



*Budgeting*

(2)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

**BUDGET SPEECH OF FINANCE MINISTER  
2011-12**

BY  
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CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM

11<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2011

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. I rise to present the detailed Budget estimates for the financial year 2011-12.
2. Earlier, on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011, I presented an Interim Budget for the current financial year seeking Vote on Account for the four month period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2011. Now that the elections to the Assam Legislative Assembly are over, I take the privilege to place before this august House the detailed Annual Financial Statement and Demands for Grants for the full financial year 2011-12.
3. Before coming to the Budget proposals, I would like to thank the people of Assam for their historic mandate giving me and our party the opportunity to serve the State for the third consecutive term. The confidence reposed by the people of Assam on my leadership fills my heart with humility, gratitude and determination to work even harder for all round peace, prosperity and development of the State.
4. I take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome all the Members of the 13<sup>th</sup> Assam Legislative Assembly. I request all of you to give your whole-hearted cooperation to my new Government. On my part I assure all of you, particularly Hon'ble Members of the Opposition, of our sincere good will and desire to work in harmony and cooperation with all segments of our composite polity to realise our dream for a peaceful, prosperous and progressive Assam.

5. Hon'ble Members will agree that our State has made unprecedented progress in all fields during the last 10 years. Law and order situation in the State has improved remarkably. Most of the insurgent outfits have come forward for resolution of their grievances through negotiations. The peace and reconciliation processes have gathered momentum. We have been able to create the necessary fiscal space to promote all round and sustainable development of the State. Assam's agricultural development during the last few years has been exceptionally good. Flow of Private Sector investment is also growing. Foreign trade and business delegations from our neighbouring countries including Thailand, Laos etc. have started visiting our State. I am also taking initiatives to establish trade-links through business, investment and tourism with the neighbouring countries as part of India's Look East Policy. The frequency of visits by Ambassadors and other diplomats from the developed western countries has also increased during the last few years. Most of them have shown keen interest to make investment in and to do business with Assam. In my third term as Chief Minister I shall give highest priority to further improve the overall environment for investment and rapid economic development of the State.

## **Economic Environment:**

### **6.1**

During the last few years the growth rate of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has shown a steady upward trend. The GSDP growth rate of the State in 2000-01 (1999-2000 constant prices) was only 2.53%. As per advance estimates the GSDP of the State in terms of constant (2004-05) prices for 2010-11 is Rs.75,082 crore with an estimated growth of 7.38% over 2009-10. In 2009-10 GSDP of the State at constant (2004-05) prices was Rs.69,924 crore (quick estimate) with a growth rate of 8.08% over 2008-09. The GSDP at current prices is expected to be Rs.104218.00 crore during 2010-11 (advance estimate) with an expected growth of 12.70% over 2009-10. The per capita GSDP at current prices of Assam in 2010-11 (advance estimate) is Rs.34267 as against Rs.30786 in 2009-10 (quick estimate). The per capita income of Assam on the basis of NSDP in 2010-11 is estimated to be Rs.30413 as against Rs.27197 in 2009-10.

### **6.2**

On the price front the Wholesale Price Index (base 1993-94=100) in Assam during 2010-11 was 272, registering an increase of 10 % over 2009-10. The WPI for India during the same period was 327, showing an increase 19 % over the previous year. Similarly, the Consumer Price Index (base 2001=100) for working class population in Assam was 164 during the year 2010-11 registering an

increase of 10.8% over the previous year. The corresponding CPI for the country as a whole was 176 showing an increase of 13 % over the previous year.

### 7.1 State Finances:

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, during my last two terms I have been able to restore the fiscal health of the State after years of financial crisis. The financial position of the State is now quite normal. The State could achieve both revenue and fiscal surpluses during the 4 year period from 2005-06 to 2008-09. As a result of this the State could avail debt waiver benefit of Rs.422 crore during the period under the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Award. This is in addition to debt relief of Rs.661 crore for enactment of the Assam FRBM Act, 2005. We are now taking steps to effect necessary amendments in the Act as per recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. This will make the State Government eligible for debt write-off of an amount of Rs.502 crore and interest payment relief of Rs.160.15 crore. The 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission rewarded the State by an amount of Rs.300 crore in recognition of our prudent and efficient financial management.

7.2 Of late, however, the State finances have come under some stress. During the last two years, that is, during 2009-10 and 2010-

11, the revenue and fiscal surpluses turned into deficits. Implementation of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and increase in our developmental expenditure are mainly responsible for this. There is, however, no need for alarm. Our treasury bill holding position is quite comfortable. Growth of both tax and non-tax revenue collection are also buoyant. For example, growth rate of net VAT collection in 2010-11 was 27% over the previous year. Similarly gross VAT collection in 2010-11 was 22% higher than in the previous year. Anyway, I have taken note of the emerging revenue and fiscal deficit positions. All out efforts will be made to improve collection of both tax and non-tax revenues along with compression of non-developmental expenditure. There will, however, be no slowdown in the pace of our developmental expenditure.

7.3 From a long term point of view also, the State finances are quite stable and secure. Our outstanding debt-GSDP ratio as on 31.03.2011 was 28%, which is within the limit of 28.2% prescribed by the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for Assam. Our interest payment to revenue receipt ratio has also come down to a very comfortable level of only 9% as against the prudent limit of 15% prescribed by the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. We have been making timely contributions to and maintaining reasonable balance in the Consolidated Sinking Fund. The

Guarantee Redemption Fund has also been constituted and duly funded. The new Contributory Pension Scheme for the State Government employees who joined service after 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 is being implemented vigorously with equal contribution from the State Government. As a result of this the State Government will be relieved from the burden of pension payment liability in future.

7.4

The ongoing fiscal reforms programme of the State Government will continue to be implemented diligently. To cope with the complexities of modern day financial management and for skill upgradation of the State Government officials, a series of training programmes have been undertaken in reputed institutions within and outside the country. More than 7000 officials have already been trained in techniques of modern financial management under the ADB funded Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Program. During the current financial year I propose to depute 60 middle and senior level officials to National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi and Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA for advance training on governance with focus on financial management.

7.5

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Assam State Finance Commission:

The 4<sup>th</sup> Assam State Finance Commission (FASFC) was constituted on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Bora, IAS (Retd) former Chief Secretary to Government of Assam. The Commission submitted its preliminary report covering the period 2011-12 to the Government on 25-3-2011. The Commission has recommended that 14 % of the net proceeds of all taxes and duties other than Entry Tax, Entertainment Tax and Electricity Duty shall be the quantum of the Divisible Pool for distribution between PRIs and ULBs during 2011-12. On the basis of this recommendation, an amount of Rs 640.87 crore has been included in the 2011-12 budget.

7.6

#### Externally Aided Projects:

During 2011-12 an amount of Rs. 1193.60 crore has been earmarked for implementation of Externally Aided Projects. The Projects are : (i) Assam Agriculture Competitiveness Project (Rs 175.73 crore) (ii) Assam State Road Project (Rs 155 crore) (iii) Assam Integrated Flood and River Bank Erosion Management Project (Rs 121.68 crore) (iv) Assam Governance and Public Resource Management Programme (Rs 139.56 crore) (v) Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Project (Rs 250.32 crore) (vi)

Guwahati Water Supply Project (Rs 319 crore) and (vii) Assam Infrastructure Project (Rs 32.31 crore).

Till recently, flow of funds to Assam under Externally Aided Projects was very meagre. However, during the last few years flow of funds to the State through various EAPs has been increasing substantially. State Government received an amount of Rs.2831 crore under various EAPs during the period from 2001 to January, 2011 as compared to an amount of only Rs.182 crore in the previous five years. An additional amount of approximately Rs.5000 crore is likely to flow to the State under the ongoing EAPs in the near future. These Externally Aided Projects have made significant impact in accelerating the pace of development in the State, particularly in sectors like agriculture, forest, road connectivity, urban water supply, power, water resource management and fiscal reforms.

I would like to apprise the Hon'ble members that the EAPs are not adding significantly to the debt burden of the State. The fact is that 90% of the fund under EAPs comes to the State as outright Grant from Government of India. Only 10% comes as loan which is well within manageable limits. Hon'ble Members will be happy to know that overall debt stock as well as the per-capita debt burden of

Assam is amongst the lowest in the country.

## 7.7

### Institutional Finance:

Though the CD ratio decreased to 39.71% in March 2011 due to a high deposit growth of 20.77%, credit also grew by Rs 14.02%. More importantly, the share of agriculture advances increased to 19.11 % of total advances crossing the All India norm of 18%.

I have repeatedly emphasised the crucial need for smooth flow of Institutional Credit in rural areas, especially for agriculture, and had taken a number of steps in this regard. Our Regional Rural Banks were strengthened for intervening to reduce the significant credit gap in rural areas. The Assam Gramin Vikash Bank formed in 2006 by amalgamating four weak RRBs has now achieved a total business of Rs. 6449 crore and also made a profit of Rs. 35.37 crore after tax. With a credit growth of 28.09%, which is higher than its deposit growth of 26.39%, it is performing well with substantial lending to the SHGs and farmers. I had earlier released Rs. 1.12 crore as additional share capital for further strengthening of the lending capacity of Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank operating in the two Hill districts and shall provide for further releases as recommended by RBI and NABARD.

Last month, I chaired a SLBC meeting attended by the Chairmen and MDs of the concerned banks in which the Annual Credit Plan target for crop loans was set at Rs. 1120 crore against Rs. 373.63 crore actually disbursed last year. Increasing the flow of rural credit including KCCS [crop loans] will be accorded top priority this year and the SLBC has been asked to monitor achievement regularly. Banks have also taken up a programme to provide banking facilities to every village with a population of above 2000 by next March.

Under the 3% Interest-Subvention scheme on all crop loans to farmers that I had launched earlier, NABARD disbursed Rs. 6 crore till 2010-11. I shall continue this scheme through NABARD this year also with an enhanced limit of up to Rs. 35,000 per farmer loan account and have made provision for this. With 3% interest subsidy from Government of India and additional 3% interest subsidy by the State Government, the final interest burden of crop loans on the farmers of Assam is reduced to only 4 %.

#### 8. **Annual Plan 2011-12:**

In my meeting with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in New Delhi on 14.6.2011, the Annual Plan size of Assam for 2011-12 was fixed at Rs.9000 crore. This is an increase of almost 18% over the

previous year's allocation of Rs.7645 crore. Improvement of infrastructure, both physical and social, will be given the highest priority under the Annual Plan. Agriculture, Irrigation, Power, Connectivity, Health, Education, Industries, Development of Skill and Creation of employment opportunities will be the other thrust areas. With a view to ensuring speedy implementation of the Plan schemes and projects, sanctioning powers of the line departments will be further increased. Emphasis will be given on full and timely utilisation of the plan allocations. Plan fund utilisation position will be reviewed in December. Allocations of the departments that are found lagging will be curtailed and diverted to better performing departments.

#### **Employment and Skill Development:**

9.1

I am deeply concerned about the unemployment situation in the State. About 70% (14 lakh) of the 20 lakh registered unemployed youth are educated unemployed. A major thrust is therefore being given to creation of self-employment opportunities and skill upgradation. The ongoing Employment Generation Mission has already provided employment to 9130 unemployed youths and expects to create further employment opportunities for 1.67 lakh unemployed persons in three years. This year, I have kept an amount of Rs 45

crore for the purpose. I have also decided to set up an Assam Employment Generation Corporation to facilitate self-employment of the educated unemployed.

9.2

Skill upgradation of our unemployed youth is of paramount importance and is being given due emphasis to bridge the widening skill gap. A Skill Development Initiative Society has been set up to assist vocational training providers in the public and private sectors. The existing Career Counselling and Vocational Guidance facilities will be revitalised and strengthened. New ITIs or Skill Development Centres will be set up in all uncovered Blocks to help our youth acquire relevant employable skills in different trades. I have also decided to set up an Assam Skill Development Authority and have kept a provision of Rs. 3 crore for the purpose this year.

Involvement of the corporate sector is also essential for skill development, training, apprenticeship, employment generation and investment in the State. I have been in touch with various leading business and industrial houses, the outcome of which has been very encouraging. Recently, on 7<sup>th</sup> July I met Shri S Ramadorai, Adviser to Prime Minister on Skill Development and other stakeholders. I had a detailed discussion with them on skill development, training and capacity building in the fields

of water management, energy efficiency and creation of green jobs.

9.3

In order to meet the shortage of required staff in Government I had earlier approved fresh recruitment of a total of 88,290 existing and newly created civil posts. All concerned Departments have been advised to expedite the ongoing recruitment process.

Since substantial rationalisation has been achieved in the process I have decided to relax the SIU approval procedure. The Heads of the concerned Administrative Departments will now be given the responsibility of filling up of the existing sanctioned vacant Grade I, II and III posts that are essential for public purposes strictly in accordance with the relevant Acts and valid Service Rules.

#### 10. Price Rise, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs:

Emphasis has been given on strengthening the Public Distribution System in the State. Continued efforts are being made to check price rise of essential commodities through regular supply of PDS/TPDS items to BPL and APL families. Steps have been initiated to set up the Assam State Civil Supplies Corporation. The scheme with the brand name and logo of "AAMAR DUKAN" and



"JAGOK GRAHOK JAGOK" was introduced last year through 10,000 selected Fair Price shops. The scheme has received overwhelming public response and has facilitated distribution of PDS and MRP based items at subsidised rates throughout the State. It is proposed to introduce innovative schemes like replacement of APL and BPL cards by new bio-metric based ration cards, GPS and GIS tracking systems on vehicles transporting PDS commodities, introduction of river routes in north bank to facilitate PDS movements along with introduction of coupon system to prevent leakages and fortification of wheat product to improve quality. A new scheme of reticulated LPG cooking gas bank/grid in multi-storeyed apartment will be introduced shortly. Moreover, storage capacity for additional 4 lakh tons of food grains is being created at Nagaon, Silchar, Dhubri, Biswanath Chariali, Changsari and other places with an estimated cost of Rs.368 crore.

The Mukhya Mantrir Anna Suraksha Yojana which was launched in October, 2010 will be continued during 2011-12 with further refinement and improvement so that genuine beneficiaries are not left out of the scheme. 18,90,000 families are already getting benefits of 20 kg rice per month at BPL rate. Additional 1,10,000 families are being selected for coverage under the scheme. I have provided 2,16,000 MT of

additional BPL rice and 3,35,000 MT of additional APL rice for distribution under this scheme during 2011-12. An amount of Rs.100 crore has been earmarked for this scheme and other innovative schemes during 2011-12.

Other ongoing schemes namely Mukhya Mantrir Samabay Sabalikaran Yojana, Antodaya Anna Yojana Scheme, Randhanjyoti scheme and Village Grain Bank scheme will be continued for welfare of widows, Self-Help Groups and BPL families. Functioning of the Assam State Level Consumer Redressal Forum and 23 District Level Consumer Forums will be strengthened to protect the rights of the consumers.

## 11.

### Internal Security:

There has been perceptible improvement in the law and order situation in the State. Almost all the insurgent groups have shown their willingness to join the peace process. Various extremist outfits like UPDS, KLNLF, DHD (Dilip Group), DHD (Jewel Group), NDFB (Dhiren Boro group), ACMA and BCF have suspended their violent activities. Remarkable success has been achieved by security forces in anti-insurgency operations under the Unified Command. The number of

civilians who died in extremist violence has gone down to 56 in 2010 which is the lowest in the last 15 years.

Arabinda Rajkhowa led faction of ULFA has come to the negotiating table and already few rounds of talks have been held between ULFA and the Government. Besides, Ranjan Daimary led faction of NDFB has ceased violent activities for six months with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 and already had preliminary discussion with the interlocutor. The anti-talk faction of ULFA led by Paresh Baruah is also being urged to come forward for joining the peace initiative.

Under the Modernisation of Police Force Scheme, 191 police stations, 99 police outposts, 1147 L/S quarters and 703 U/S quarters, besides other infrastructure, have been constructed. It is further proposed to establish 12 police stations and 10 outposts during 2011-12. Sophisticated security equipments have been procured. Such measures for strengthening of Assam Police Force will be continued this year also.

Steps have been initiated to operationalise the Computer Aided Despatch (GIS/GPS based Dial 100 project) for Guwahati City Police Control and the IP Based City Surveillance

System (CCTV) for Guwahati city. 4(Four) Anti Trafficking Units have been created for curbing human trafficking particularly of women and children.

Ongoing construction of battalion headquarters of 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> AP (IR) Battalion will be completed during 2011-12. The 26<sup>th</sup> AP (IR) Battalion is proposed to be raised this year. Construction of the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School under the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission award, one Kendriya Vidyalaya at PTC Dergaon, 15 new Fire Service Stations, one Regional Forensic Laboratory besides several Zonal laboratories and Special units for aiding police investigation will be taken up during 2011-12. Adequate steps will be taken to improve the training and living conditions of the Home Guards and Civil Defence Personnel. The Central Training Institute under the Civil Defence will be made into a nodal institute for Disaster Management Training. A State Disaster Response Force Battalion with one company each at Brahmaputra and Barak valleys is being operationalised.

Ongoing schemes for improvement/renovation of Jails will be continued. Video conferencing and CC TV camera facilities are proposed to be installed in jails. Rehabilitation grant to released prisoners and financial

assistance to prisoners' families continue during 2011-12. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the Foreigner's Tribunals and provide them with necessary infrastructure.

## 12. Judicial and Legislative:

A State Litigation Policy will be formulated during the current year. Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism and Gram Nyayalayas will be promoted. Emphasis will be given on creation of new courts and family courts besides construction of court and residential buildings. District Courts are proposed to be set up at Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong Districts. The 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has allocated Rs.15 crore for setting up of the State Judicial Academy, to be spent during 2010-15. Academic session of the National Law School will commence during this year. Functioning of State Law Commission and Assam State Legal Services Authority will be strengthened.

In addition to the normal budget, an amount of Rs.63.20 crore has been provided under this year's Annual Plan for administration of justice.

## Border Areas:

I have always accorded highest priority to all round development of the International and the Interstate Border Areas of the State. These areas have remained under-developed because of difficult terrain, poor connectivity and inadequate power, health and educational facilities. As a result of this the level of unemployment amongst the youth of the border areas is also very high. The border areas are also used as convenient hiding place by various insurgent outfits. Various schemes have therefore been undertaken for providing better road connectivity, health facilities, electrification, education, fresh drinking water supply, irrigation facilities, community halls, markets, eco-friendly parks, solar lights etc to the people living in these areas.

It is noteworthy that Government of India has increased the fund allocation under Border Areas Development Programme (BADP) from Rs.24.24 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.40 crore in 2010-11. The 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has also recommended an amount of Rs.230 crore for development of international border areas of Assam. An amount of Rs.57.50 crore has been earmarked from the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission award for

implementation of various developmental schemes during 2011-12.

**14. Scheduled Caste, Schedule Tribes, Backward Classes and Welfare of Other Communities:**

Our Government is engaged in various activities for promoting all round development of the SC, ST, OBC and Other Communities of the State. Several steps will be taken up for employment generation, education, health care, capacity building, infrastructure development and socio economic empowerment of the disadvantaged communities. Hostel facilities and scholarships will be provided to boys and girls of these communities.

A special package of Rs.300 crore is proposed to be implemented for the socio-economic development of these people. The Assam Scheduled Caste Development Council will be set up for taking up various developmental activities. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act, 2006 will be implemented. Model Villages are also being developed for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is proposed to create a separate Directorate for OBC population.

We will continue to pursue the demand for granting scheduled tribe status to Moran, Mattak, Chutiya Ahom, Koch Rajbongshi and Tea Tribe communities. More funds will be provided to the Autonomous Councils for development of their areas. It is proposed to create a separate Directorate for OBC population.

We are committed to development of the BTC area and for this we have allocated an amount of Rs. 298.06 crore in the Annual Plan 2011-12. Rs.10 crore has also been provided as non-plan grant for upgradation of the standard of administration in BTC areas. Rs. 153 crore has been earmarked for the Rabha Hasong, Mising, Deori, Tiwa, Sonowal Kachari and Thengal Kachari Autonomous Councils.

The construction works of the Bodoland University, Medical College, Engineering College, the Planetarium at Kokrajhar and other institutions in the BTC area will be expedited. The construction of the offices of DCs, SDOs and other district offices in the four BTC districts will also be expedited.

The population composition of Assam is very diverse. Many communities, big and small, live in our State. It is imperative that all communities find accommodation in our composite polity.

I have, therefore, taken initiative to create a Legislative Council in Assam. Moreover, it is equally necessary to decentralise power and responsibility to different communities so that they can take care of the developmental needs specific to the community. With this objective and to fulfil the aspirations of different communities of the State, 18 Development Councils have been formed, one each for the Mattak, Moran, Chutia, Sarania Kachari, Tai-Ahom, Adivasi, Bisnupriya Manipuri, Gorkha, Moimal, Koch-Rajbangshi, Maria, Amri Karbi, Nath Yogi, Manipuri, Mech Kachari, Barak Valley Hill Tribes, Sadharan Jati and one for Tai Phake, Tai Turung, Tai Khamiang, Tai Aiton, Tai Khamti, Singpho, Tangsha and Sema communities. We have allocated Rs 24 crore for these Councils. A separate department will be created to administer these Development Councils.

Rs. 166 crore is proposed to be provided for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan and Rs. 63 crore for Tribal Sub Plan in 2011-12.

15.

#### **Hill Areas:**

Our Government is committed to promoting all round development of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao Districts. Emphasis will be given on creation of

employment avenues, education, transport and communication facilities, solar energy utilisation, improved power and water supply and health care facilities. Agricultural technology and extension services will be given priority for the benefit of small and marginal farmers during the year 2011-12. Work on establishment of Assam Hills Medical College and Research Institute at Diphu is in progress. It is also proposed to establish Assam Hills Engineering College and Assam Hills University. During Annual Plan, 2011-12 an amount of Rs. 417.42 crore is earmarked for Normal Plan scheme, Additive Plan (HADP) and TFC award under Hill Areas of Assam. This is in addition to the unspent balance amounting to Rs.59.49 crore of the previous year. Apart from that, an amount of Rs. 8.50 crore is allocated for WDPSCA and an amount of Rs. 7.50 crore has been allocated under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India. Rs.20 crore has also been provided under the Non Plan Budget for upgradation of the standard of administration in the two Autonomous Hill Districts.

16.

#### **Minority Welfare and Char Areas:**

Our Government is committed to taking up a multi-pronged strategy for removing the educational and socio

economic disadvantages of the minority community, especially of the Char Areas. An amount of Rs.40 crore has been provided for Char Area Development under Annual Plan 2011-12.

A Centrally Sponsored Multi Sectoral District Development Plan Scheme has been taken up for 13 minority concentrated districts of Assam for which an amount of Rs. 703.50 crore has been allocated during the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. Necessary provision has been made against State share for this Centrally Sponsored scheme.

Various schemes such as scholarships to poor students, construction of hostels, toilets in girls' schools, provision of safe drinking water, educational loans and special incentives will be taken up for promoting education amongst the minority communities. Special grants will be provided to voluntary organizations involved in socio cultural activities. Modernization of agriculture, setting up of agro based industries, modern markets and cold storages, use of solar energy and skill development for commercial cultivation will be accorded high priority.

I am aware of the special problems of Barak valley and propose to prepare a Special Package for all round

development of all the three districts in the valley. Special focus will be given on skill development and employment generation.

#### 17. Tea tribes:

We have given priority to welfare of the tea tribes in Assam. The Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme will be taken up in uncovered tea garden and tea community dominated areas. Electric metres will be installed at the residences of tea workers not covered so far. Pattas will be provided to tea and ex-tea garden community persons who are in long possession of Government and ceiling surplus Government lands. Various drinking water and sanitation schemes will be taken up.

Emphasis will be given on training and capacity building of the youth by strengthening the 50 Skill Development Training Centres. They will be provided with improved tools and equipments covering all vocational trades.

Several Family Oriented Income Generating Schemes, Schemes for Women Empowerment and for providing financial assistance to NGOs actively involved in promoting the socio economic status of tea tribes will be taken up this financial year.

Rs.21 crore has been provided for welfare of tea tribes under Annual Plan 2011-12.

### Education:

18.1

Very high priority will be accorded for revamping education in the State. I am happy to inform this august House that we have recently notified Right to Education Rules under Right to Education Act. Here we have made provision for opening one LP school within 1 km walking distance and one Upper Primary school within 3 kms walking distance from every neighbourhood. Steps will also be taken to establish a High School within a distance of 5 kms from every habitation. Our Government has proposed to recruit around 40,000 teachers both on regular and contractual basis. Teachers will be recruited through Teacher Eligibility Tests (TET) to make the appointment process transparent. We have prepared a new legislation to provincialize those educational institutions, which were established and had completed necessary formalities before 2006, in a phased manner. However, no further provincialisation of any educational institutions will be taken up in future. In view of our provincialisation proposal,

financial assistance scheme to educational institutions will be discontinued from the current year. There is likelihood of recruiting about 95,000 teacher and other employees under the provincialization.

I have advised Education Department to take all necessary steps to ensure that there is no shortage of text books and that the books are distributed well in time. I have made it clear that any delay and irregularity in text book distribution will be dealt with sternly.

18.2

As regards Secondary Education it has been decided to delink plus two stage, i.e. Class XI and XII, from the colleges in a phased manner beginning with the Arts stream in the next academic year. To enhance the intake capacity of the secondary schools, necessary funds will be provided to strengthen their infrastructure. Model schools and Girls' Hostels will be set up in each educationally backward Block of the State. Future recruitment of teachers in the secondary schools will be in accordance with NCTE norms. Eligibility Test like TET will also be introduced for them.

18.3

It has been decided to set up 12 new Government Colleges, construction works of which will start from the

current financial year. This initiative will involve an expenditure of Rs. 96 crore in the next 3 years. It has also been decided to upgrade Cotton College to a non-affiliated University. Necessary legislation for this purpose is proposed to be introduced in the current session of the Assembly.

During the current year we will strengthen K K Handique Open University, Assam Technical University, Kumar Bhaskar Barman University of Sanskrit and Ancient Studies and Bodoland University. We will also strengthen Madrassa Education. Central Government has already released Rs.14.98 crore for providing quality education in Madrassa which will be supplemented by our own resources.

- 18.4** It has been decided to start 21 new Polytechnics in the State involving an expenditure of Rs.252 crore in the next three years. Construction works of these Polytechnics will begin from this year.
- 18.5** Annual stipend for Sainik school students of Assam will be enhanced from Rs.12,000/- to Rs.30,000/- from this financial year.
- 18.6** Under Annual Plan 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 582.93 crore has been provided for

General education and Rs. 28.10 crore for Technical education.

19.

### Sports and Youth Welfare:

Assam possesses one of the latest sports infrastructure in the country after the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Games in 2007. Our focus will now be on proper utilisation and maintenance of these structures as well as creating an atmosphere and base for sports in the rural areas.

I propose to enhance the rate of sports scholarships to budding talents from Rs.3,600/- to Rs.6,000/- in the State level achievement category and from Rs.4,800/- to Rs.8,400/- in the National level achievement category. Worthy participants in recognised disciplines in recognised international events will now be given a one-time financial assistance of Rs.50,000/-.

Improvement/Renovation of existing Mini-stadia and Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex will be taken up during 2011-12. In addition to Sports infrastructure in the State Capital, such infrastructure will also be created throughout the State at District level as well as in Semi-Urban and Rural areas from funds available under NEC and NLCPR. Strong impetus will be given on Panchayat Yuva Krida



Aur Khel Abhiyan for development of playfields, sports infrastructure etc in the rural areas.

Steps will be taken to make Physical education a part of the school curriculum. The North East Regional Centre of the Lakshmbai National University of Physical Education has already started functioning. I propose to set up a State Youth Development Council for overall development of the youth. A special fund namely Chief Minister's Benevolent Fund will be created to provide financial assistance to sportspersons in distress.

With a view to promoting sports and encouraging participation in NCC, Scouts and Guides, I propose to prepare a scheme for giving them preference in Government recruitment. Special awards will be instituted for creditable performance in NCC, Scouts and Guides. I propose a corpus fund of Rs.7 crore for Sports Authority of Assam during 2011-12.

20.

#### **Art and Culture:**

We are committed to the protection, preservation and promotion of the rich and varied cultural heritage of Assam. Efforts are on for conservation of

archaeological sites, monuments and preservation of Sattras through various schemes. The Thirteenth Finance Commission has sanctioned a grant of Rs.5 crore for preservation of Sattras in Majuli.

Steps are being taken for expeditious completion of ongoing works at Chaolung Siu Ka Pha Samannya Kshetra at Jorhat, Sati Radhika Cultural Complex at Bordowa, Sati Sadhini Cultural Complex at Golaghat, Sri Aniruddha Dev Cultural Complex at Tinsukia, Sarat Chandra Sinha Memorial Cultural Complex at Chapar, N.E. Tribal Museum and Culture Centre at Nazirakhat, Ajan Peer Dargah at Sivasagar and other similar projects. Preliminary works for setting up of State Institute of Drama, Sangeet Natak Academy, Jyoti Bishnu University of Art and Culture, Sahityarathi Lakshmi Nath Bezbaruah Memorial Trust, Jyoti Bishnu Sanskritik Prakalpa and a Film City in Jyoti Chitraban Film Society Complex are being initiated. A State Central Library is proposed to be set up at Guwahati. Development of the Assam State Museum and District Mini Museums will also be undertaken.

Steps will be taken to celebrate 150 years of Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda. Our

Government also proposes to celebrate the birth centenary of late Bimala Prasad Chaliha, former Chief Minister of Assam, in a befitting manner during the current year.

## 21. **Literary, Cultural and Sports Pension:**

The rate of literary, cultural and sports pension is proposed to be enhanced from Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/- per month. Corresponding enhancement will be made in respect of family pension also. One time ex-gratia grant for all these categories will be raised from Rs.25,000/- to Rs.40,000/-. The number of such pensions and one-time ex-gratia will be increased to 20 persons for each category from the current financial year.

## 22. **Health and Family Welfare:**

Health will continue to receive high priority. The allocation for 2011-12 will be utilised for improving the existing services and for introduction of new diagnostic and treatment facilities in different health institutions throughout the State.

NRHM activities in the State will continue and rural health institutions will be strengthened. Construction works of 60 model hospitals have started and 10

of them will be completed this year. The Moram, Majoni and Mamoni schemes will continue and cash benefits will be provided to daily wage earner patients, girl child and pregnant women. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in Assam during 2004-06 was 480. This has come down to 390 during 2007-09. This drop in MMR is the highest in the country. ASHA workers will be provided with mobile phones. Rs.95 crore has been allocated under Assam Vikash Yojana for implementation of these projects.

Implementation of the programme for Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes and Stroke (NPCCDS) and a programme for Health Care of the Elderly will be given high priority. An initial amount of Rs 5 crore has been provided for this purpose. Two lakh LLIN Bed nets will be provided to the BPL families in the malaria endemic areas. Under "Operation Smile" 1000 patients will be operated in the newly developed facilities in MMC Hospital at Guwahati. The Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana will be extended to 6 new districts.

Patients with congenital heart disease and those needing cardiac surgeries and kidney transplants will continue to receive financial support. The Assam Arogya Nidhi will be created with an initial corpus of Rs.6 crore for poor

patients. Efforts will be made to expand the treatment facilities to mentally ill patients in all districts. Rs.22 crore will be spent for upgrading the Kamrup Civil Hospital to a Super Speciality Hospital. A Special Care Home will be set up for HIV children.

The Sanjeevani Programme will be expanded to cover 8000 villages in the State. 108 and 104 services will continue. Mobile Medical Units will be provided to all the subdivisions and 4 Boat Ambulances under 108 services will become operational.

The Barpeta Medical College will be completed this year and admission to the college will commence from the next academic year. Rs.51 crore will be provided for Tezpur Medical College and Rs. 10 crore for construction of Diphu Medical College. Preliminary works for setting up Medical Colleges at Dhubri, Lakhimpur and Kokrajhar will start this year. We will take steps to augment the infrastructure of Jorhat Medical College and also to set up a Medical College at Nagaon under PPP arrangement. Two B.Sc. Nursing Colleges at Dibrugarh and Silchar and 6 GNM schools will become functional this year. Rs. 8 crore will be provided for the Cancer Hospital in Guwahati Medical College and a PET

Scan will be installed in GMC with an investment of Rs.30 crore.

We will augment the infrastructure of Srimanta Sankardeva University of Health Sciences and Directorate of Medical Education and also set up a new Directorate of AYUSH. Assam Medical Development Corporation will be set up to streamline the construction, maintenance, procurement and distribution activities relating to health services. The MMC Hospital at Guwahati will be designated as Associated Hospital of the Srimanta Sankardeva University of Health Sciences.

Rs. 461.49 crore has been provided for Health and Family Welfare under Annual Plan 2011-12.

23.

#### **Public Health:**

Our Government has given the highest priority for providing safe drinking water and sanitation to the people of the State. Emphasis will be given to inaccessible areas, tea garden areas, Char-chapori areas and scheduled caste and scheduled tribe dominated areas. Steps will be taken to provide all BPL families with low cost sanitation facilities. Educational Institutions in Anganwadi Centres not yet provided with pure drinking water

supply and sanitation scheme will be provided with the same.

During 2011-12, it is targeted to provide safe drinking water to 3,058 quality affected habitation and 2,915 uncovered habitations. Awareness and sensitization programmes for sanitation and use of clean and hygienic toilets will be carried out in a massive way through home visits and other activities.

24.

#### **Social Welfare:**

We have launched several programmes for the welfare of Children, Women, Persons with disability and the old and infirm of the society. A Women Entrepreneur Development Council will be set up for empowerment of women. The Mukhya Mantrir Mahila Samridhi Yojana will continue to be implemented for economic empowerment of the rural women. A Women's Club will be set up in each development block. Hostels and shelter homes will be constructed for needy women. A Women Development Authority will be set up to monitor and guide all women empowerment programmes.

We will endeavour to provide proper nutrition, education and shelter to the girl child. A Child Development Council

and a State Commission for Children will be set up. The Integrated Child Development Scheme will continue to be implemented to provide nutrition to women and children. Monthly honorarium of the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers will be increased. An amount of Rs.2 crore has been earmarked for providing free umbrellas to them. A new programme for empowerment of adolescent girls, called Sabla, will be implemented in the current year. We have also taken initiatives for rehabilitation of the destitute, trafficked and abused women in the society.

The Mukhya Mantrir Jiban Jyoti Bima Asani and the Aam Admi Bima Yojana will continue to be in operation. A number of steps will be taken for the cultural and socio economic development of the Harijan Community. Under Assam Vikash Yojana, schemes will be implemented for making pre-school education more child friendly. Unemployment allowances to persons with disabilities and allowances to families of Physically Challenged Children will continue to be implemented in the current year. Necessary infrastructure relating to old age homes for both men and women will be created in association with the NGOs and Civil Societies. We also propose to create proper institutional care for the mentally ill and

retarded and those suffering from drug abuse.

Apart from the issue of social security in old age, the senior citizens have their own special problems. I propose to set up a Senior Citizen's Council to address their problems and grievances.

An amount of Rs.185 crore has been provided for various social welfare and nutrition programmes under Annual Plan 2011-12.

## 25. **Agriculture:**

It gives me immense pleasure to state that Assam has achieved record production in Agriculture and Horticulture in 2010-11. The production of rice was 15.4% higher than the previous record. The State has been selected for an award of Rs. 2 crore by the Central Government for best performance in production of food grains. The World Bank aided Assam Agriculture Competitiveness Project has also performed extremely well. Based on this the Planning Commission and World Bank have supported our demand for an additional 100 Million USD.

The scheme of extending Green Revolution to Eastern India is operational in the State now. We have enhanced the

production of vegetables by 81% in the year 2010-11 over that of 2000-01. We will accord priority to the further promotion of Horticulture and Floriculture in the State.

During the current financial year steps will be taken to increase fertilizer consumption, improve farm mechanization, soil nutrient status, agriculture credit, extent of assured irrigation and availability of quality planting material. All necessary steps will be taken to make the State self-sufficient in seeds of high yielding crops, pulses and oil seeds etc. In order to improve the availability of quality seed we will take steps to strengthen the Assam State Seed Certification Agency. Emphasis will be laid on the expansion of extension services and capacity building in agriculture and allied sectors.

With our intervention the Food Corporation of India has begun procurement of Boro Paddy. Steps are being taken to provide dryers to reduce the moisture content in the locally produced rice. To cope with increased agricultural production we are going to set up large number of storage facilities in each GPSS. The State Government has taken steps to improve the credit flow in agriculture sector and issue of Kisan Credit Cards at a faster speed.

Agriculture today has become heavily dependent on technology. With this, problems of the farmers have also undergone qualitative change. I have therefore decided to set up a Farmers' Council to address the problems of the farmers. Simultaneously an Agricultural Commission is also being set up. The Commission will be an advisory body of experts to advise the State Government on appropriate technology and other technical issues including agronomical best practices.

We have proposed to allocate an amount of Rs. 785.67 crore for agriculture and allied sectors under Annual Plan 2011-12.

## 26. Irrigation:

We are committed to taking up several Irrigation schemes in order to facilitate adoption of multiple cropping by farmers for enhancing their income. Against an Ultimate Irrigation Potential of 27.00 Lakh Hectares the State has so far achieved 7.97 Lakh Hectares up to March 2011 by completion of 5 Major, 11 Medium and 1238 Minor Irrigation schemes.

To bring in more areas under irrigation, a number of schemes are being

implemented under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Command Area Development and Water Management Programme, Assam Vikash Yojana and schemes under NABARD (RIDF), State Plan and Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

At present work is going in full swing in 4 Major and Medium Irrigation Schemes under AIBP, with a target of 19,244 Hectares for 2011-12. The work of Modernization of Sukla Irrigation Project has been completed with NABARD (RIDF-XI) funding to revive a potential of 24,400 Hectares.

The revival of Rupahi Irrigation Project is in progress to recreate a potential of 5,668 Hectares under Assam Vikash Yojana. The reconstruction of flood damaged Bordikorai Major Irrigation Project is being taken up under Central Government funding and up till now 27,200 Hectares of lost potential has been revived.

The area under irrigation is expected to go up to 8.53 Lakh Hectares by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012. An amount of Rs 363.37 crore has been provided under Annual Plan 2011-12.

42

27. **Animal Husbandry, Veterinary and Dairy Development:**

Animal Husbandry is a very important sector in the socio economic life of the rural people. We have taken up several programmes such as Artificial Insemination Service to enhance milk production, cattle induction programme, fodder cultivation, semi-intensive goat and pig farming scheme, rural backyard poultry distribution programme and a scheme for control of animal disease through massive vaccination etc. A state of the art Frozen Semen Production Center for supplying quality semen for North –Eastern Region is also being set up at Barpeta.

860 Women SHGs and 100 other SHGs are being assisted for Goat and Pig farming while commercial broiler raising farms are being supported on pilot basis in Kamrup and Jorhat districts. The Regional Institute of Livestock Entrepreneurship and Management at Rani is being set up for capacity building of vets, para vets and farmers. It is proposed to take up construction of 80 hospitals and sub-centers during 2011-12. A new University of Veterinary Sciences will be set up soon.

We will also take the extension services to the door step of livestock farmers

through introduction of One Mobile Veterinary Dispensary in every district of the State. The entrepreneurs willing to take up Commercial Dairy Farming are being given incentives through banks. Public Awareness Campaign and Training programmes during 2011-12 will be taken up for the dairy sector.

An amount of Rs. 56.18 crore has been provided for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development under Annual Plan 2011-12.

28. **Fisheries:**

It is a matter of pride that Assam has achieved a record fish production of 2.32 lakh MT during 2010-11 as compared to the production of 1.90 lakh MT during 2007-08. Our Government is committed to increasing fish production further for attaining self-sufficiency.

Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana, a large number of nurseries and rearing ponds have been created and reclaimed. A State Fish Laboratory has been established for helping fish farmers. The work for establishment of two more Fresh Water Prawn Hatcheries is going on in Dhubri and Silchar. To meet the demand of fish feed, the Assam Fisheries Development Corporation has taken up a scheme for establishment of a Fish Feed

Mill. For regulating the production and distribution of quality fish seed, the Assam Fish Seed Rules, 2010 have been framed under the Assam Fish Seed Act 2005.

Our focus this year will be on women empowerment, awareness programmes and training on scientific fish farming, flow of institutional credit, strengthening of extension services etc. We will take necessary steps for proper registration of fishermen by the District Authority and for giving financial incentives to fishermen during the ban period.

An amount of Rs. 43.04 crore has been provided for this sector under Annual Plan 2011-12.

### **Panchayat & Rural Development:**

87% of the total population of the State live in rural areas. Without uplift of the rural poor, the development of the State will remain a far cry. My Government has implemented several flagship schemes for self-employment, wage employment, housing and infrastructure development for the rural areas.

Steps are being taken this year to provide departmental vehicles to the BDOs. This will help the BDOs in speedy

implementation of schemes. Steps will also be taken for constructing and renovating BDO Housing facilities. It is proposed to fast track the filling up of all important vacancies in order to overcome the constraint of manpower in the field.

It is proposed to amend the Assam Panchayat Act 1994 to remove the implementation bottlenecks and also to finalize an updated Service Rule based on the new needs of the sector.

To improve the functioning of the Panchayats, all Gaon Panchayats and Anchalik Panchayats have been provided with computers. I am happy to share with the House that Assam was given the Third Prize at the National Level for its implementation of online Model Accounting for Panchayats.

It is proposed to expedite the Cabinet approval for the National Rural Livelihood Mission Scheme so that formation of National Rural Livelihood Mission Society is put in place before the end of this year.

A State Rural Development Authority will be set up for fostering the development of rural areas in a planned manner. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme will



be further strengthened, and support to Self Help Groups under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana will be increased. It is also proposed to provide smart cards to the MGNREGA beneficiaries to ensure transparency and genuine payment to MGNREGA beneficiaries.

Rs. 847.56 crore has been allocated for this sector which includes Rs. 50 crore for Chief Minister's Swaniyojan Yojana, Rs. 10 crore for biometric smart card for MNREGA and Rs. 10 crore for enhanced pension for aged under National Social Assistance Programme in addition to normal rate as per the guidelines of the programme.

30.

### Cooperation:

Assam has a large number of cooperative societies involved in Agricultural Credit, Housing, Fishery, Dairy processing, Cottage and Small Industries, Transport etc. We are taking a number of steps for streamlining the role and functions of these societies. The suggestions of H.E. the President of India are in the process of being incorporated into the Assam Cooperative Societies Bill that was passed earlier. Action has been taken for revival of the short-term cooperative credit structure in Assam so that GPSS's

become eligible for fresh finance. The Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Co-operative Management is being set up at Sivasagar.

I propose to strengthen the co-operative societies by giving logistic support in terms of better regulation, better facilitation and by closing the sick cooperatives and nurturing the good and economically viable cooperatives.

It is proposed to implement several schemes in the current financial year, such as Infrastructure development of Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management, diversification of activities of Gaon Panchayat Level Women Multipurpose Cooperative Societies and closure of the totally unviable and sick cooperatives, namely, Assam Cooperative Spinning Mill at Boitamari and Nagaon Cooperative Sugar Mill at Kampur. The Gaon Panchayat Level Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, the East Assam Milk Producer's Cooperative Union Ltd. and the Assam Polyester Cooperative Society Ltd will be strengthened.

31.

### Water Resources:

We have been implementing several short term flood management schemes

since formulation of National Flood Policy in 1954 and have been able to provide reasonable protection to about 16.50 Lakh Hectares of flood affected areas. This has been achieved mainly by way of adoption of anti-erosion and other protection measures and construction of embankments, drainage channels and sluices.

A number of schemes are being implemented under the Flood Management Programme, NABARD, Additional Central Assistance and State Plan. The ADB funded Assam Integrated Flood and River Bank Erosion Risk Management Project is expected to benefit about 1 million people in Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Palashbari.

We have taken up quite a few new initiatives such as use of Space Technology for Project Planning and flood warning system, use of Kiaramat Tubular Sand Filled Mattress for bank protection work, Geo-tube for construction of dyke and Vetiver grass for reducing soil loss in embankment. Land Reclamation and Selective Dredging are also being taken up. As promised in my election manifesto, Land Reclamation Project at Dibrugarh, Sivsagar and Guwahati (LGBI Airport) will be taken up. All these will go a long way in mitigating the flood problem in Assam.

I have decided to constitute a Water Commission, which will be an expert body comprising both national and international experts, to advise the State Government on management of our water resources, particularly for mitigation of flood and erosion.

An amount of Rs. 648.87 crore has been provided for flood and erosion protection measures under the Annual Plan 2011-12. Provision for normal repair and maintenance of the embankments has been raised from Rs. 23 crore to Rs. 53 crore under Non Plan. Rs.5 crore has been provided for this purpose under the State Plan also. An additional amount of Rs. 30 crore under Non-Plan has been provided for compensation against land acquisition.

32.

### **Soil Conservation:**

My Government is implementing various programmes relating to soil and water management such as Watershed Management, River Training, Control of River Bank Erosion, Afforestation, Land Development and Reclamation, Cash Crop Plantation and Control of Shifting Cultivation etc. Several training and capacity building programmes in Watershed Management and in the use

of latest technology are being carried out regularly.

The basic strategy includes climate change adaptation measures, Rubber and Bamboo Plantation, use of vetivers, wetland regeneration and catchment rehabilitation through the Flood Prone River Project and the Integrated Water Shed Management Programme.

### 33. Public Works:

A developed road network is most essential for socio-economic development of the State. A large number of road development programmes are under implementation in the State with financial assistance of Government of India, World Bank, NABARD, NEC and with State's own resources.

Our Government is committed to integrated development of highway sector of State including connection of missing links in the State. There are 2848 kms of National Highways and 3134 kms of State Highways in the State. Steps are on to upgrade these roads to 2 lanes or more. Construction of 700 kms of State Highways under SARDP-NE scheme has started which include 10 roads connecting district headquarters with National Highways. The construction of

NH from Dhola to Islampur including the much required Dhola-Sadia bridge has already started. Bypasses will be constructed in major towns like Silchar, Tinsukia, Chabua, Makum, North Lakhimpur etc to improve traffic safety. Emphasis will be given on completion of East West Corridor Project (Srirampur to Silchar), 4 laning of Nagaon-Dibrugarh section of NH 37 and 4 lane connectivity to Itanagar. An alternate route from Silchar to Guwahati will also be developed.

Under PMGSY 10558 kms of rural road has already been completed and balance 5350 kms of roadwork is targeted to be completed by March, 2013. 800 kms of State Highways have been taken up for development under ASRP with financial assistance from World Bank. In addition 214 kms of State Highways have been proposed to be taken up for development under the North Eastern State Road Investment Programme (NESRIP) scheme.

Out of 5000 timber bridges in the State in the year 2001, 1736 have already been converted to RCC bridges, 1373 RCC bridge construction works are in progress and the remaining 2341 timber bridges will also be converted to RCC bridges.

Public Works Department Building wing has already started the construction of New Assam Legislative Assembly Complex at an estimated cost of Rs.234.84 crore. It is targeted to complete the project within 2014. Construction of different Medical Colleges, Planetariums and other Government offices is also being taken up. It is further proposed to carry out retrofitting works of old buildings.

Maintenance of the roads, bridges and buildings are as important as construction of new ones. An amount of Rs.448.72 crore has been provided for maintenance of roads and bridges and Rs.15.64 crore has been provided for maintenance of public buildings in 2011-12 budget.

34.

#### Power:

With acceleration of the pace of development and economic activities during the last 10 years, the demand for power in the State has increased rapidly. Against the present peak demand of 1100 MW, the total power available is around 800 MW. This includes State's own generation of around 260 MW and share of around 540 MW actually received from Central Sector Generating Stations against allocation of 789 MW. Because of inadequate rainfall so far this

year, the Hydro Electric Power Stations have not been able to generate to their full capacity. This demand supply gap has to be met by purchase of power from outside sources, often at a high cost.

Two Central Sector projects namely 726 MW Palatana Power Project of ONGC in Tripura and 750 MW Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station of NTPC at Bongaigaon will be partially commissioned by 2012. The share of the State from these projects in the first phase would be around 250 MW. These projects will be fully commissioned by 2013 and on receipt of the State's full share of 600 MW from these two Thermal projects, it will be possible to substantially meet the demand of power in the State. We have also been assured 208 MW of power from the lower Subansiri Hydro Electric Project. We have requested to enhance our share to 600 MW from this project.

The 37 MW Lakwa Waste Heat Project under Assam Power Generation Company Ltd. (APGCL) will be commissioned within next one month. It is proposed to start the construction of the 150 MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project from 2012 after getting the technical clearance from Central Electricity Authority (CEA). We have also allotted 5 Small Hydro Projects to private

parties for implementation. The 4 MW Champamati Small Hydro Project has already been commissioned.

At present the transmission and distribution losses of APDCL is around 25%. With a view to bringing down the Transmission and Distribution losses to 20% in next 5 years and also to improve the quality of power provided to the consumers, we have decided to provide Rs. 1000 crore in next 3 years to strengthen the Transmission and Distribution network in the State. ASEB is implementing a 320 million USD (Rs. 1440 Crore) project with financial assistance of 200 million Dollar from ADB and 120 million USD from Government of Assam for enhancement of the Transmission and Distribution capacity in the State to around 1600 MW by 2014.

At present around 75% of urban households and 25% of the rural households are getting power supply. The State Government has taken up implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in a big way during 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan period. Rs. 2016 crore has been sanctioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase. Electrification of 8406 Unelectrified villages (UEV) and intensification of 13380 Already Electrified Villages (AEV) and household connection to 10.23 lakh

BPL families were taken up. Against the above target, the work has been completed in 6892 UEVs, 10872 AEVs. 6.25 lakh BPL connections have been given. The overall physical achievement is around 75%. The works in the remaining villages are likely to be completed within March 2012.

The available fund is not sufficient to cover all the habitations in the villages taken up for electrification under RGGVY. Accordingly, revised project report has been prepared and an additional amount of Rs. 840.47 crore has been sought from Ministry of Power, Government of India, so that all habitations can be electrified. The additional fund is expected within this financial year. It is expected that after completion of RGGVY by 2012, the percentage of rural households getting power supply will rise to 50%. The work of IT implementation and strengthening of the distribution infrastructure in 67 towns under Restructured- Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (R-APDRP) at a cost of Rs. 871.24 crore will be taken up during the current year.

An amount of Rs. 510.37 crore including Rs. 250 crore for Externally Aided Projects (EAP) has been provided in the budget for Annual Plan 2011-12. In addition to the above, Rs.450 crore has

been provided for the Power Sector under the Trade Development Fund.

35.

### Mines and Minerals:

Petroleum exploration and extraction activities are being carried out extensively throughout the State. Exploration of coal deposits and investigation of granite, limestone, china-clay, glass sand, iron ore, quartz and feldspar deposits have been taken up. Large cement plants are proposed to be set up soon in PPP mode.

The royalty collection during 2011-12 is expected to be Rs.1740 crore.

36.

### Industries and Commerce:

We are committed to enhancing the industrial productivity and production in the State. The growth of industrial sector is essential for employing the young workforce.

During 2011-12 a flagship scheme will be launched to set up multi-disciplinary infrastructure at Block level for imparting training in various employable trades. 219 industry oriented training centres will be set up covering all the Blocks during the 12th Plan. Upgradation of the existing 16 Industrial Estates, 1

Industrial Areas and 11 Growth Centres will also be done in a phased manner. The Medium Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) including local traditional industries will be promoted to generate income and employment in rural areas. An amount of Rs.15 crore has been budgeted to create a Cess Utilisation Policy for development and welfare of small tea growers of Assam.

I propose to set up a Tea Park with first rate infrastructure to boost value addition to tea produced in the State. Construction work on the Mega Food Park at Nathkuchi in Nalbari district is in progress. Similarly, efforts are afoot for setting up of Plastic Park at Gelapukhuri in Tinsukia district, Bamboo Park at Chaygaon in Kamrup district and Air Cargo Complex at Guwahati. There are also proposals to set up a Jute Park, Banana Park, Textile Park, Food Processing Farm, Pharmaceutical Hub, Agri Hub, Agri Processing zone and Chemical Hub in the State. National Institute of Design at Jorhat, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology at Sivasagar and National Institute of Fashion Technology at Guwahati will be set up soon.

Emphasis will be given on creating marketing infrastructure in rural areas to support allied activities of different

agriculture and horticulture products. An amount of Rs.16.20 crore has been earmarked for this purpose this year.

I propose to release Rs.20.00 crore during 2011-12 to Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd (Assam Gas Cracker Project) as equity contribution from the State Government to ensure timely completion of the project.

I also propose to launch a new scheme namely Mukhya Mantrir Swaniyojan Abhijaan for providing assistance to entrepreneurs by clubbing the existing schemes under Chief Minister's Special Package namely Mukhya Mantri Karmajyoti Achari, Udyog Jyoti and Assam Vikash Yojana during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan.

An amount of Rs.111 crore has been budgeted under the State Plan for this sector.

37.

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

Silk and Handloom play a vital role in the rural economy by providing livelihood and additional income to a large section of rural masses, particularly to women. Assam is presently producing 99% of Muga Silk and 65% of Eri Silk in the country which has a good demand in the

national and international market. Efforts will be made to produce cheaper and better quality goods to capture a larger share in the competitive market. Emphasis will be given on production and training for manufacturing high end handloom products. A Special fund will be created for a Golden Silk Project to increase the production of Eri, Muga and Pat Yarn. The project will be taken up on mission mode. It is further proposed to take up a project for creating a few exclusive products with a Brand name for Eri and Muga silk of Assam. Steps will be initiated to enhance production and productivity of gamochas in the next two years. Major thrust will be given on upgradation of technology and skills to ensure higher value addition and higher income generation to reelers, spinners and weavers. Ongoing schemes will be continued.

An amount of Rs.28.90 crore has been earmarked under the State Plan for this sector.

38.

### **Information Technology:**

Assam has been included in the National e-Governance Plan of the country and as such the Assam State Wide Area Network is being set up to link each block, sub divisional and district headquarters to the State headquarter

at Dispur. The 3,760 Common Service Centres are providing a range of services to the people in the rural and remote areas of the state. The Rajiv Gandhi Computer Literacy programme, which is being implemented in all the Government schools, is directly benefitting more than 10 Lakh students every year.

The IT Policy of 2009 has been announced to attract investors from outside the State. My Government will create a Mission for spreading Information Technology in the rural areas of Assam for the benefit of farmers, artisans, women and youth. The Assam Online Portal and Paper Less Office Project in the Assam Secretariat aims to bring all the government services on a single platform for effective delivery of services. It is expected to go live on e-filing and online work flow in the Secretariat soon.

Our new initiatives namely, Assam Knowledge Network, Assam Rural Livelihood ICT Framework, International Internet Gateway at Guwahati and Assam Knowledge Cloud are expected to go a long way in spreading Information Technology in the State.

An amount of Rs.71.39 crore has been provided for this sector under Annual Plan 2011-12.

### 39. Science and Technology:

We have given high priority for the development of Science and Technology in the State. Emphasis will be given for promoting education in this sector right from the primary to the University level.

Vigyan Yatras consisting of students, teachers and guardians are being organized with a view to popularize science learning amongst students. A Science and Technology University is proposed to be set up in the State. A Science City will be shortly established in Guwahati and the construction of Bio-Tech Park in Guwahati will be completed shortly. The works of the Jorhat Science Center- cum- Planetarium is nearing completion and will be opened for the visitors very soon. The works of the other three Planetariums-cum-Science Centers at Kokrajhar, Nalbari and North Lakhimpur are under process. 219 Aryabhatta Science Centres are popularizing Science and Technology in all the 219 Development Blocks.



#### 40. **Urban Development:**

We have taken up several Centrally Sponsored Schemes as well as schemes under State's own resources for strengthening urban infrastructure and services. The Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns is presently under implementation. Several schemes are also being funded under NLCPR and under 10% Central Fund earmarked for the North Eastern States by various Central Ministries and Departments.

It is proposed to take up preparation of Master Plans for 10 more towns during 2011-12. Steps will be taken to create green and beautiful towns based on the Master Plans. In all towns black topping of roads, scientific construction of drains, provision of drinking water, wide roads, modern parking lots, new markets and street lights will be ensured.

Under the Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojar Yojana gainful employment will be provided to the urban unemployed. The Assam State Housing Board and the Assam Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Board will implement various housing and water supply schemes respectively. The Housing Board is implementing the Janata Housing Scheme for construction of 596 units for

economically weaker sections. The Rental Housing Scheme is being implemented for Gr-III and Gr-IV employees.

Under Assam Vikash Yojana steps are being taken for improving solid waste management in urban local bodies. It is proposed to set up Community Toilets, develop Cremation Grounds and introduce advanced Mechanical Devices for cleaning roads and drains.

An amount of Rs.160 crore has been earmarked for this sector under 2011-12 Annual Plan.

#### 41. **Guwahati Development:**

We have taken up a number of mega projects for drinking water supply, solid waste management, slum housing, multi-storied car parking and for setting up of a comprehensive sewerage system in Guwahati. The State Government is in the process of signing an agreement with Asian Development Bank for taking up South Guwahati (East) Water Supply Scheme and a Sewerage Project in the same area along with a Bus Rapid Transit System on one major corridor in Guwahati City.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency funded Drinking Water Supply

Scheme for South (Central) Guwahati and North Guwahati, amounting to Rs. 14.50 crore is under execution. The South (West) Guwahati Water Supply Scheme under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is likely to be completed in the current financial year. This will provide drinking water to the citizens of Guwahati right from Bharalumukh to Guwahati Airport. My Government will also operationalize the Guwahati Jal Board for bringing the various schemes of Water Supply and Sewerage under one umbrella in Guwahati. Construction of 2260 Dwelling Units for urban poor at a cost of Rs.108.44 crore is in progress. 357 houses have already been completed and are ready to be handed over to the beneficiaries.

Annual Plan 2011-12 allocation for Guwahati Development is Rs.590 crore.

42.

#### **Environment and Forest:**

We are committed to protecting the forests and extending the green cover of the State by taking up several afforestation programmes, plantation of medicinal and aromatic herbs, strict implementation of the Wildlife Protection Act, modernization and strengthening of the forest staff etc.

36

The Natural Resource Management and Integrated Livelihood Project, an Externally Aided Project under World Bank, has been expanded to include 9 Forest Divisions. In addition to this, the Assam Biodiversity Conservation and Externally Aided Project for Conservation of rich biodiversity of Assam is going to be implemented with financial assistance from the French Development Agency. We will also get additional fund provision from Government of India for development of Forestry Training Institute in the State of Assam and also for development of various Wildlife Areas like Tiger Project, Project Elephant etc. during 2011-12.

43.

#### **Tourism:**

Tourism sector has high potential for income and employment generation. We have been giving strong emphasis on creating and developing suitable infrastructure within the State. Several schemes for Tourism Circuit Development, Destination Development, Wayside Amenities, Tourist Guest Houses, Eco-tourism Parks etc. have been taken up. Publicity and marketing campaign of Assam Tourism is being vigorously pursued. Intensive media campaign through domestic and National TV channels will be launched soon.

Efforts are on to establish linkages with the neighbouring North Eastern States and countries of Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Thailand for developing Assam as a regional tourism hub. Proposal for creation of an East India circuit linking Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Sikkim is under active consideration of the Government.

Steps are being initiated to set up the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology at Jorhat. A state of the art luxury cruise liner will be operationalized on Brahmaputra river soon. An innovative Rural Tourism Scheme for Women showcasing the rural lifestyle, culture, handicrafts etc to tourists will be introduced in all the districts shortly. Thrust will be given on Self-employment generation schemes, City tours in Guwahati, Conducted tours and Home stay facilities where local educated youths will be involved.

Rs 36.15 crore has been provided under the Annual Plan for this sector. This will be supplemented by financial assistance from the Central Government for circuit developments and other mega projects.

44.

#### Transport:

One of my priorities is to provide economical, efficient and passenger friendly transportation to commuters of the State.

In the coming five years our focus will be on providing good rural public transportation. Public transport in Guwahati will also be streamlined with Rapid Transit Bus Corridors. CNG powered Green taxis will be introduced in Guwahati city. City and suburban bus services will be extended in major towns of the State. Special tourist transport will also be facilitated. Inter State Truck Terminus will be set up. Under Chief Minister's Rural Connectivity Scheme 100 buses were introduced last year. 144 buses were operationalized in Guwahati city under JNNURM. Rs 50 crore has been provided under 2011-12 Annual Plan for procurement of buses for rural connectivity. Improvement of infrastructure of station buildings, yards, Yatri Niwas etc. will be taken up. Land acquisition for airports at Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Guwahati will be taken up during 2011-12.

Computerisation process for vehicle registration and licensing system has been developed. Steps will be taken to promote online system of registration,

licensing and permits. A Road Safety Regulatory Authority will be set up to encourage road safety norms amongst the people.

122 ferry services are being operated on the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. River tourism will be developed by introducing floating restaurants with river cruising facility. All ongoing schemes for river transport including renovation/modification of different types of vessels/boats will be completed during this year.

#### 45. General Administration:

Funds have been sanctioned for construction of Assam Bhawans at Bangalore, Vellore and Chennai, one multi-storied Assam House at Shillong besides one additional Assam Bhawan cum youth hostel at Kolkata. Mumbai Assam Bhawan is also being extended. The old Assam House in New Delhi will be replaced by a bigger building with all modern amenities. Four new Zila Sainik Boards have been set up and construction of office of Rajya Sainik Board at Guwahati will be taken up soon.

#### 46. Secretariat Administration:

Initiatives are being taken to inculcate better work culture and effective

delivery mechanism amongst the employees of the Secretariat. Training modules for capacity building of the Secretariat employees have been developed and a number of training courses have already been conducted.

47.

#### Pension & Public Grievances:

The Directorate of Pension Information System (DPIS) has been operationalized to expedite finalisation of pensions and commutation of pension cases. During 2011-12 steps will be taken to strengthen and upgrade the DPIS by creation of additional posts and infrastructure development.

48.

#### Printing and Stationery:

The Government Printing Press at Guwahati is going to be modernised together with enhancement of capacity. It is proposed to establish 3 mini Government Presses at Lakhimpur, Kokrajhar and Dhubri to meet the increased demand of different printing materials.

49.

#### Information and Public Relations:

I propose to set up one Institute of Mass Communication and Printing Technology to be named after Lakshminath Bezbaruah. Major focus will be on

modernisation of information storage, retrieval and transmission system in the coming years. Proposals for Government owned Cable/Satellite Television Channels and setting up of Community Radio Stations throughout the State for benefit of the masses are being contemplated.

#### 50. **Disaster Management:**

Efforts will be made to strengthen the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) and develop its capacity to meet the challenges of disaster management in the State. The 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has given an award of Rs 1336.76 crore to the State Disaster Relief Fund and for Capacity Building for the period 2010-15. Out of this, an amount of Rs.254.26 crore has been earmarked for the current year. The State Disaster Response Fund has been created for expeditious provision of relief. A number of initiatives like Flood Early Warning System, Hazard Risk & Vulnerability Assessment in selected cities and towns, Integration of Emergency Helpline Nos., Preparation of the State Disaster Management Plan etc. have been undertaken. It is proposed to equip and strengthen the State Disaster Response Force and the Emergency Response Centres with specialised equipments, efficient communication network and appropriate accessible

database. An Earthquake and Risk Mitigation Centre under the aegis of National Institute of Disaster Management will be set up.

#### 51. **Revenue Reforms:**

In the coming five years our focus will be on capacity building in terms of infrastructure, rational management of manpower and infusion of technology in survey and record keeping.

Existing procedure for providing land to landless, ex-tea garden labour, erosion affected people etc. is being strengthened. A Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Bhumidhar Barman has recently been set up to look into the problems for settlement of land for landless and poor people residing for a long time in Kamrup Metropolitan district. A Rehabilitation Authority will be set up for rehabilitation of erosion-affected families and necessary fund has been provided for this purpose.

Steps have been initiated for introduction of modern techniques of survey, digitisation of the cadastral maps with geo referencing, survey of the unsurveyed areas and upgradation of Assam Survey & Settlement Training Centre. Survey of the Char areas and

distribution of pattas will be expedited. Strong initiatives are on for computerisation of land records and registration besides introduction of e-stamping system. Construction/Renovation of buildings of the remaining Circle Officers/Sub-Registrar Offices and residences of Circle Officers will be completed during the current year.

I have decided to review the Land Use Policy of the State. Particular attention will be given to preservation of ecologically sensitive zones like natural water bodies, hills etc. It is proposed to introduce Land Bank for the preservation and future use of Government land. Amendments of various Acts, Rules and Regulations will be taken up to bring them in conformity with present requirements. The Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature (Amendment) Bill 2011 has been amended to enhance the rate of perpetual annuity by 100%. Remuneration of Gaonburah has been enhanced by 50%. Introduction of Gaonburah system is under process in 8 districts.

Land Revenue arrears have been accumulating over the years. A large part of these arrears is on account of pending

remissions due to the flood and erosion affected people. A special drive will be launched during this year for final disposal of all pending remission cases as well as for collection of normal land revenue arrears.

## TAXATION

52.

### Motor Vehicle Tax:

Revenue collection under the Transport Department, including Motor Vehicle Taxes, was Rs. 245 crore in the last financial year. I have reviewed the position. Number of motorized vehicles in the State has been growing rapidly. The revenue potential of this sector has also increased correspondingly. I have set a target of Rs. 281 crore for the current financial year. This is likely to grow at an annual rate of 15 % in the coming years.

53.

### Excise Duty:

Excise revenue collection has increased from Rs.239 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.322 crore in 2010-11. This is an increase of nearly 35%. Auction based system for settlement of country spirit shops has been introduced in the State.

Emphasis will be given on quality control, capacity building and introduction of

computerisation and online monitoring facilities. It is proposed to take a few new measures like rationalization of Bottling fee, Establishment charge Availability fee and also introduction of Hologram on all excise products. These measures along with more vigorous drive to prevent sale and consumption of illicit liquor are likely to generate additional revenue to the tune of Rs. 15 to 20 crore per year. Excise revenue collection for 2011-12 has been estimated to be Rs. 400 crore.

#### 54. **Stamps and Registration:**

With a view to encouraging higher level of compliance and augmenting revenue collection, I propose to rationalize the rates of Stamp Duty and Registration fees in the State. Budget estimates for 2011-12 on this account has been estimated to be Rs. 145 crore.

#### 55. **Commercial Taxes**

I would like to inform the House regarding some of the important developments in the last financial year.

- (i) **Goods & Service Tax (GST):** We support introduction of GST. The Constitution Amendment Bill to facilitate introduction of GST has been

introduced in the Parliament. We have some reservations with regard to provisions relating to entry tax as well as non-consideration of District Council in Sixth Schedule areas at par with Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies with regard to levy of some other taxes. I have already taken up these issues with the Union Finance Minister.

- (ii) I already informed the august House in my speech on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2011 that a website has been launched to facilitate online filing of returns. Now, I wish to inform that online filing of tax return will be compulsory from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2011 for dealers having annual turnover of rupees one crore or more.
- (iii) I wish to inform that the total tax collection by Taxation Department was Rs.5185.59 crore in 2010-2011 as compared to Rs.4404.91 crore in 2009-2010 showing a growth of 18%. The VAT collection in 2010-2011 was Rs.3952.20 crore as compared to Rs.3229.44 crore in 2009-2010 showing a growth of 22%. The VAT collection excluding petroleum sector and liquor was Rs.2508.05 crore in 2010-2011 as compared to Rs.1972.86 crore in 2009-2010 showing a growth of 27%. The House will be pleased to know that we have achieved 20% growth in VAT revenue in last three years.

- (iv) The Agricultural Income Tax collection in 2010-2011 was Rs.101.20 crore. The Agricultural Income Tax collection has crossed Rs.100 crore for the first time after 1998-1999.

**Tax proposals:**

- (a) In order to offset the impact of increase in cess on green tea leaves on tea exported, I propose to increase deduction from Rs.5/- to Rs.6/- for every kilogram of tea exported through Inland Container Depot (ICD), Amingaon from agricultural income for computation of agricultural income tax w.e.f. 01.04.2011.
- (b) At present dealers with annual taxable turnover upto Rs.20 lakhs have to file VAT returns quarterly and dealers with annual taxable turnover above Rs.20 lakhs have to file VAT returns monthly. I propose to enhance this limit of Rs.20 lakhs to Rs.40 lakhs in order to lessen burden on small businesses from official paper works.
- (c) A number of industries have represented that they are finding it difficult to deposit full VAT till receipt of Eligibility Certificate as per provisions of the Assam Industries (Tax Exemption) Scheme, 2009. They have represented to allow them to deposit bank guarantee of the tax amount payable till receipt of Eligibility

Certificate. I accept their suggestion and necessary amendment in the Assam Industries (Tax Exemption) Scheme, 2009 will be notified shortly.

- (d) Recently Government of India has hiked the price of LPG. In order to reduce the impact of this hike on common people, I propose to give tax exemption of Rs.14/- per LPG cylinder for domestic use.
- (e) Government of India has increased the rate of tax leviable on declared goods from 4% to 5%. We have already increased the rate of tax on crude oil from 4% to 5% in April, 2011. This will result in additional revenue of Rs.120 crore per year. Now, I propose to increase rate of tax on other declared goods namely, bitumen, PSF & DMT, tea, bamboo and furnace oil from 4% to 5%. This will generate additional revenue of Rs.20 crore per year. This has become necessary to neutralize the fall in revenue due to reduction in CST rate by Government of India.
- (f) With a view to discouraging consumption of tobacco and tobacco products including gutkha and similar other products, I propose to raise the VAT rate on these products from 13.5% to 20%.
- (g) Similarly, to discourage consumption of alcohol, I propose to increase the VAT



rate on Foreign Liquor and Country Spirit from 27% to 30%. This will be accompanied by necessary administrative measures to prevent diversion of trade from the State and other irregular practices.

## 56. Budget Estimates for 2011-12

Now Sir, I come to the Budget Estimates for the Financial year 2011-12. The five year medium term fiscal plan and other statements required to be placed in terms of the relevant provisions of the Assam FRBM Act, 2005 have been placed in this August House in a separate booklet.

The budget estimates of 2011-12 show a receipt of Rs.36892.68 crore under the consolidated fund of the State. Out of this, Rs.32730.85 crore is on Revenue Account and the remaining Rs.4161.83 crore is under Capital Account. I have shown the estimated receipt in the consolidated fund from different sources at **Table-I**. After adding the receipt of Rs. 97222.89 crore under Public Account and of Rs.50.00 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate receipts amount to Rs.134165.57 crore. As against this, total expenditure from the consolidated fund of the State in 2011-12 is estimated at Rs.37173.02 crore of which Rs. 31616.63 crore is on Revenue Account and Rs.5556.39 crore is on Capital Account. The estimates of grant-wise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund during 2011-12 have been shown in **Table-2**. Taking into account the

expenditure of Rs.93980.00 crore under Public Account and Rs.50.00 crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate expenditure for the year is estimated at Rs.131203.02 crore. Thus, estimated transactions during the year will result in an estimated surplus of Rs.2962.55 crore. This, together with the opening deficit of Rs.4505.26 crore for the year 2011-12 will lead to an estimated closing deficit of Rs.1542.71 crore.

Before I conclude, I would like to inform the August House that as per recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission and in accordance with the targets proposed in the Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill 2011, we are required to eliminate Revenue deficit and restrict Fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that my budget proposals for the year 2011-12 contain revenue surplus of Rs.1114.22 crore and Fiscal deficit of Rs.3471.70 crore, which is 2.95% of GSDP.

With these words, Mr. Speaker Sir, I commend this budget to the House.

**JAI AAI ASOM**

**JAI HIND**