional 21,000 weavers under pre-loom, on-loom and post-loom

activities. The Government will facilitate skilled weavers for self employment by providing skill-upgradation training. Support will be extended to the rural poor to uplift their economic status, particularly to women for sustainable livelihood. Effective capacity building programmes will be organized on transfer of technology and exposure tours, and also on development of handloom fabric marketing incentives and infrastructure.

A development outlay of ₹ 36.20 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Forest and Environment

86. Meghalaya is richly endowed with flora, fauna, dense forests and ancient sacred groves. Against the National goal to maintain two-third of the total land area in hills and mountainous regions of the country under forest and tree cover, more than 79 % of the land area in the State is under forest and tree cover. Forests play a very important role in the maintenance of environmental stability in our hilly State, and also provide sustenance and livelihood for the majority of rural residents. The Government would continue to adopt measures with active participation of people of the State to perpetuate forest cover as mandated by the National Forest Policy to ensure environmental services and security. The Government will also endeavor to implement all continuing schemes.
87. All possible efforts will be made by the Government to obtain funds under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Promotion of Medicinal Plants, National Bamboo Mission (NBM), Green India Mission (GIM), Project Elephant (PE), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH), Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems.
88. To cope with the ever increasing pressure on forests and wildlife, several measures have been initiated to strengthen, upgrade and rationalize the administrative set up. A new Forest Division has been established at Williamnagar to ensure effective protection of Reserved Forests in Garo Hills. To ensure effective regulation of felling and transport of timber and other forest produce and establishment and operation of wood based

industrial units, the existing Social Forestry Division at Nongstoin has been entrusted with the powers and function of a Territorial Division in respect of the areas falling in West Khasi Hills and South West Khasi Hill Districts.

A development outlay of ₹ 124.92 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Community and Rural Development

89. The Government is committed to develop the rural areas through various Rural Development Programmes of both Central and State. Our State has been hailed as one of the best in the implementation of the MGNREGA especially in the creation of sustainable and durable assets. Creation of infrastructure in convergence of MGNREGA with other schemes of various Departments will continue to be implemented. In the absence of established Village Institutions, the Community Leadership and Institution Building Programme (CLIBP) will be given emphasis in the next financial year to strengthen VECs and SHGs.
90. Providing platforms for better and sustainable livelihoods has been a very strong focus of the Governments. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) is presently implemented in 21 blocks which are spread over all districts of the State. In the remaining blocks the Government will continue the initiative to revive and promote SHGs through the implementation of the Livelihood Interventions and Facilitating Entrepreneurship (LIFE). Start up Village Entrepreneurship Programme and Mahila Kishan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) which aims to empower women farmers, will be one of the priorities in 2018-19.
91. The Government of India under the National Social Assistance Programme of Centrally Sponsored Schemes releases ₹ 200/-, ₹ 300/- and ₹ 300/- to each beneficiaries of the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) and Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) respectively. The State Government also contributes an additional amount of ₹ 50/- , only to the beneficiaries under IGNOAPS, thus, allowing them to receive ₹ 250/- per head per month. Since December, 2017, the State

Government extended its contribution of ₹ 200/- to beneficiaries of IGNWPS and IGNDPS, and enhanced its contribution to ₹ 250/-to beneficiaries of IGNOAPS., thereby, increasing their pension to ₹ 500/- per head per month. The amount was revised with the objective of ensuring that these pensioners get at par with those beneficiaries receiving benefits under the Chief Minister's Social Assistance Programme. Beneficiaries above 80 years of age will continue to receive ₹.550/- per month.

92. Other programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY(G), Deen Dayal Upadhaya Gramin Kaushal Yojana (DDUGKY), schemes under Article 275(1) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and State Sector Schemes like Special Rural Works Programme (SRWP) and Chief Minister's Special Rural Development Fund (CMSRDF) and Community Development Schemes will continue to be implemented during the year for uplifting the living standard of the rural people.

A development outlay of ₹ 1457.94 crore is proposed in 2018-19.

Cooperation

93. The Government is giving more focus on systematic capacity building for members of Cooperative Societies, GIS Mapping with portal for all types of Cooperative Societies and promoting potential sectors like eco-rural tourism, handloom & handicrafts and livestock, along with financial services and marketing, amongst others, to ensure emergence of a strong and healthy Cooperative Movement in the State. Till date, 26 Eco Tourism Development Cooperative Societies have started their business. State level Cooperative federations have been formed under livestock and fisheries sectors. Under the handloom sector, a training-cum-production centre has been established at Nongpoh by Meghaloom and 2 production centres are being established through NEC funding at Phulbari in West Garo Hills and Marngar in Ri-Bhoi Districts.
94. Integrated Village Cooperative Societies (IVCS) are being set up as a new model in cooperative sector for market linkage and inclusive financial services in rural areas, in collaboration with IFAD funded Meghalaya Livelihood and Market Access Project (Megha-LAMP). Further, 64 IVCS

have already been registered against the target of 300 IVCS during the project period.

A development outlay ₹ 18.24 Crore is proposed for the year 2018-19.

Border Areas Development

95. The Government will continue to improve the livelihood of the people living along the international border areas by creating assets like roads, footpaths, suspension footbridges, RCC footbridges, school buildings, Multi-Facility Centers etc.. Scholarships and stipends will continue to be provided to students hailing from border villages pursuing studies within and outside the state.
96. Various projects had been undertaken under the Inter State Border Areas Development Programme (ISBADP). This scheme will continue to be implemented in a focused manner in villages bordering Assam to enhance production and developmental activities of the people living in the areas.

A development outlay of ₹ 47.30 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Commerce and Industries

97. During 2017-18, so far 457 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) have been established, providing employment opportunities to 1,982 persons. Training is being imparted both inside and outside the State to Master Craftsmen. The Apiculture mission is making good progress and steps will be taken to expedite cluster formation specifically in rural areas so as to uplift the economy of the rural population. Honey processing plants are being set up at Tura and Shillong, with market linkage to all Bee Keepers.
98. Industrial Estates are being upgraded and new ones will be set up with basic amenities so as to attract investments in the State. Steps are being taken to develop Land Banks in the State. The Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Scheme, will continue to be implemented so as to encourage local entrepreneurs to set up industrial units. Government is also working to put in place a Start Up Policy, to encourage innovations.

99. The Government is committed to strengthen border trade for restoring economic and commercial ties between the people living on both sides of the border. The Government has already handed over possession of 22 acres of land at Dawki - Tamabil to the Land Port Authority of India, Ministry of Home Affairs (Border Management Division) for establishment of the Integrated Check Post (ICP), and construction work for the same is in progress. There are two Border Haats functioning in Meghalaya. The Joint Inspection with the Bangladesh Officials on four other Border Haats has been completed. Construction works for one Border Haat has already started and for the other three, the Tendering work is under process. Strengthening and upgradation of the Land Custom Stations (LCSs) is being taken up.

A development outlay ₹ 25.19 Crore is proposed for the year 2018-19.

Mining and Geology

100. Geological exploration of minerals and collection of revenue on major minerals in the State are being carried out every year for the purpose of economic development of the State. Mineral investigation is being taken up in line with the Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012. It is a well-known fact that large areas in the State were under ecologically fragile zone. An appropriate mining plan conducive to the environment and the provisions of existing environmental and climatic change shall be regulated in mining operations. The Meghalaya Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 had been notified with an aim to facilitate and ensure livelihood for the local mine owners.

101. The District Mineral Foundation Rules, 2017 had been notified with an objective to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations. Total revenue collected on minerals including the extracted coal was ₹ 52.77 crore. The Government has submitted a proposal to Government of India for exemption from the operation of the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1957 by taking recourse to Para 12A (b) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India and the Resolution adopted by this august House.

A development outlay of ₹ 3.67 Crore is proposed for the year 2018-19.

Urban Development

102. Urban Centres in Meghalaya play an important role in the economic development of the State and also act as a catalyst for the development of the rural hinterland. To keep pace with urbanisation, attempts have been made to increase the infrastructure development in Urban Centres and adequate number of basic infrastructure like housing projects, shopping complexes, parking spaces, bus terminus, etc. have been constructed.
103. The Pradhan Mantri AwasYojaya, National Urban Livelihood Mission and the schemes of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) will continue to be implemented during 2018-19. Under Swachh Bharat Mission 10 statutory towns have been selected and beneficiaries have been identified to take up work on construction of Individual household latrines, Community toilets as well as improvement of Solid Waste Management in the towns. These are some of the efforts taken up by the towns in achieving ODF'.
104. Some of the major projects to be taken up during the year are Septage Management System for Shillong, the project for Re-development of junction improvement at Fire Brigade and Polo, Shillong, the project for improvement of basic amenities in Urban Areas, Sewerage system for 2 sub-zones in Shillong, Solid Waste Management Programme in Tura, Jowai, Williamnagar, Baghmara and Resubelpara, Waste Water Management Programme in one catchment area of Tura, proposed development and re-development of Laitumkhrah Municipal Market and Polo Market. In order to streamline the administrative structure, various e-Governance measures have been initiated, with focus on service delivery and public interface of Local Bodies.

A Development Outlay of ₹ 204.12 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Housing

105. Sir, the Government will continue to implement the Housing Scheme by providing assistance in the form of CGI sheets to improve the existing

houses of the Economically Weaker Section families and to provide dwelling houses to the Low Income Group and the houseless poor.

A development outlay of ₹ 10.00 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Labour

106. Modernization and up-gradation of ten Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in the State are being aimed at during 2018-19. The envisaged outcomes include improved utilization of seats, improved employability of ITI Graduates and reduce drop-out. New Trades proposed to be introduced in various ITIs includes Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) Operator Advance Machine Tools, Hospitality & Catering Assistant, Weaving of Silk & Woolen Fabrics, Floriculture & Landscaping, Digital Photographer, Multimedia Animation & Special Effect, Soil Testing & Crop Technician and Electronic Mechanics. The Government of India has sanctioned two New ITIs at Ampati and Mawkyrwat. Classes in ITI Ampati will commence in 2018 session and land for ITI Mawkyrwat for construction of Building will be taken over soon. Under the programme ISO 29990 Certification of ITIs of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for International recognition of Quality Standards in ITI, the state has selected four National Council of Vocational Training (NCVT) affiliated ITIs at Shillong, Tura, Jowai and ITI (for women) Shillong to be brought under ISO 29990 Certification. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana II, the state Engagement Component has been approved and total trainees to be trained during 2017-2020, are 33,642.
107. Under the Skills Component of the ADB assisted project “Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya” implemented by Meghalaya State Skills Development Mission (MSSDS), 28 procurement packages with a value of \$12.76 million have been approved. These packages aim towards generating employment within Meghalaya and North East Region utilizing local competency, strengths and aptitudes and opportunities. Unique skill training sectors such as integrated agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, rural technicians, market linked handloom, local tourism and native craft training along with demand-driven industrial trades have

been identified. Under this project skill training will be imparted to 45,000 persons.

108. Under the Meghalaya Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (MBOCWWB), registered construction workers are being extended maternity benefit, funeral assistance, death benefit, medical assistance, educational scholarships, assistance for marriage, welfare pension, protective equipment and advance for purchase or construction of a house. Insurance cover under Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna have also been provided. During 2018-19, registration of construction workers will be further intensified. The Meghalaya Building and Other Construction Workers'(Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2008 is also being further amended to expand more benefits to the workers.

A development outlay of ₹ 66.16 Crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Information Technology

109. The Government endeavours to promote Information Communication Technology (ICT) to significantly impact the economy of the State and to improve the quality of life of its citizens.
110. During 2017-18, the Government has extended the implementation of e-District project to all the District Headquarters and three Sub-divisional Headquarters. Six end-to-end electronic services are now available online to citizens throughout the state. Citizens can now apply for certificates like Caste, Residential, etc. through the Internet and receive digitally signed certificates online without having to travel to the government offices. More such services are in the pipeline and will be made available to citizens in 2018-19.
111. During 2018-19, the department shall start the construction of the Technology Park at New Shillong where companies will be provided space to operate their IT & ITES.
112. We will continue to provide computer and peripherals to the aided and government schools along with digital classrooms with updated content to

equip the students with better inputs. The Government will continue to implement its capacity building and training programmes to strengthen the IT talent pool and make them more employable by partnering with established institutions. The amended policy on IT and Communications will also be taken up in the coming year to facilitate improvement in connectivity in the State.

A development outlay of ₹ 19.67 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Tourism

113. Meghalaya has been carved by the hands of nature with picturesque landscapes. The mild and salubrious climate is a huge attraction for people from neighbouring States who want to escape the heat in summer. Meghalaya is richly endowed in terms of flora and fauna with unique sacred groves, living root bridges, majestic monoliths and amazing rock formations. Tourist footfall has grown considerably during the last few years.
114. Meghalaya Tourism is being promoted in line with the Tourism Policy taking into consideration the development of Adventure Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Cultural Tourism and Community Based Tourism. We will further leverage Government of India Scheme, Swadesh Darshan to develop theme based circuits in Meghalaya. We will continue to encourage people to set up homestays to boost tourism apart from generating livelihood to both rural and urban entrepreneurs. The priority of the Government is also to promote Rural Tourism, by exploring the potential for sustainable livelihood of the community ,and at the same time protecting and promoting culture, cuisine, handloom and handcraft of the people.
115. For improvement of the quality of tourism, it is essential to build up the capacity of all service providers. Meghalaya Tourism plans to further use the services of Institute of Hotel Management and Food Craft Institute for conducting courses for youth to take advantage of the numerous opportunities available for self-employment and business in hospitality and tourism related sectors. The brand of the State will also be marketed and developed through focused publicity in electronic and print media and also

participation in well known fairs and festivals in different States of the country.

A development outlay of ₹ 93.29 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Personnel

116. Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI), is conducting various In-Service and Induction training programmes for capacity building of Government officials. During the year 2017-18, so far 149 training programmes were conducted. In addition to the regular trainings conducted on Office Procedures, Public Finance, etc., courses on E-governance, Cyber Security and Cyber Crime, Leadership Skills, Ethics and Values in Governance are proposed to be conducted in all the Districts of the State in 2018-19.
117. In order to improve quality of training and dissemination of best practices, the Institute proposes to set up five cells namely, Good Governance, Professional Development, Management Development, E-governance, and Case Development & Documentation. These Cells would be functional in the year 2018-19.
118. The focal theme for the ensuing year would be to enhance the capacity building and competencies of the Trainers by conducting various Training & Development courses, in collaboration with National and Regional Training Institutes, viz. Direct Trainer Skills, Training of Trainers, Design of Training, Systematic Training Plan etc. Induction Training Programme (ITP) for the cutting edge, newly recruited government functionaries will continue in all the Districts of the state, considering the positive impact it has on the attitudinal orientation, motivation and in upgrading knowledge and skill at the time of induction into service.

A development outlay of ₹ 2.50 crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Information and Public Relations

119. The Department of Information and Public Relations plays a pivotal role in the dissemination of information on the policies, programmes and activities

of the Government. Through participation in Trade Fairs and Exhibitions, the Department will continue to project and promote the image of the State at the national and international level. Government will also support seminars, workshops and capacity building programmes for media personnels and journalists. The Government is also actively pursuing matters pertaining to the constitution of the Meghalaya Media Society and other measures aimed at the welfare of Journalists in the State of Meghalaya.

A development outlay ₹ 10.74 Crore is proposed for 2018-19.

Tax and Non Tax revenue

120. The system of revenue collection will be reviewed and pro-active steps will be taken in tax-planning. There is scope for better collection in the coming years, in view of the major shift to the new tax regime of Goods & Services Tax (GST). Areas which need more focus and improvement will be identified and remedial steps will be taken. The Government will continue to adopt a series of direct verification of case records of large tax payers, besides revision of assessment whenever necessary to increase Government revenue. Besides this, more stress will be laid on scrutiny and assessment of returns of dealers under relevant Acts which have not been subsumed under the new regime in order to unlock revenue held up due to pending proceedings. In this connection it may be mentioned that revenue collection on IMFL & MPGT Act during the year 2017-18 upto 31.12.2017, was higher as compared to the revenue collection for the same period during 2016-17.
121. Overall, various awareness programmes and training sessions are being conducted vigorously by Master Trainers for exposure and firsthand knowledge on various new methods and processes involved in the new tax regime, i.e. GST. Government is confident that in the long run, once implementation of the new tax regime has stabilized and various stakeholders have come onboard and gained confidence about the advantages and ease of compliance, the tax base will be broadened with better compliance leading to additional mobilization of resources.

122. In 2017-18, the State's own tax revenue was ₹ 1559 crore, and State's own non tax revenue was ₹ 513 crore. For 2018-19, the State's own tax revenue is estimated at ₹ 1716 crore, and State's own non-tax revenue at ₹ 538 crore.

Budget Estimates 2018-19

123. Sir, for 2018-19, I have estimated the total receipts at ₹ 14,104 crore, of which the revenue receipts are estimated at ₹ 12,531 crore and capital receipts at ₹ 1,573 crore. Excluding borrowings, the total receipts are estimated to be ₹ 12,554 crore.

124. On the expenditure side, I have estimated the total expenditure at ₹ 14,101 crore during 2018-19, of which revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹ 12,036 crore and capital expenditure at ₹ 2,065 crore. Excluding repayment of loans, the estimated total expenditure is ₹ 13,704 crore.

125. Interest payment during 2018-19 is estimated at ₹ 653 crore and pension payment at ₹ 784 crore.

126. I am, therefore, presenting the budget of 2018-19 with a fiscal deficit of ₹ 1,150 crore, which is around 3.32 % of GSDP.

127. Sir, along with the Budget, I am presenting a Vote-on-Account for proposed expenditure during the first three months of the year 2018-19 for consideration of the House.

128. Mr Speaker, Sir, with these words I commend the budget to this august House.

Khulei

Mithela

Thank You