



सत्यमेव जयते

**Address by**

**His Excellency  
Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik  
Governor of Assam**

**February Session**

**Assam Legislative Assembly  
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## **Respected Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly**

I am very happy to address this august House during the February Session 2011 of the Assam Legislative Assembly. I take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to you all. I would be placing before you the policies and programmes of my Government. I am sure the considered deliberations during this Session will help us take our State forward on to the path of progress, peace and prosperity.

Assam has witnessed a transformation since 2001 in all spheres of life. There has been a significant improvement in the law and order situation and an atmosphere of hope prevails that permanent peace in Assam is round the corner. The perception of the State has improved significantly with more and more people showing confidence in Assam not only as a destination for leisure but also for investment. The State has received investment proposals for ₹ 34,000.00 crores in the Industries sector alone since 2001 as against ₹ 2,000.00 crores received during the period 1996-2001. The era of frequent bandhs has become a distant memory and public places are frequented by people even late in the night. These changes have had a salutary effect on the local real estate, business and services sectors, ushering in the private sector as an important partner in the development of the State.

Assam was passing through a plethora of problems and acute financial distress in 2001. The coffers of the State were empty, the economy was sluggish and salary payments could not be made to the

employees on time. Since then remarkable changes have taken place in Assam. A reforms programme has been taken up with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for improving governance and financial efficiency. Substantial resources have been generated by enlarging the tax base and improving the tax compliance. Today the State is comfortable with funds, the economy is vibrant and not only is the salary of employees paid in time but it has been revised upwards based on the recommendations of the Assam Pay Commission, 2008 and in line with Central Government pay scales. The services of more than 10,000 employees of the deficit colleges and 4,565 Gaon Panchayat employees have been provincialised and services of more than 30,000 Muster Roll and Work Charged personnel engaged prior to 1.4.1993 regularised. The improved finances have had a significant impact on the plan size of the State. It has increased by leaps and bounds from ₹ 1521.28 crores during 2000-01 and ₹ 3007.09 crores during 2005-06 to ₹ 7645.00 crores during 2010-11. It has also improved the confidence that multilateral funding agencies have in Assam resulting in a number of programmes being taken up with World Bank and ADB funding.

This enhanced plan outlay has enabled my Government to take up of a number of schemes and programmes for speedy and accelerated development of Assam. While on the one side infrastructure is being created to lay the foundation for sustained growth on the other hand focus is being given on human development to develop a more qualified and productive manpower. A number of schemes have

been taken up to create employment opportunities particularly self-employment. Special efforts have been made for farm mechanisation and from 2001 to 2010 a total of 6,889 tractors and 29,797 power tillers have been distributed as against 221 tractors and 582 power tillers distributed from 1996 to 2001. My Government has taken a number of innovative schemes like, the *Ananda Ram Barooah Award*, the *Rajiv Gandhi Computer Literacy Programme*, *Dharmajyoti*, *Gyanjyoti* and *Kalpataru*. Attention is being given to improve the delivery system by strengthening existing institutions and creating new institutions.

During the current year 87 new schemes, projects and programmes have been taken up under the Chief Minister's Special Package to complement the existing plan and to fill up perceived needs. These are being constantly monitored to ensure their proper implementation. Some of the significant programmes are the *CM Anna Suraksha Yojana* for BPL families by providing 10 Kg (20 kgs from January 2011) rice per family per month @ ₹ 6.00 per Kg, the provision of cash incentive to two lakh small and marginal farmers to purchase agricultural inputs @ ₹ 3000/- each, the provision of solar lamps to one lakh students for ₹ 12.00 crores, the provision of cultural goods to 12,600 cultural clubs and organisations for ₹ 10.00 crores, the provision of 20 power tillers in each LAC at 75% subsidy for ₹ 20.00 crores, the provision of assistance to 50,000 single unemployed women @ ₹ 10,000.00 each for ₹ 50.00 crores, the provision of cash assistance to one lakh women Self Help Groups (SHG) @ ₹ 5,000.00 each for ₹ 50.00 crores, the

provision of medicated and long lasting mosquito nets to 20 lakh BPL families for ₹ 75.00 crores, the distribution of yarn and blankets to 20,000 BPL beneficiaries per LAC for ₹ 100.00 crores, the provision of two free CFL lights for 10 lakh BPL families for ₹ 15.00 crores, the provision of ₹ 2000.00 and two bundles of CI sheets to BPL families, particularly in erosion affected areas, to 1000 families per LAC for ₹ 50.00 crores and the provision of cash assistance to 50,000 marginal entrepreneurs @ ₹ 10,000.00 each.

Other important schemes and projects under the Chief Minister's Special Package relate to provision of ₹ 2.50 crores for the revamping of the Veterinary College at Lakhimpur, provision of ₹ 1.00 crores for a new subscription based insurance policy for giving medical and death coverage to ASHA, Anganwadi workers, Home Guards and members of the VDP, provision of ₹ 50.00 crores each for taking up special development projects in the Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar Hills districts, increase by 50% the fixed remuneration of the Home Guards, members of the VDP and Gaonburas, provision of ₹ 10.00 crores for providing vehicles to carry dead bodies to the cremation and burial grounds as well as for the proper maintenance of the cremation and burial grounds in each district, provision of ₹ 20.06 Crores as State Share for the implementation of Central Sector Scheme for *Revival of Short Term Co-operative Credit Structure (STCCS)* as per Baidyanathan Committee Report and the provision of ₹ 400.00 crores for giving financial assistance to 16,130 Venture Schools and Colleges, ₹ 200.00 crores for 8,591 Venture Lower

Primary and 4,745 Upper Primary Schools, ₹ 130.00 crores for 2,019 Secondary Education Institutions, ₹ 35.00 crores for 633 Madrassa Schools and ₹ 35.00 crores for 142 Venture Colleges.

### Law and Order

The multi-pronged strategy adopted by my Government in the form of sustained counter insurgency operation against active militant groups and peace overtures for groups willing for negotiated settlement has paid rich dividends. This is reflected in the suspension of operation agreement with various extremist outfits like, UPDS, DHD (Nunisa) Group, DHD (Jewel) Group, KLNLf, NDFB (Dhiren Boro Group), ACMA and BCF. At the initiative of my Government an interlocutor has been appointed to forward the peace process with ULFA, UPDS, DHD(J) and KLNLf and the same is progressing in a positive direction. My Government is hopeful that ULFA and the anti-talk NDFB Group would also come forward to solve their problems through negotiations by shunning the path of violence. To create a congenial atmosphere for discussion with ULFA necessary measures have been taken for facilitating the release of their leaders from jail and at present they have been released on bail.

During the year 2010, security forces have apprehended 980 militants of different militant outfits, which include some top ranking important ULFA cadres as well as the President and Deputy Commander-in-Chief anti-talk NFDB Group. The security forces have also recovered 442 Nos. of arms

of different assortments and a number of IEDs, grenades, explosives and detonators from the extremists. During this period 15 militants of different outfits were killed in encounters with the security forces. These successes have been possible due to the serious and continuous attention paid by my Government for the Modernisation of Police Forces, in filling up the vacant posts and also in imparting training to the Assam Police personnel. The State Police Force is now better equipped with sophisticated arms and security equipments, modern communication facilities etc. for dealing effectively with the militants.

Our multi-pronged strategy has had a positive impact in containing the militancy in the State. The violence committed by the different militant outfits has come down in a perceptible way. The number of civilians killed by the militants in 2010 was 56, which is the lowest figure of civilians killed by militants in the last 15 years. The incidents of bomb explosions caused by militants have also significantly come down.

### **Assam Accord**

My Government has taken up steps for updating the NRC 1951. In pursuance of a law and order situation in Barpeta in July 2010, a Cabinet Sub-committee has been set up to make recommendations for removing the difficulties and simplifying procedures in the process of NRC 1951 updation so that no genuine Indian Citizen is harassed and no foreigner is allowed to stay in Assam illegally. For detection and deportation of foreigners the number of Foreigners Tribunals have been increased from 11 in

2006 to 36 at present and these are functioning in the State. A "Committee of Ministers" is examining issues relating to the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord including the definition of "Assamese people". The Archaeological Survey of India has taken up the protection, preservation and development of historical monuments in addition to similar schemes taken up by my Government. The Modernisation of the Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio Phase III (Part -I) is in progress.

The Assam Gas Cracker Project at a cost of ₹ 5,460 crores is under implementation. The revival of the Ashok Paper Mill is proposed through the establishment of a Greenfield Paper Project. The Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road project has been approved by the Government of India as a National Project and it is under implementation. The Government of India has sanctioned a proposal for upgradation of the Guwahati Medical College & Hospital (GMCH) to the level of a superspeciality hospital for ₹ 119.95 crores and its implementation is under progress. The Assam PWD has completed all the works assigned to them relating to the construction of Indo-Bangladesh Border Roads and Fencing except for 0.715 km of Roads and 0.893 km of Fence relating to approaches of 5 bridges which are targeted to be completed by March 2011.

### **Agriculture and Horticulture**

Assam has witnessed enhanced production, both in the case of food and cash crops despite a decline in total crop area. It has achieved a record production of Rice of 44.08 lakhs MT during the year 2009-10. In

the thirteen low productive districts under the *National Food Security Mission* there has been a significant increase of rice productivity from 1215 kg/ha during 2006-07 to 1643 kg/ha in 2009-10, an increase of 35.2% after 3 years of the Mission. Assam stands in the 1<sup>st</sup> position in Rice production and productivity among NFSM (Rice) districts of Eastern India.

While encouraging and supporting diversification, emphasis has also been given to the use of improved High Yielding Varieties and Hybrid Seeds as well as adoption of improved technology including integrated nutrient management and farm mechanization by the farmers of the State. During the year 2010-11, it is proposed to distribute 882 numbers of Tractors and 6068 numbers of power tillers. An additional 2,33,784 ha. irrigation potential is under creation during the year 2010-11 with the installation of 1,16,892 Nos. of STW / Drip / Sprinkler/LLPs. A total of 5,86,633 Nos. of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) have been issued to the deserving farmers with the credit disbursement of ₹ 1453.12 crores till September, 2010. The Externally Aided *Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project* (AACP) for infrastructural development and the Central Scheme *Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana* (RKVY) for all round development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors are being implemented successfully.

Horticulture occupies around 14% of the net cropped area. My Government has accorded high priority to the cultivation of high value horticultural crops like Cashew nut, King chilli (Bhoot Jalakiya), Black pepper, Ginger, Orchids, Anthurium etc. under central scheme of *Technology Mission for Integrated*

*Development of Horticulture.* Cold storage, post harvest processing and marketing facilities as well as a model Horticulture Farm are being developed for the growth of horticulture and the processing sector. For the first time, systematic and scientific cultivation of medicinal plants is in progress under the *National Mission on Medicinal Plants*.

### **Irrigation**

Irrigation department so far brought 7.76 lakhs Hectares area under irrigation through a number of Major/Medium and Minor Irrigation projects. The *Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)*, *Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) programme*, *Assam Bikash Yojana and schemes under NABARD (RIDF)*, *State Plan and Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)* are presently being implemented to bring in more and more area under irrigation for agricultural development. The modernization of Sukla Irrigation Project has been completed physically to revive a potential of 24,400 hectares area. Work is also under progress in the Rupahi Irrigation Project to revive 5,668 hectares and in the Bordikorai Major Irrigation Project to revive 34,400 hectares of lost irrigation potential.

### **Animal Husbandry and Veterinary**

My Government recognizes the increasing importance of the livestock and poultry sector in the rural economy of Assam. It has taken up a number of

programmes and projects to develop this sector like, the *Artificial Insemination Service to enhance milk production*, *Cattle induction programme*, *Semi-intensive goat and pig farming scheme*, *Rural backyard poultry distribution programme* and the *Scheme for control of animal diseases through massive vaccination*. The Institute of Farm Management, Rani is proposed to be upgraded to a Regional Institute for Livestock and Entrepreneurial Management. Extension and training is provided through the School of Veterinary Sciences, Ghungoor, Silchar and the Officers Training Institute, Khanapara.

A number of initiatives have been taken up to meet the gap between the demand and supply of milk in the state. These initiatives include the organization of dairy producers, creation / upgradation and renovation of infrastructure to enhance milk procurement, processing, marketing and facilitation of private investment and participation. These initiatives are being materialized through the implementation of a number of schemes like, the *Milk Village Scheme (State Plan)*, *Town Milk Supply Scheme*, the *externally aided Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project*, the *Central Scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana* and the *Project on Infrastructure Development for Quality and Clean Milk Production*.

### **Fishery**

Fish production in Assam has increased from 1.86 lakh tons in the 2004-05 to 2.18 lakh tons during the year 2009-10. The emphasis of my Government has been on expansion of area combined with adoption

of scientific pisciculture and quality seed production. More area is being brought under pisciculture through various schemes under the *State Plan*, the *externally aided Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project* and the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY)*. A large number of unemployed youth and women are being imparted skills on pisciculture and quality seed production. Through *Assam Matsya Mahotsav* mass awareness programme is being organised in the State. Fresh water prawn hatchery has been established for the first time in Assam for introducing prawn culture.

### **Panchayat & Rural Development**

The *Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY)* is being implemented in the State under which during the last five years 52,355 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 25,932 individual Swarajgaries have been provided with self employment. Under *Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREG)* programme 36,18,118 households have been provided with Job cards. A total of 2699.05 lakh mandays have been created during the last five years up to November 2010. To avoid defalcation and misappropriation, payments are being made through the bank accounts of beneficiaries. Under this programme a large number of community and individual assets have been created. Under the *Indira Awas Yojana* a total of 6,53,749 houses were completed in the last five years and the target fixed for the current year is 1,70,849 houses.

Under *National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)*, assistance has been provided to 6,29,949

numbers of old persons under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. During the last five years 60,488 families were assisted under National Family Benefit Scheme and 26,640 BPL cardholder families were provided free allotment of 10 Kg rice per month under the *Annapurna Scheme*. For providing benefits, 28,626 numbers of Widows have been selected under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme and 4,256 beneficiaries have been selected under Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme.

In addition, my Government is implementing the *Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme* (in 11 districts), the *District Development Plan Scheme*, the *Assam Bikash Yojana* and the *CM's Jeevan Jyoti Swaniyojan Yojana*. All Gaon Panchayats and Anchalik Panchayats have been provided computers. The computerization of accounts of the Panchayats in Assam is under progress. This will greatly enable in institutionalizing transparency and in easy monitoring of schemes. Besides it will consolidate rural bodies to become vibrant grassroots democratic institutions with accountability.

### **Co-operation**

My Government has taken a number of steps to the strengthen cooperatives structure in the State. In order to make the cooperative movement professionally run, voluntarily formed and democratically controlled a new Assam Co-operative Societies Bill, 2007 was earlier passed and now the suggestions of H.E. the President of India are in the

process of being incorporated. To revamp the cooperative movement in the State a Committee of Group of Ministers has been formed and their report is now under consideration. Steps have been taken for the revival of the West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd (WAMUL), the East Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd (EAMUL) and the Assam Polyester Cooperative Society Ltd (APOL). Assistance has been provided to the Women Cooperative Societies under the Assam Bikash Yojana. As a part of the revival of the Short Term Cooperative Credit Structure an amount of ₹ 20.835 crores has been provided to the Assam Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd for liquidating past liabilities to enable GPSS in the State to become eligible for fresh finance. A Co-operative University in the name of "The Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-operative Management" has been proposed to be established at Sivasagar.

### **Soil Conservation**

Soil and water conservation measures are one of the essential inputs for increasing agricultural output and for land stabilisation. For the purpose a number of works are being implemented in different parts of the State. Under the centrally sponsored scheme for *Flood Prone Rivers* agricultural land has been developed in Singla and Dhansiri area. Under NEC funding the *Amloga Borsapur Soil Conservation & Water Distribution Project* has been implemented in Sonitpur District and the *Bio-Diversity Conservation of Basistha Bahini Watershed Project* implemented in



Greater Guwahati of Kamrup (Metro) District. Rubber Plantation in collaboration with Rubber Board has been taken up under the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY)* in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup (Rural), Kamrup (Metro), Bongaigaon and Darrang. Steps have been taken for the revitalization of the Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation Ltd (APCDC). Soil Conservation Department has been designated as nodal department for the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of *Integrated Watershed Development Programme (IWDP)*.

### **Environment and Forests**

Assam is famous for its rich flora and fauna. My Government has been taking a number of steps for conserving and enriching the forests in Assam. In addition to the Manas Tiger Reserve it has also declared the Kaziranga National Park and the Nameri National Park as Tiger Reserves to provide better conservation for Tigers as well as for other major animals living in these National Parks. With a view to restore Rhino population to the Manas Tiger Reserve Rhinos are being translocated from Kaziranga and Pabitora to Manas. With a view to curb poaching of wildlife the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended making punishment for committing wildlife crimes more stringent upto life imprisonment and making the offences cognizable and non-bailable. Action has been taken to contain man-animal conflict and the ex-gratia amount in respect of victims of such conflict has been increased from ₹ 40,000/- to ₹ 1.00 lakh.

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of schemes taken up by the Forest Development Agencies, the State Forest Development Agency is being constituted during the current year. A number of measures are being taken to increase the forest cover. During the current year 18,000 hectares of plantation and 185.44 hectares of nurseries have already been created under the state plan including the *Assam Bikash Yojana* and central schemes like, the National Bamboo Mission, Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (AYUSH), CAMPA etc. Within March 2011 it is proposed to further plant 7,015 hectares and create 27.00 hectares of nurseries.

### **Public Enterprises**

My Government has taken steps to reform the State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Assam. Action for this purpose has been taken under the Asian Development Bank supported *Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Project* under which 14 unviable PSUs and 2 industrial Units of another PSU are being closed down. A Task Force on PSU Reforms has been constituted to oversee the reform process under this Project. A Pay Revision Committee was also constituted for the State Level Public Sector Enterprises (SLPEs). The Committee has since submitted its report, which is under consideration for implementation. A number of steps have been taken up to improve the performance, accountability and supervision of the State PSUs. For this purpose steps have been taken to re-introduce and institutionalize the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) system along

with training needs analysis by availing the services of external management institutions. A Capacity building scheme for Long-Term and Short Term In Service Programme and Executive Development & Change Management Programme has also been introduced. The State PSUs are being classified on the basis of performance and financial health and awards are proposed to be given to the best performing PSUs.

### **Industry and Commerce**

With the Gas Cracker Project scheduled to be completed by 2012, steps have been taken to set up a Plastic Park where more than 500 industries based on raw materials of the Gas Cracker Project can be established as downstream industries for creating employment on a large scale. During the last four years, 6,795 Nos. of units have been set up in Micro/Small/Medium sector generating employment for around 43,000 persons. Steps are being taken for setting up of a Bamboo Park, Jute Park, and Textile Park. Works at Mega Food Park at Nathkuchi are in progress. To facilitate border trade the Trade Centre at Sutarkandi has been made operational and another Trade Centre at Mankachar is ready for inauguration. International Trade Facilitation Centre is being set up on Stilwell road near Jagun in Tinsukia district.

A new scheme namely, *Assam Entrepreneur Award, 2010* is being introduced during the current year to enhance the competitiveness among the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. To provide a problem free environment for the investors, online submission of Entrepreneurs Memorandum I & II has been

introduced. To help nearly 3.5 lakh families a new policy for utilising cess collected from small tea growers has been approved for ploughing back the funds to the Small Tea Growers. Skill development of the youth is being undertaken within and outside the state under the *Assam Bikash Yojana*. Under the *Udyog Jyoti Achari* motivation is being provided to students towards entrepreneurship. Under *Mukhya Mantri Karmajyoti Achari (MMKA)* it is proposed to provide tools and machines in identified sectors to rural youth and Self Help Groups.

### **Handlooms, Textiles and Sericulture**

Handloom weaving occupies a place of pride in the socio-cultural scenario of the State. In view of its importance a number of schemes are being taken up in this sector. Under the *Assam Bikash Yojana* 20,37,556 poor people have been assisted through grant of yarn and blankets in three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10 and it is proposed to assist another 25,23,049 poor people under the scheme in 2010-11. Other schemes being implemented are *Grants-in-aid* in the form of free looms and accessories, *Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Economic Upliftment Scheme, Health Insurance Scheme for Weavers, Life Insurance Scheme for Weavers* and the *Marketing Incentive Scheme* for encouragement of marketing of handloom products. The district of Sivasagar is being developed as a Mega Handloom Cluster with an estimated project cost of ₹ 70.00 crores to be completed in 5 years and is aimed at lifting the

Handloom & Sericulture sector of the State to new heights.

Assam leads the nation in non-mulberry silk producing 99% of the nation's Muga silk and 65% of its Eri silk. My Government has taken up various schemes in this sector like, augmentation of silk worm food plants, organization of private graineurs for production of quality muga and eri seeds, construction of rearing houses for scientific silk worm rearing and irrigation facilities to farmers for quality leaf production. A post cocoon cluster at Nalbari has been established to have quality production through the provision of specially designed certified looms and through the upgradation of existing looms. A special cluster promotion for Eri has been proposed at Rani under Kamrup (Rural) District. It is also proposed to upgrade and modernize all the existing 197 sericulture farms and centres in the plain areas of Assam.

### **Health and Family Welfare**

Assam has made major strides in healthcare at the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level during the last five years with facilities being made easily accessible, affordable and patient friendly, especially for the rural masses. 343 PHCs are providing round the clock 24x7 delivery services. Nineteen Special New Born Care Unit (SNCU) and 402 Newborn Stabilization Units (NSU) have been taken up. There has been a steady increase in institutional deliveries with significant increase in OPD and in-patient services. Under the scheme for nutritional support to pregnant women (*Mamoni*), 7.82 lakh pregnant women

have been benefited so far. Similarly, under the scheme for security to the girl child (*Majoni*), 93,300 Nos. of girl children have been extended the benefit by providing ₹ 5,000.00 as Fixed Deposit to each. More than 1,00,000 patients have so far been benefited from the scheme '*Morom*' where in cash assistance is provided to the poor indoor patients to compensate the wage loss during hospitalization. Under *Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana* 2,03,891 BPL families have been enrolled. 26,000 ASHAs have been provided with one Bi-cycle under the *Assam Bikash Yojana*.

Construction of 60 Model Hospitals @ ₹ 4.00 crores each in rural areas of 60 LACs with a total amount of ₹ 240.00 crores has been started. 248 Tea Garden hospitals have been provided ₹ 15.00 lakhs each including an ambulance for upliftment of the healthcare services in the garden areas. Fifty new PHCs are proposed in Riverine and Char areas. Construction of 5 District Hospitals at Bongaigaon, Amingaon (Kamrup), Mushalpur (Baksa), Dhubri and Udalguri are in fast progress. To augment the manpower right from Doctors, Paramedics and other supporting staff more than 20,466 Nos. of personnel have already been appointed or engaged on contractual basis. Emergency Response Service (Mritunjoy-108) is in operation in all the 27 districts.

The Jorhat Medical College & Hospital has already been made functional in 2010 with admission of 100 students in the 1<sup>st</sup> year MBBS Course. Construction work of both Barpeta and Tezpur Medical Colleges are in fast progress. Two more new Medical Colleges, one at Diphu and another at Nagaon, are in the process of establishment. The

Guwahati Medical College & Hospital (GMCH), Assam Medical College & Hospital, Dibrugarh (AMCH) and Silchar Medical College & Hospital (SMCH) have been strengthened both in terms of equipments and manpower by providing financial package of more than 100 crores to each of the Medical Colleges. With a view to meet the shortage of GNMs, establishment of new GNM Schools and B.Sc Nursing College has been taken up. Three Institutes of Paramedical Science with 12 different courses have been established at GMCH, AMCH and SMCH and are functioning. A National Institute of Pharmaceutical Science has been started at GMCH for imparting M. Pharma Course. Assistance has been provided for the cases involving kidney transplantation, Congenital Heart Diseases and Surgery for children having cleft palate and cleft lip.

### **Public Works**

Providing connectivity to all the habitations in the state with all weather roads has been one of the priorities of my Government. So far 4,165 Nos. of 1000+ population habitations, 1,702 Nos of 500+ population habitations and 1,247 Nos of less than 500+ population habitations have been provided connectivity by constructing 9,143 km of all weather roads and 695 RCC bridges under *Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY). Roads and bridges in Assam are being constructed under a number of schemes. Under *Assam Agriculture Competitiveness Project (AACP)* 627 km of roads and 170 RCC bridges have been completed, under *Mukhya Mantri Pakipath*

*Nirman Achoni (MMPNA)* 934 km of roads and 2 RCC bridges have been completed, under *Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)* 447 km of roads and 268 RCC bridges have been completed, under *Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)* 122 km of roads and 109 RCC bridges have been completed, under *Central Road Fund (CRF)* 726 km and 27 RCC bridges have been completed, under *North East Council (NEC)* 1,953 km roads and 327 bridges have been completed and under the *Assam Bikash Yojana* 24 km roads and 2 RCC bridges have been completed. Under the *Mukhya Mantri Poki Dolong Nirman Achoni (MPDNA)* 171 bridges have been taken up for construction of RCC bridges to give connectivity to the remotest villages. At present around 8,000 km of roads and 1,400 Nos. of RCC bridges are in various stages of construction.

There are 24 National Highways with a total length of 1,950.65 Km under Assam PWD in Assam. During the last five years ₹ 1280.64 crores has been utilized for NH development which includes development of 608 Km, repairing of 508 Km and construction of 3 Nos of bridges. During the current year focus is being given on corridor development of national highways leading to major arterial routes like the East-West Corridor. Under SARDP-NE, Phase-A, 10 Nos. of state roads connecting district head quarters totalling a length of 183.949 km are being taken up for improvement to double lane national highway standard. The North and South Bank approaches to the Bogibeel Bridge over the river Brahmaputra for a total length of 16.565 km at a cost of ₹ 182.48 crores has been taken up for implementation. A number of

construction works have been undertaken which includes construction of 44 Nos. of Revenue Circle office buildings in various places in Assam and construction of many Tax Buildings and Treasury Buildings in Assam.

### **Public Health Engineering**

During the last five years till 2009-10, under the *Bharat Nirman* programme 21,810 Nos. of uncovered and partially covered habitations have been provided with full water supply benefits, water quality problems of 9,228 Nos. of quality affected habitations have been tackled by providing alternative sources and appropriate treatment and 15,876 Nos. of rural lower primary and upper primary schools have been provided with drinking water supply facilities. During the current year it is targeted to cover 4,339 Nos. of uncovered habitations, 3,818 Nos. of quality affected habitations and 2,728 Nos. of rural primary schools. Under the *Assam Bikash Yojana*, 60 Nos. piped water supply schemes and 2,989 Nos. of spot sources are to be provided in ATC Tea Gardens, water scarce habitations of interior villages, Char Areas and SC and ST dominated areas. Construction of School Sanitation Blocks, Anganwadi Centre Toilets and Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) for BPL and APL is being taken up under the *Total Sanitation Campaign*. Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) for Total Environmental Sanitation has been awarded to 24 Nos. of Gram Panchayats. *Jalmani Scheme* is under implementation to ensure safe drinking water in Government Schools

having water quality problem and so far 2,117 units of purification system have been installed.

### **Education**

My Government has taken a number of steps to universalize elementary education in the State. Free textbooks are being distributed to students from Ka Sreni to Class VIII and 64.63 lakh students have been benefitted during 2009-10. During the last five years incentives were provided to 50,000 girl students @ ₹ 200.00 per girl. Free Mid-day-Meal is being provided to all school going students of Class-I to Class-VIII, attendance and special scholarships is being provided to SC and ST students and facilities are provided to students belonging to BPL families like, school uniforms, umbrella and bicycle to girl students of Class VIII. For improving the quality of education, Teaching Learning Materials have been provided to the Schools. Incentives of cash awards have also been provided for teachers and schools having excellent performance. Such efforts have had a positive impact and have resulted in the number of 'Out of School Children' being reduced to 1.03% in 2009-10 from 24.39% during 2001-02. Under the Sarba Siksha Abhijan educational infrastructure like, school buildings, additional classrooms, girl's toilets, common toilets and drinking water facilities are being provided. During the year, it is further proposed to integrate Class V and VIII to Lower Primary Schools and Upper Primary Schools respectively, upgrade selected Lower Primary Schools to Upper Primary Schools to reduce the gap of access to Upper Primary

education, provide 2 new residential schools in Urban areas of Kamrup and Cachar districts and provide 5 new Residential Bridge Course Centres.

My Government has taken a number of steps to improve secondary education in the State. During the current year financial assistance is to be provided to 2,021 recognised High School/High Madrassa, 185 Higher Secondary Schools and 204 Junior Colleges. Infrastructure development is made for 10 Nos. of old and high performing Government Higher Secondary Schools @ ₹ 200.00 lakh per school. Financial support is to be given to 20 meritorious students from BPL families @ ₹ 2000.00 per month for pursuing studies in excellent schools. Under the Ananda Ram Barooah Award one Laptop is being given to all first division holders in HSLC, High Madrassa, Sanskrit and Pali Pravesika and FM (Sr.Madrassa) examination. In order to provide education of comparable quality, NCERT syllabus has been adopted at HSSLC level in the State. Madrassa education is being supported under Central Schemes and under the Chief Minister's Special Scheme.

The *Saakshar Bharat Mission* targeting to achieve 80% literacy by the end of 11<sup>th</sup> five-year plan with focus on female literacy is being implemented in 5 districts namely, Dhemaji, Sonitpur, Darrang, Bongaigaon and Karbi Anglong. To further higher education, financial support for infrastructure development has been provided to Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University and Bodoland University. Infrastructure development of Jorhat Engineering College, Assam Engineering College and existing nine Polytechnics has also been taken up. For development

of women's education in the State a Women University is being established. Four new Engineering Colleges are also to be established in the districts of Dhemaji, Goalpara and Nagaon and Karimganj.

### Social Welfare

Under the *Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme* during the period 2001 to the present 124 ICDS Projects, 41,081 Anganwadi Centres and 2,967 Mini Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned as against 107 ICDS Projects and 15,647 Anganwadi Centres sanctioned till 2001. This scheme has almost been universalized in Assam and its Supplementary Nutrition Programme component is showing slow but good progress in tackling the incidence of malnutrition amongst Children and Women. The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights And Full Participation) Act, 1995 is being implemented throughout the State through the office of the Commissioner of Disabilities. The *Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Jyoti Bima Achoni* providing insurance cover to accidental deaths and injury is under operation in the State along with the *Mukhia Mantrir Mahila Samriddhi Achoni* aimed at economically empowering rural women. The *Aam Admi Bima Yojana* has been taken up to cover members of the economically weaker sections of the society. Assistance is being provided for the upliftment of the Harijan Community. Financial assistance is also being provided to the unorganized contract labour and to unemployed single women and widows. Steps have been taken for

construction of the Women's Commission Building and for setting up of a Women Development Council.

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

My Government has been providing subsidised rice, wheat, sugar and S.K.Oil to the people under the public distribution system. Under the *Antodaya Anna Yojana* (AAY) around 7.00 lakh poorest families are getting rice at @ ₹ 3.00 per Kg and under the *BPL Scheme* around 12.00 lakh BPL families are provided subsidised rice at between ₹ 6.17 to ₹ 6.27 per kg. Rice, Levy Sugar, Blue Dyed S.K.Oil, Atta etc are also being provided to 38.81 lakh APL families under the *APL Scheme*. Under the *Randhanjyoti Scheme* widows, women from BPL families and SHG members are being given free LPG connections. The Assam State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and the 23 District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum are functioning to protect the rights of the consumers. Various Acts and Rules in respect of weights and measures are being enforced to protect the interests of the consumers.

### **Border Areas**

Assam has an Inter-State boundary of 2,100 km with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and West Bengal. These areas are remote and are in need of all round socio-economic development. A number of schemes are being taken up by my Government in these areas for provision of road connectivity, drinking water supply

facilities, health facilities, electrification of villages, educational facilities and construction of community halls. During the current year an amount of ₹ 1674.30 lakhs has been provided for this purpose under the *Assam Bikash Yojana, Specific Area Fund, Decentralised Plan and the BOP Scheme* for the border areas with Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya. Assam also has an international border of 532 km with Bangladesh and Bhutan. The main priorities in the Indo-Bhutan border areas are the provision of safe drinking water, road communications, health and education facilities whereas in the Indo-Bangladesh border areas the sheltering of flood affected people and livestock during the floods is a priority along with provision of road communication and safe drinking water. Schemes have been taken under the *Border Areas Development Programme* (BADP) with an allocation of ₹ 4000.00 lakhs during the current year for physical and social infrastructural development in these areas through convergence of schemes in a participatory approach.

### **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Welfare**

My Government has been according a high priority for the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes in the State. Seven Autonomous Councils have been created for this purpose and during the current year ₹ 242.00 crores has been provided for Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), ₹ 24.67 crores for Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council, ₹ 35.04 crores for Mising



Autonomous Council, ₹ 23.91 crores for Tiwa Autonomous Council, ₹ 15.06 crores for Sonowal Kochari Autonomous Council, ₹ 15.04 crores for Thengal Kochari Autonomous Council and ₹ 15.91 crores for Deori Autonomous Council. To fulfil the aspirations of the people, thirteen Development Councils have been created for the Adivasi, Tai Ahom, Nath Yogi, Bisnupriya Manipuri, Moria, Maimal, Moran, Mottock, Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Sarania Kachari, Gurkha and Amri Karbi communities. A decision has also been taken to create a separate Directorate for the Other Backward Castes.

During the current year ₹ 53.53 crores has been provided for the Tribal Sub Plan and ₹ 140.27 crores for the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. Various schemes have been taken for people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes (Plains) like, scholarships for students, incentives to meritorious students and financial grants to poor families for income generation. Farm equipments like, tractors and power tillers have also been provided to Scheduled Tribes (Plains) farmers. In addition to Pre-matric and Post-matric Scholarship to Scheduled Caste (SC) students, assistance has been provided to SC persons under the *Assam Bikash Yojana* and the *Chief Minister's Special Employment Generation Scheme*. Under *Pradhanmantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)*, 100 SC rural villages are to be taken up for infrastructure development as Model Villages. Similarly 4 villages are to be taken up as Model Villages in the districts of Kamrup, Barpeta, Dhubri and Kokrajhar under the state plan. The State Corporations for the development of Plain Tribes, Scheduled Castes and the Other Backward Castes are

implementing family oriented income generating schemes for these categories.

### Tea Tribes Welfare

My Government has been taking up a number of initiatives for the all-round development of tea and ex-tea tribe communities in the State. For this purpose ₹ 49.95 crores has been allocated during the current year as against ₹ 1.88 crores allocated during 2000-01. Post-matric scholarship is being provided for students and a scheme has been taken up for giving grants to deserving students to pursue higher studies in different disciplines like, Engineering, Management, Medical Science, Research etc. Fifty Skill Development Training Centres are being operationalised under the PPP mode in different districts for development of skills of youth for self-employment. A batch of 80 youths has been sponsored in job oriented training to different para-medical courses. It is further proposed to train youth for self-employment in different vocational courses in association with different industrial houses and corporate bodies to ensure post-training placement. A special *Drinking Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)* programme has been launched to cover BPL families in tea-dominated areas through out the State in phased manner. The youth are being promoted in sports through coaching and exposure to national and regional youth exchange programmes.



## Minority Welfare

My Government is committed to the welfare of minorities. It has been constantly monitoring all the schemes for the welfare of minorities and has been laying stress on their timely implementation. The Assam Minorities Development Board is implementing various development schemes for the Minorities for which there is a provision of ₹ 526.90 lakhs during the current year as against ₹ 30.00 lakhs allocated during 2000-01. The Assam Minorities Development & Finance Corporation Ltd. is also implementing developmental schemes besides providing loans and has a provision of ₹ 341.10 lakhs during the current year as against ₹ 10.00 lakhs allocated during 2000-01. The Directorate of Char Areas is taking up a number of schemes in the Char Areas relating to agriculture, veterinary and dairy, cottage industry, education etc for the socio-economic development of the people giving stress on providing training for self-employment. It is taking up schemes under the *Assam Bikash Yojana* for distribution of power tillers, power pumps and sprayer machines. Schemes are also being taken up under the *Chief Minister's Special Employment Generation Programme*. During the current year ₹ 3543.00 lakhs have been provided for these schemes as against ₹ 103.00 lakhs allocated during 2000-01.

A centrally sponsored *Multi Sectoral District Development Plan* (MSDP) Scheme has been taken up for 13 minorities concentrated districts of Assam for which an amount of ₹ 703.50 crores has been allocated during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. My Government has

provided land and ₹ 2.00 crores for the construction of a Haj Bhavan in Guwahati. The Assam Board of Wakfs has started computerization of wakf records. Assam State Commission for Minorities is functioning in the State. The Assam Linguistic Minorities Development Board is also functioning and looking after the specific needs of linguistic minorities.

## Tourism

Assam is famous for its scenic beauty, varieties of flora and fauna, dense forests, ancient temples, historical sites and the mighty Brahmaputra. It has a tremendous potential for tourism, which can boost the economy of the State and create substantial self-employment opportunities. Due to continuous efforts the tourist inflow has risen substantially to 38.96 lakhs domestic tourists and 14,699 foreign tourists during 2009-10 as compared with 9.62 lakhs domestic tourists and 6,490 foreign tourists during 2000-01. A number of schemes have been taken up for Circuit Development like, Manas-Guwahati-Kaziranga Circuit, the Dhubri-Goalpara-Guwahati-Silchar-Karimganj Circuit, the Orang-Tezpur-Bhalukpong-Biswanath Chariali-Gohpur Circuit, the Dhubri-Mahamaya-Barpeta- Hajo Circuit, Dibru Saikhowa National Park-Majum-Margherita-Digboi Circuit and the Buddhist Circuit. Destination development schemes have been taken up like, the Development of the Brahmaputra River Front in Guwahati, Cruise Vessel on the Brahmaputra and Development of Koya Kujia Lake in North Salmara, Bongaigaon.

A number of major tourism projects have been taken up for implementation. These include the construction of a five star luxury Hotel at Khanapara, Guwahati by Hotel Company Ltd. in collaboration with the state government, sound and light show at Tolatal Ghar at Sivasagar, construction of a new Tourist Lodge at Nagaon, construction of the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology at Jorhat and the Food Craft Institute at Samaguri, Nagaon. During the current year a number of projects are taken up like, the Landscape development of Island at Kaliabhomora bridge, Development of Kamakhya and Satellite Pilgrim Township of Hajo and the development of Ethnic Village at Bhalukpong. To promote tourism, Assam tourism is participating in a number of national and international tourism festivals. Assam tourism is also organizing a number of festivals like, the Rangali Ustav, Elephant Festival, Dihing-Patkai Festival and Tea Tourism Festival.

## **Culture**

Various actions are being taken by my Government to promote the diverse culture of Assam through programmes on songs, dance and drama in Assam and in different parts of India. It has been organising a number of cultural events in collaboration with the Indian Council of Cultural Research, North East Council, Sangeet Natak Academy, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, North East Zone Cultural Centre and National School of Drama. My Government has instituted a number of awards to give recognition to persons of eminence in different fields. Schemes have

been taken up to give wide recognition to social reformers and other historical persons of eminence from Assam. These include the setting up of the Siu-Ka-Pha Samannay Khetra at Jorhat, the Madhab Dev Khetra at Narayanpur, the Sati Radhika Cultural Complex at Bordowa, the Sati Sadhini Cultural Complex at Golaghat, the Anirudha Dev Cultural Complex at Tinsukia, the Sarat Chandra Sinha Memorial Cultural Complex at Chapar and the Improvement of the Ajan Peer Dargah at Sivasagar.

The Majuli Development Project has been taken up for the preservation of the Cultural Heritage of Majuli. It is proposed to build a Tribal Museum and Cultural Centre at Sonapur. Grants-in-aid to 50 Nos. of Non-Government Cultural Organisations @ ₹ 30,000.00 each is proposed under the *Assam Bikash Yojana*. A corpus fund of ₹ 100.00 lakhs has been provided for the welfare of Artists. Steps have been taken for the infrastructural development of the Assam State Museum and for strengthening the existing District Museums for facilitating proper preservation, documentation and study of our cultural and historical properties. Steps have been initiated for setting up a State Central Library at Guwahati. Internet facilities have been introduced in all district and sub-divisional libraries. The protection, preservation and development of 3 Sattras and 3 historical monuments were taken up for ₹ 5.00 crores during 2009-10. During the current year protection, preservation and development of 8 historical monuments has been taken for ₹ 5.00 crores and during 2011-12 it is proposed to take up the protection, preservation and development

of 9 historical monuments and 85 Sattras from funds under the Additional Central Assistance.

### Urban Development

A number of schemes have been taken up in urban areas of Assam to take care of the rapid urbanisation. The Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) is presently under implementation for strengthening the urban infrastructure. Slum development is being taken up under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Urban development schemes are also being implemented from funds under the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and under the 10% Central Pool Fund provided for North Eastern States. During the past five years for an amount of ₹ 556.57 crores 90 Nos. of schemes have been sanctioned like, Multi Utility Buildings, Roads, Truck Terminus, Business Centres, Commercial Complex, Storm Water Drainage etc. During the current year it is proposed to complete 50% of the target under IHSDP for construction of 8,668 houses and integrated slum development programmes for benefit of the poor people living in the towns of Dhubri, Badarpur, Nalbari, Palasbari, Kampur, Dhing, Sarthebari, Lanka, Karimganj, Mangaldoi, Tinsukia, Golaghat, Nagaon, Tihu, Bokajan and Kokrajhar. During the current year a Bus Terminus at Barpeta Town for ₹ 1.86 crores and a Multistoried Car Parking cum City Hall at Jorhat Town for ₹ 9.46 crores has been sanctioned under NLCPR.

The Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana (SYSRY) is being implemented to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed by setting up self-employment ventures. It also provides wage employment to people living below the poverty line in urban areas by using their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. Under this scheme since 2006-07, micro enterprises have been set up by 609 persons, skill up gradation has been provided to 843 persons and 7.32 lakh mandays have been generated. Low cost sanitary latrines are being provided under the *Urban Low Cost Sanitation programme* to the urban poor belonging to Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Under *Assam Bikash Yojana* tractors and trailers are being provided to local bodies for disposal of garbage. The Assam State Housing Board has been implementing various Housing Schemes in the State. These are the *Janata Housing Scheme for EWS*, the *Rental Housing Scheme for Government Employees* and the *Housing for Unorganized Workers*. The Assam Urban Water & Sewerage Board has been taking up a number of schemes to provide safe drinking water to the urban people. During the current year they would be commissioning drinking water schemes in Howly, Makum, Chabua, Dhubri, Gossaigaon, Jorhat (Ph-II), Hojai, Abhayapuri and Augmentation of Zoo Road Water Supply Scheme.

### Guwahati Development

My Government has been according high priority to the creation of urban infrastructure in

Guwahati city. It has taken steps to address the chronic problem of short supply of drinking water in Guwahati. The 107 Million litres per Day Guwahati West Water Supply Project has been taken up to cater to the citizens of western part of Guwahati, where presently no water supply scheme exists and the project is targeted to be completed within 2011. For Central and North Guwahati two water supply schemes for an estimated amount of ₹ 1400.00 crores are in the stage of implementation with the funds provided by *Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)*. For the recreation of Guwahati residents a mega recreational park named Shradhanjali Kanan was opened for public use. Further, to ease the parking problem a multistoried car parking has been taken up at Fancy Bazar. An auditorium cum community hall is being constructed at Rukmini Nagar to provide facilities to the citizens of Southern Guwahati. A total of 352 houses under *Basic Service to Urban Poor (BSUP)* Phase-I project at Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati are ready for handing over to the beneficiaries.

### **Transport**

The Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) is providing a reliable road transport service throughout the State through its own fleet of 450 buses and a network of 1,200 private buses plying under its banner earning a monthly gross earning of around ₹ 3.00 crores. As against this in 2001 only 70 own buses were plying earning a monthly gross earning of ₹ 70.00 lakhs. ASTC has implemented a diversification strategy by setting up consumer pumps of diesel on

commercial basis, having ATM counters of Banks, having NRL Energy station at Jorhat and Nagaon and having commercial complexes in important ASTC stations throughout Assam. Construction of the Yatri Niwas at Paltan Bazar Guwahati and modern bus terminus at Sivasagar and Dibrugarh has been completed. The ISBT Jorhat is nearing completion. The construction of a Multi Level Car Parking at ASTC premises Paltan Bazar has already started. An amount of ₹ 20.00 crores has been provided for 100 new buses under the Rural Connectivity Scheme. Under the Central Scheme of JnNURM 70 buses have already started plying in Guwahati City and another 100 buses would be added to this.

The Commissionerate of Transport is taking action to provide road safety and safe driving to the people of Assam. Progressive use of computerization has been undertaken for providing customer friendly and speedy licensing and registration. The Inland Water Transport has been operating 98 Nos. of Ferry services on the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. River tourism is being promoted by introducing a Floating Restaurant on the river Brahmaputra at Guwahati. It is proposed to introduce a pilot project of Water Taxi on the Brahmaputra river utilising 12 Nos. of Steel Hull Shallow Draft Boats. Infrastructure development is also proposed to be taken up at the newly established 28 Nos. of Ferry services on the river Brahmaputra and Barak.

## **Science and Technology**

My Government has taken a number of measures during the last five years to promote science and technology and to build a scientific temper in Assam. The Guwahati Planetarium has been upgraded at a cost of ₹ 600.14 lakhs and another four new planetariums are proposed to be set up at Jorhat, Kokrajhar, Nalbari and North Lakhimpur. A Biotechnology Park is being set up for inter alia taking up research and development in the field of biotechnology. Aryabhata Science Centres have been set up in 219 development blocks of the State. Fourteen Automatic Weather Stations have been set up with collaboration with ISRO and another 5 stations are proposed to be set up this year. A Vigyan Yatra was conducted to Kolkata by train consisting of students, their teachers and guardians with a view to popularize science learning amongst students.

## **Information Technology**

The Assam State Wide Area Network (ASWAN) is proposed to be setup linking each block head quarters and sub-divisional head quarters to the district head quarters and finally to the state head quarters at Guwahati. The completion of this network is in an advanced stage with 215 Point of Presence (POP) out of 304 POP being physically connected. The network is expected to be fully commissioned this year. A scheme has been taken up to set up Common Services Centres (CSC) from which ICT enabled service delivery would be provided in respect of a

range of services to the people. So far 3,760 CSCs have been set up in rural and remote areas of the State. Several districts have already started delivery of 15 notified G2C services to the people in the manual mode. Goalpara and Sonitpur have started electronic delivery of these services. The test mode of the Assam Online Portal Project and Secretariat Less Paper Office Project is expected to be launched shortly. At present, *Rajiv Gandhi Computer Literacy Program (RGCLP)* is running in 1610 Higher Secondary, High Schools and High Madrassas and in 641 Government High Schools.

## **Information and Public Relations**

The Fixed Loud Speaker System under which All India Radio news and other programmes are broadcast to the rural people has become very popular. It has now been extended to district headquarters and towns. The *Journalist Medical Welfare Scheme* with a corpus fund of ₹ 1.00 crores is under operation. Action is being taken through a publicity campaign to highlight government programmes and people oriented schemes through hoardings, brochures, cultural programmes and the print and electronic media. This publicity campaign also makes people aware against terrorism, insurgency and promotes national integrity and communal harmony.

## **Hill Areas**

My Government is committed to the all round development of the hill areas and has transferred autonomy in respect of thirty departments to the Karbi

Anglong and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council. Planning and implementation of various schemes under the Plan are undertaken by the Autonomous Councils. During the current year an amount of ₹ 449.97 crores has been provided for implementation of various schemes under the State Plan and the Hill Areas Development Plan with ₹ 294.18 crores for the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and ₹ 155.79 crores for the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council. During the year 2010-11, an amount of ₹ 4.00 crores has been allocated for *Integrated Jhumia Development Programme (IJDP)* and ₹ 7.50 crores has been allocated for *Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)* for taking up alternative agro-economic activities to wean away people from the practice of Jhum cultivation.

### Power

Power sector reforms have been taken up with the restructuring of the Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB) and its unbundling into three new companies, the Assam Power Generation Company Ltd. for generation, the Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Ltd for transmission and the Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd for distribution. The reform process has had a positive impact during the last five years. The Plant Load Factor (PLF) of the generating stations have enhanced from 36.32% to 58.45%. With the commissioning of the Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Power Project of 100 MW in 2007 the generation of power has enhanced from 867 MU in 2001 to 1714

MU at present. This position would be improving further with the commissioning of the Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Plant of 37.2 MW shortly. The construction of the 100 MW Namrup Replacement Project has commenced and would result in greater availability of power.

Due to taking up of a number of schemes the transmission and transformation capacity of the Assam Grid has increased from 700 MW in 2005 to over 1000 MW in 2010. These schemes relate to construction of 743 circuit-km of High Voltage lines, enhancement of transformation capacity at 220 KV level from 600 MVA to 1160 MVA and enhancement of the transformation capacity at 132 KV level from 919 MVA to 1775 MVA. It is targeted to increase the transmission and transformation capacity of the Assam Grid to 1443 MW by 2012. For this construction of 3 Nos. of 220/132 KV Sub-Station, 5 Nos. of 132/33 KV Sub-Station, 365 km of 220 KV line, 98 km of 132 KV line and a Gas insulated 220/33 KV, 2X50 MVA Sub-Station is proposed to be taken up.

The strengthening of the power distribution system has led to a reduction of the AT&C losses from 42% to 27% in the last five years. This strengthening was done through commissioning of 92 Nos. of new 33/11 KV Sub-Stations, augmentation/renovation of 188 Nos. of old Sub-Stations and installation of 6,374 Nos. of distribution transformers. More schemes are being taken up to strengthen the distribution system like, construction of 3 Nos. of 33/11 KV Sub-Station, construction of 145.25 km of 33 KV line, construction of 154.00 km of 11 KV line and installation of 50 Nos. of distribution transformers. Under the *Chief*

*Minister's Power Supply Assurance Mission* damaged distribution transformers are being replaced. Under the *Input Based Distribution Franchisee (IBDF) Scheme* selected 11 KV Feeders have been handed over to franchisees to reduce theft and increase revenue. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojna till January 2011 around 5.06 lakh BPL households have been given free electric connections.

### **Mines and Minerals**

My Government has taken up a number of activities for the exploration of minerals and groundwater resources. It grants exploration licences and mining leases for minerals and petroleum to various public sector and private sector organisations. It also realises non-tax revenue in terms of royalty, rent, fees etc from the licensees and the lessees. The major schemes being undertaken at present are the exploration of coal deposits in Karbi Anglong, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts, Investigation of granite deposits in Morigaon & Kamrup districts, Investigation of quartz-feldspar in Karbi Anglong district and Hydrogeological investigation of ground water resources in the State. The geological explorations carried out so far have resulted in large workable reserves of limestone suitable for manufacture of cement, fairly good reserves of coal, china clay, granite, glass sand, sillimanite and iron ore. During the current year to accelerate the exploration and development of petroleum in the State, two exploration blocks covering an area of 447.00 sq.kms. have been granted jointly to public and private sector

companies involving OIL, ONGC and the Assam Company Ltd under the *New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)*. The Assam Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. would be setting up large cement projects in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode with two nationally reputed companies.

### **Labour and Employment**

My Government has accorded priority for imparting skills to the youth in order to make them employable. Vocational training is being imparted through 28 ITIs out of which 23 ITIs are being completely upgraded under two schemes namely, the *Centre of Excellence Scheme* and the *Public Private Partnership Scheme*. Steps have been taken to establish seven new ITIs in Assam at Kajalgaon, Suklai, Boko, Ghilamara, Karimganj, Ledo and Titabor. Emphasis is being given on imparting Short Term Modular Employable Skills and a Skill Development Initiative Society has been registered to provide financial assistance to the vocational training providers in the public and private sectors. Various labour welfare legislations are being enforced to protect the right of the workers and to ensure welfare benefits reach them. In addition, the Assam Unorganized Workers Social Security Rules, 2010 have been framed to provide various welfare schemes to the unorganized sector workers.

## **Water Resources**

In Assam so far reasonable protection has been given to 16.50 hectares of land out of the 31.50 lakh hectares of flood prone areas identified by the Rastriya Barh Ayog. A number of schemes have been taken up to mitigate the problem in the remaining areas. These schemes have been taken up under the *Flood Management Programme, RIDF-XII (NABARD), RIDF-XV (NABARD), Additional Central Assistance (ACA)* and the *State Plan*. During the current year implementation of the \$ 142.00 Million ADB funded project namely, *Assam Integrated Flood And River Bank Erosion Risk Management Project* would be started to benefit an area of 1,10,000 Ha with a population of about one million in three selected sub project areas of Dibrugarh, Bonkuwal and Palasbari. My Government has been adopting new technologies in flood management. The Geo-fabric Tube Technology has been used for the first time in India in the construction of the Matmora Geo Dyke to give protection to Majuli and Dhakuakhana areas for a cost of ₹ 140.98 crores. Other new technologies adopted are the use of Space Technology for Project Planning, use of Kiaramat Tubular Sand Filled Mattress for bank protection and the use of Vetiver grass for reducing soil loss in the embankments.

## **Sports and Youth Welfare**

The Sports Authority of Assam has been constituted to look after the infrastructure created during the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Games and for organizing

coaching camp and different championships. A number of sporting events have taken place in recent past. These include the Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Senior National Badminton Championship, One Day International Cricket Match between India and New Zealand, Federation Cup Football, East Zone Taekwondo Championship, 1<sup>st</sup> East Zone Boxing Championship (Men & Women) and National Sepak Takrow Championship. After a long gap the State Youth Festival was organized at the Sarusajai Sports Complex, Guwahati in December 2010 with participation of 400 youth from 24 districts of Assam. Initiative has been taken for the establishment of the North East Regional Centre of the Lakshmibai National University of Physical Education at Guwahati.

## **Administrative Reforms and Training**

With a view to revamp the service delivery system, my Government has formulated a Training Policy for a wide range of services. Action is being taken to confer functional autonomy to Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati to make it an apex training institution in the State. The sponsorship of the Department of Personal and Training, Government of India has been secured for training State Civil Service Officers in internationally reputed institutions in India and two batches of ACS officers were sent to YASHADA Pune and the Management Development Institute (MDI) Gurgaon for training. Comprehensive training Programmes for employees of the State Secretariat are also under preparation.



## Revenue Administration

My Government has taken a number of initiatives to modernize revenue administration with the help of Information Technology in the areas of land records, registration, stamps and maps. Computerisation of land records under the name *Dharitree* has been operationalised in seven districts namely, Bongaigaon, Dibrugarh, Kamrup, Nalbari, Jorhat, Sivasagar, and Nagaon. Legal validity to digital documents has been provided by amending the Assam Land & Revenue Regulation 1886. Under *Panjeeyan* four Sub- Registrar Offices in Sonitpur District and one each at Guwahati, Kamrup Sadar, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Margherita have been computerised. *E-Stamp* pilot project is in operation in the Kamrup & Kamrup (Metro) districts. Under the National Land Records Modernization Programme, efforts are being made for the digitization of maps, introduction of modern survey methods and updation of Assam Survey and Settlement Training Centre, Dakhingaon. Revenue Circle officers have been provided mobility by supplying 152 nos. of vehicles.

My Government has adopted the National Disaster Management Act in 2006. It has recently approved the Assam State Disaster Management Policy and Assam State Disaster Management Rules to provide a framework for undertaking different disaster management activities. A decision has been taken for the creation of the State Disaster Response Force for responding to the disasters in the State. District Disaster Management Authorities have been formed for all the 27 districts with concerned Deputy

Commissioners as Chairpersons. Preparedness and mitigation phases of disaster management have been incorporated into the relief manual, which has been renamed as the Disaster Management Manual.

Char area survey is going on in the Districts and as per the provision of Land Policy, 1989 allotment and settlement are being given to people from Char areas. The provisions of Assam (Temporarily Settled Areas) Tenancy Act, 1971 are being implemented and tenants are being given ownership rights. Possession certificates are being issued to small tea growers who are occupying government land as per norms so that they can avail the benefits given by the Tea Board. The Assam Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Bill, 2010 has been passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly. A Commission has been set up to suggest amendment in the Land Laws in consonance with the present day requirements. The National Rehabilitation & Resettlement Policy, 2007 has been adopted to ensure that families displaced due to acquisition of their lands are suitably rehabilitated with land and dwelling houses.

## Pensions and Public Grievances

My Government is committed to the grant of timely pension to the government servants and to the staff of the provincialised schools. Pension Information System developed under *Assam Governance & Public Resource Management Project* has been operationalised. This has facilitated expeditious finalisation of pensions and commutation of pension cases. The Director of Pensions, Assam has

also been empowered to deal with pension cases of Provincialised Panchayat employees.

### **Excise**

Total prohibition of ganja, bhang, opium and other narcotic drugs is being enforced throughout the State. Action is being taken to check illicit distillation and sale of illicit liquor. State Anti Drugs and Prohibition Council is creating awareness amongst the masses about the abuse of drugs and other intoxicating substances in order to have a healthier society through meetings and seminars. All efforts are being taken to increase the collection of excise and sales revenue in Assam. During the current financial year upto October 2010 a total of ₹ 139.41 crores have been collected as excise revenue in comparison to ₹ 127.67 crores in corresponding period of 2009-10, indicating a 10% increase. The introduction of *advalorem* levy on India Made Foreign Liquor has simplified the process of credit of Government dues on liquor by retail licensees.

### **Legislative and Judicial**

During the year 2010, 11 Nos. of new Legislations and 21 Nos. of amendments to existing Acts have been made. Assam State Legal Services Authority has been organizing Lok Adalats and legal awareness camps and mediations. A National Law School and Judicial Academy is being set up at Guwahati. Six Motor Accident Claims Tribunals (M.A.C.T.) one each at Nagaon, Barpeta, Nalbari,

Dhubri, Silchar and one additional Tribunal at Guwahati, 2 Family Courts at Barpeta and Dhubri, one Additional Family Court in Kamrup District and two Additional Special Courts (C.B.I.) at Guwahati have been established during the current financial year 2010-2011.

**Hon'ble Members**, I have placed before you the policies and programmes of my Government. My Government is committed to make all efforts to implement the policies and programmes that have been outlined. I hope the deliberations of this House would help achieve this objective.

Joi Hind

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