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Address by

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Hon' ble Governor of Assam

BUDGET SESSION

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

I am immensely happy to address this august House during the Budget Session 2015 of the Assam Legislative Assembly. I take this opportunity to extend my greetings to you all. I would be placing before you the policies and programmes of my Government. I am sure that our collective efforts would take the State of Assam forward in every aspect.

Assam has made considerable economic progress over the last decade. Assam's economy has grown steadily over this period, registering an average growth rate of over 6% steadily over the last five years. My Government took over in the year 2001-02. Since then the State's overall financial position has shown considerable improvement. The Gross Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices has increased from Rs. 38,313 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 1, 62,652 crore in 2013-14. The rate of growth of GSDP was 4.07% during 2001-02 which has increased to 14.85% in 2013-14. The basic financial parameters of revenue and fiscal deficits have also shown significant improvement. The State was having a revenue deficit to the tune of Rs. (-) 881.38 cr during 2001-02, when my Government took over. My Government has been successful in making the State a revenue surplus State. The State has been able to achieve a revenue surplus of Rs.222.91 cr

in 2013-14. On the other hand, the State's fiscal deficit-GSDP ratio was 3.78% during 2001-02 which has stood at 2.33% during 2013-14, thus maintaining the prescribed limit of 3% of AFRBM target. The debt-GSDP ratio also has improved significantly from 31% during 2001-02 to 17% during 2013-14. This is also well below the AFRBM limit of 28.4%.

Financial discipline has been maintained and AFRBM Act, 2005 was not only enacted but strictly enforced. It is recognised that more efforts are required to sustain the growth of the state's economy. While taking steps to enable investment, creating employment opportunities and encouraging enterprise in Assam, my Government is committed to ensure that the benefits of development need to be distributed equitably among all sections of the society.

My Government is also committed to ensure access to public health and education facilities, even to those residing in remote villages, hills and chars. My Government has been working to enable wide coverage of such facilities and for increasing the capacity and capabilities of the personnel engaged in these sectors along with expansion of infrastructure.

LAW AND ORDER AND POLICE ADMINISTRATION

Assam has been fighting insurgency for the last three decades. However, during the last decade it has engaged in this challenge proactively and shown great resilience in responding to such situations. The Unified Command Structure, set up to

enable civil-army cooperation is in place and is operating effectively. At the same time, the strategy of my Government to wean away misguided youths from the path of violence has resulted in agreement for 'Suspension of Operation' with as many as 17 extremist outfits, out of which the Government has signed Memorandum of Settlement with four, viz. BLT, UPDS, DHD(N) and DHD(J). Due to relentless action by the security forces and the support of the people, there has been tremendous erosion in the strength and morale of the remaining militant groups as reflected in their attacks on soft targets like innocent civilians including women and children in the recent days. The carnage of 23rd December, 2014 perpetrated by terrorist groups in the BTAD and Sonitpur districts and related incidents in which a large number of innocent people lost their lives, is an example of a cowardly act arising out of sheer desperation of such terrorists & extremist elements. The intensive operations by security forces in the aftermath of this gruesome killing has resulted in arrest of over 167 members and linkmen of the terrorist outfits. Two of their leaders were also killed during the action by the security forces. On the insistence of the State Government, the National Investigation Agency has taken up investigation and registered four cases against the terrorists. Simultaneously action is being taken against militant elements from other militant outfits also. My Government reiterates its strong and continued commitment to deal firmly with all such antinational and terrorist elements while retaining its focus on peace through development.

My Government is making a concerted effort to improve the functioning of police in the State. To this end the Government has set up Police Commissionerate for the metropolitan city of Guwahati, the first in North-eastern region and made it functional from the first day of January, 2015. To take police administration nearer to the people, five new police districts namely Sadiya, Majuli, Biswanath Chariali, Hojai and South Salmara have been created and made functional.

The State Police Force is also being modernized through creation of infrastructure, procurement of latest equipment and weapons and streamlining of recruitment and training. The working environment and living conditions of the police personnel are also being improved. My Government is committed to ensure that Assam Police emerges as a people friendly organisation while acting firmly to enforce the law. The availability of police personnel is being augmented. The process for recruitment of 6748 AB constables, 340 Sub-inspector & 345 APRO police constables against vacant posts has started with issue of advertisement inviting applications. More posts will be created, as necessary, to increase the ratio of civil police to armed police so that the quality of crime detection and management is improved. The three Counter Insurgency and Anti Terrorist Schools functioning at Abhayapuri, Dergaon and Siloni are being upgraded to impart modern training to police forces to fight terrorists. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System has been set up in the State to enable more versatile and citizen

friendly policing to the public. Besides helping in modernizing the crime control system, this will also facilitate general public in interaction with the police by filing complaints and obtaining status of verification reports online.

My Government recognises the sacrifices made by the brave police personnel in combating terrorism, insurgency and violence. To boost the morale of the security personnel engaged in fighting the terrorists and insurgents, the ex-gratia grant to the next of kin of the security personnel including Home Guards, killed in direct encounters has been increased to Rs. 20 lakhs. This is in addition to other direct and indirect benefits to the family of the deceased, including employment. To provide better service conditions, the wages of Home Guards are proposed to be increased from Rs. 200/- per day to Rs. 300/-. Also, the pocket money for Village Defence Parties will be increased from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1500/- per month.

Measures are also being taken to improve the administration of the Jails in the State. A number of steps like the setting up of e-prison system and installation of CCTV in jails have been taken up. To reform and rehabilitate the prisoners, educational facilities have been created in the prisons for the illiterate prisoners. Vocational training on various trades along with rehabilitation grants is also being provided to enable self-employment to prisoners after they complete their sentence and come out of prisons.

The Government has completed 32 major projects of construction of Fire and Emergency Service Buildings in the state; 16 such projects are going on and 19 more have been taken up. For smooth fire fighting, 35 new Fire and Emergency Service Stations have been sanctioned in addition to the existing 124 such stations.

My Government is determined to strengthen the Criminal Investigation Department and the Bureau of Investigation (Economic Offences). Forensic Science service shall be expanded for faster investigation of cases. To this end, a Regional Forensic Science Laboratory has been set up at Jorhat. Two District Forensic Laboratories shall also be set up at Bongaigaon and Silchar. In the meantime my Government is also taking strict action against various entities who collect money from unsuspecting public through fraudulent means with a view to duping them. Criminal cases are being registered against such persons, arrests are being made and their bank accounts frozen. Action is also being taken against the menace of human trafficking. Fourteen Anti Human Trafficking Units have been setup and operationalised in 14 districts. Between 2011 to 2014, as many as 344 women and children were rescued, 257 culprits arrested and 330 cases were registered. My Government is considering setting up more such Units.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSAM ACCORD

My Government has already implemented the clause No. 13, 14 and 15 of Assam Accord and the clause No. 5 to 12 are being

implemented as ongoing schemes. At present 36 Foreigners Tribunals are functioning in the state. The Government of India has agreed to establish 64 more Foreigners Tribunals increasing the total number to 100 to enable prompt disposal of cases.

The work for updating of National Register of Citizen 1951 is going on as per schedule under the guidance & supervision of the Registrar General of India. My Government has taken steps for digitization of NRC 1951 and Electoral Rolls available up to 24th March, 1971 and for making them available to the citizens as per the advice of the Government of India.

Twenty eight Border Out Posts (BOPs) and three Tactical HQ have been proposed behind the BSF BOPs to check fresh/re-infiltrators from Bangladesh who might enter Assam illegally. Besides, 15 Patrol Posts have been set up in two bordering districts of Assam, namely, Dhubri and Karimganj. Three temporary detention centres at Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Silchar have been established to keep the declared foreigners till they are deported to the country of their origin.

Out of a total of 267 km of border roads, the state PWD and NBCC have completed 232.7 km. So far as fencing is concerned, 217.8 km out of 267.3 km has been completed. Floodlighting works have been completed for 162.4 km and remaining work is going on and expected to be completed soon.

The modernization of Jyoti Chitaban Film Studio Phase-III (Part-I) is in progress. The Government of Assam alongwith

the Archaeological Survey of India has taken up the protection, preservation and development of historical monuments and sattras in the state. The up-gradation of the Guwahati Medical College & Hospital to the level of a Super-Specialty Hospital is also under progress. While efforts continue to be made for the revival of the Ashok Paper Mills, the Gas Cracker Project is expected to be commissioned during 2015. The Bogibeel rail-cum-road project which is under construction, has made considerable progress.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS & TRAINING

The Assam Right to Public Services Act 2012 as enacted by my Government is now under implementation in the State of Assam except in the 6th Schedule areas. This is a unique Act which ensures transparency, accountability and time-bound public service delivery. Presently, 55 services encompassing 14 departments have been notified under the provisions of the Act. More will be notified soon. People from all walks of life are availing the benefit of this Act. My Government has now initiated the Assam Citizen Centric Service Delivery Project for electronic delivery of citizen services with the aim to improve citizen access to targeted services. State Training Policy has been formulated with a general mission to develop capacity of the employees of various Government Departments and organizations to meet the existing and upcoming challenges.

AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

My Government recognises that agriculture is the backbone of the state's economy and will continue to give this sector high priority. The agricultural sector in the State registered a healthy growth of rice 4.5% during 2013-14 which is anticipated to increase to 5.5% during 2014-15. The State achieved an all time high production of 51.93 lakh m.t. during 2013-14, achieving a surplus of the order of 6 lakh m.t. Emphasis is also being placed on higher production of pulses and oilseeds. In recognition of the commendable production and productivity of pulses for the year 2011-12, the State received "Krishi Karman" Award on 15th June, 2013 from President of India. The State retained the same "Krishi Karman" Award for 2012-13 and secured it for 2013-14 as well.

My Government is committed to improving the economic condition of the small and marginal farmers in the State. In order to enhance the income level of farmers, Mission Double Cropping was launched from 2012-13. As a result the area under Double Cropping increased up to 13.63 lakh hect. during 2013-14 and is anticipated to increase to 14.30 lakh hect. in 2014-15. To boost up farm mechanization & irrigation sources, my Government has provided 7,460 tractors, 28,522 power tillers, 1,552 rotary tillers and 381,670 pump sets from 2001-02 to 2013-14. During the year 2014-15, as many as 429 tractors, 6,929 power tillers, 70 power paddy thresher, 81,808 pump sets, 1,552 rotary tillers and 1,064 rotavator are being made available. The Government

has also initiated massive coverage under Crop Insurance, popularizing organic farming, issue of Kisan Credit Cards(KCC), providing marketing support, and introduction of flood submergence tolerant paddy varieties among other measures.

To enable diversification of the productive capacity of the land in Assam emphasis is also being placed on the development of the horticulture sector. During 2014-15 include onion production programme covering 2,320 hect., potato seed production programme covering 1,873 hect. through 12,487 beneficiaries, assistance to 600 grower societies for area expansion on fruits crops like banana, Assam lemon, pineapple and papaya, assistance to 45 grower societies for area expansion on floriculture, and initiation of setting up a college of Horticulture at Dharmapur, Nalbari district were taken up. A total number of 2,000 individual beneficiaries were provided with honey bee colonies, hives and other relevant inputs for production of honey to meet high market demand in the state as well as enhancing crop production through honey bee pollination. A Centre of Excellence (CoE) for fruits & vegetables and one Centre of Excellence (CoE) for citrus fruits are being set up at Khetri and Bamunigaon respectively. All these initiatives shall be continued as a part of the policy to increase diversity in production of horticultural crops and to augment farmers' income.

ANIMAL HUSBANDARY & VETERINARY

My Government recognises the important contribution played by domestic and farm animals for the wellbeing and

income generation for the farmer and for provision of milk products, meat, poultry, eggs, etc. to the consumer public. For this, my Government will continue the policy of encouraging producers cooperatives, livestock improvement, mass vaccination, and awareness programme through the veterinary institutions in the State. Initiatives such as Nucleus Pig Farms, Goat Breeding Farms, of Rural Backyard Poultry Farming Schemes and Broiler raising programme have been introduced in the State and shall be continued. As a result, the production of meat in the State, which was 36,600 tons in 2012-13, has increased to 38,500 tons in 2013-14. In case of eggs, it has increased from 471.2 millions to 500 millions.

In addition, livestock improvement through Artificial Insemination is also being pursued. A state of the art Frozen Semen Bull Station is being established at Barapeta in Barpeta district under National Project for Cattle & Buffalo Breeding. Livestock Insurance Scheme has been implemented in six districts and 75,567 milch cows have been insured. Fifty multi-utility ambulatory vans have been distributed to districts, sub divisions and schematic head of the department during last two years. Some major infrastructures completed are Regional Institute of Livestock Entrepreneurship & Management at Rani, Officers' Training Institute at Khanapara and an animal hostel (Godhan Nivas) at Jagial in Nagaon district.

BORDER AREAS

My Government is committed to all around socio-economic development of people living along national and international borders along with ensuring their safety and security. My Government is resolved to settle all boundary disputes with neighbouring States in a peaceful manner in keeping with the constitutional provisions. Meanwhile, necessary steps have been taken for setting up of seven new BOPs /Forest Protection Camps in the border areas along the inter-state boundaries. During 2015-16, a programme to establish 25 new BOPs / Forest Protection Camps is proposed.

The economic development of Border Areas is being pursued side by side. Several projects including drinking water supply and road schemes have been completed during the year 2014-15. Steps have also been taken for organizing sports and cultural activities under Outreach Programme near the inter-state border areas. My Government shall continue to invest in economic development and harmonious and peaceful relations between different groups of people residing in such areas.

COOPERATION

My Government has also taken steps to boost the re-organization of the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies in the State by creating 1,777 more Gaon Panchayat Level Multipurpose Samabai Samities (GPSS)/Large Area Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS), co-terminus with

every existing Gaon Panchayat in the State in addition to the already existing 709 GPSS and 64 LAMPS. Starting from 2012-13, till date more than 1474 new GPSS have been registered. The Government also intends to provide financial assistance to GPSS and other cooperatives for setting up cold storage facilities and rural godowns.

In pursuance of the goal of the emancipation of womenfolk and to empower them in their economic development, My Government intends to encourage the women cooperatives to take up dairy farming, food processing, and silk worm rearing and processing activities by providing them financial assistance.

The Assam Rajiv Gandhi University of Cooperative Management which has been set up by my Government has started its academic session for the first batch of BBA (Cooperation) of 60 students from the month of July, 2013. My Government will continue to support this institution to enable capacity building and modern management practices in this sector.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

My Government shall make all efforts for preservation and promotion of Assam's varied culture. Some noteworthy projects in progress are - Sati Sadhani Cultural Complex at Golaghat, Sri Sri Madhabdev Kalakshetra at Narayanpur, Lakhimpur, Sarat Singha Memorial Cultural Complex at Chapor, Dhubri and New campus of Regional Government Film &

Television Institute at Sila near Changsari, which is dedicated to the memory of late Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. In addition, construction of auditoriums at Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Goalpara are also going on. Construction of Jyoti Bishnu Sanskritik Prakalpas is in progress at Mukalmua, Golaghat, Barpeta, Sipajhar, Chandrapur, Naharkatia, Joyshidhi (Sonitpur), Hailakandi, Mankachar, Balipara, Moran, and Chandpur (Cachar).

The North East Tribal Museum and Cultural Centre, which was inaugurated at Nazirakhat, near Sonapur on 27 February 2014 is now functioning and drawing crowds. A film city in Jyoti Chitrabon Film Studio complex has been taken up and works are in progress. Construction works of Samadhithal of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika at Jalukbari is in progress.

My Government has taken up some new initiatives which include protection and improvement of Madhupur Satra, Cooch Behar in North Bengal; construction of Chandra Nath Sarma Memorial Auditorium Hall at Pithakowa, Sonitpur; institute for imparting training in the production of traditional musical instruments; construction of auditorium of Purba Bharati at Nalbari, and construction of Tinsukia Sanskritik Samannaya Kshetra. Emphasis shall continue to be placed for protection, preservation and development of archaeological sites and monuments of the state. Altogether 115 archaeological sites and monuments are being taken care of as per "The Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Act, 1959" and "The Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Rules, 1964".

EDUCATION

My Government is committed to ensure that education reaches the people in every nook and corner of the State. A large number of initiatives have been taken to universalize Elementary Education in the State, particularly since the RTE Act 2009 has come into force. Among many other activities, two flagship programmes, viz., Mid-Day Meal and Sarba Siksha Abhijan are being implemented by the Elementary Education Department with a view to cater to the needs of students as well the teaching staff. Free text books are being provided to all Children of Ka-Sreni to Class-VIII. Free uniforms are also being provided to the girls, SC boys, ST boys and boys belonging to below poverty line families.

During 2013-14, my Government had provincialised the services of 20,874 working teachers of 6,802 venture L.P. and recognized U.P. schools. Six rounds of Teachers Eligibility Tests (TET) were conducted so far where 88,571 candidates have successfully qualified. As many as 52,748 Elementary Teachers have been appointed from time to time under SSA during the last three years.

During 2014-15, as many as 8,913 regular vacant posts of Asstt. Teachers of LP Schools are being filled up from the TET qualified teachers; establishment of 21 new Lower Primary Schools will be completed under SSA, and construction of 6,488 separate girls' toilets will be completed within March, 2015.

A total of 2,490 TET qualified Graduate Teachers and 637 TET qualified subject teachers including 620 Grade-IV were appointed during financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15. Fourteen model schools have started functioning from 1st January, 2015. A total of 12 rank holders of HSLC, High Madrassa and HSSLC examination visited NASA, USA during 2014 under the Scheme "Late Debakumar Borah Memorial NASA Tour 2014". As many as 1,554 Educational Institutions were provincialised along with the services of 16,109 employees under Secondary Education. Financial assistance/incentive was provided to 958 Venture Educational Institutions during 2013-14 and similar assistance to 867 more institutions is under process. A new scheme 'Moulana Azad Taleem-e-Balighan' is being introduced in eight districts for promoting literacy, basic and vocational education among adults of Muslim community.

In Higher Education sector, during 2014-15, services of 57 venture colleges have been provincialised creating 1,130 new posts of different categories. Infrastructure development grants are being provided to the six State Universities and 102 rural area colleges and 45 provincialised colleges. Establishment of 12 new Government Model Degree Colleges has been taken up. The Assam State Higher Education Council under Rastriya Uchchatar Siksha Abhiyan has been formally constituted.

In Technical Education sector, to meet the growing aspiration of new generation, three new engineering colleges are being established at Golaghat, Karimganj and Dhemaji. During

current financial year, infrastructure of these colleges shall be developed. Three more engineering colleges are proposed to be established at Nalbari, Nagaon and Udalguri. The newly upgraded Jorhat Science College is being developed into Jorhat Institute of Science & Technology. Upgradation of the infrastructure of the existing nine polytechnics has also been taken up. New polytechnics in 21 districts are being established and works are in progress. An Indian Institute of Information Technology has been established at Guwahati under PPP mode and academic session has already started. The academic session of the Women University at Jorhat has started in the temporary campus in Assam Agricultural University. To upgrade and standardize the technical education in the State to national / international level, the Government shall also pursue collaboration with other national and international universities from time to time.

ENVIRONMENT & FOREST

My Government is resolved to preserve and protect the environment and wildlife, for which the state is known world over. To maintain green cover, it is proposed to create about 24,000 hect. of plantations and to distribute more than 50 lakhs seedlings to the public during 2014-15. This programme shall be augmented during 2015-16.

The Assam State Biodiversity Board has a mandate of biodiversity conservation, promoting its sustainable utilization and facilitating flow of benefits to local people on commercial use of biological resources. To encourage people's participation,

Biodiversity Management Committees at Anchalik Panchayat level and compilation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers shall be taken up. Projects on forest and biodiversity conservation already taken up with foreign assistance shall be continued. Plantation, including firewood plantation over 20,000 hect. through JFMCs will be taken up and steps taken to protect and maintain the plantation created earlier. My Government also proposes to take up infrastructure strengthening, habitat improvement, wetland management, development of ecotourism sites, entry point and livelihood improvement activities for forest dependent communities including Tribal and other weaker sections of society through Joint Forest Management Committees and Eco Development Committees. Capacity development for Forest management shall be strengthened in collaboration with international experts.

Firm steps to protect wildlife have been taken by the Government. Modern arms and equipment have been provided to counter the poachers. Anti poaching task force has been set up and measures to protect wildlife are continuing. While more efforts shall be made to prevent poaching and killing of wild animals, it is noteworthy that overall the population of Rhinoceros has increased to 2,544 in the year 2013 from 2,201 in the year 2009. Tiger population has increased from 143 in 2010 to 167 in 2014. Under Indian Rhino Vision 2020 recently Government has planned to translocate Rhinos to Burhachapori and Laokhowa Sanctuaries. The arrangement for better protection

of forest and wild life shall be augmented. For this purpose, the 4th Assam Forest Protection Force battalion shall be raised and existing vacancies at various levels filled up.

EXCISE

My Government is committed to regulate sale of alcohol and other approved substances while taking all steps to prevent illicit distillation and clandestine trade. Efforts shall continue against narcotic drugs, such as ganja, bhang, etc. The State Anti Drugs & Prohibition Council shall be strengthened and measures taken to create awareness among the public against drug abuse and alcoholism. Two de-addiction centres, one each at Jorhat and Silchar are already functioning to rehabilitate persons afflicted by drug/narcotic abuse. My Government shall continue to counter the menace of alcoholism and drug abuse in an effective manner.

FISHERIES

My Government recognises that the Fishery sector is one of the most promising sectors in the State that can provide livelihood and employment opportunities to a sizeable section of the society especially in the rural areas. My Government is committed to ensure that this sector, which provides fish, a major dietary supplement of the people of Assam is given high priority.

During the last few years this sector has been growing at an average rate of over 4% annually in terms of fish production. In the year 2013-14 total fish production in the State reached

267 thousand tons. Some other notable achievements in Fishery sector during the year 2013-14 includes development of 2,482 hect. water area for scientific fish culture; benefit to 11,535 individual farmers and 960 SHGs under various departmental schemes; starting of a fresh water prawn hatchery at Meen Bhawan complex for popularizing prawn farming, and construction of modern hygienic fish markets at Sulung (Nagaon) and Adabari (Nalbari). Fish markets are under construction at Silchar, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Nagaon, Morigaon and Karimganj.

FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES

My Government is providing subsidized items, especially foodgrains for the consumption by the people at a reasonable cost. During the year 2014-15, 40.91 lakhs Above Poverty Line (APL) families, 12.02 lakhs Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and 7.04 lakhs Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families were provided with 34,248 mt, 39,602 mt and 24,641 mt rice per month respectively under PDS. Moreover, 18,697 mt APL wheat per month and 81,990 kl S.K. Oil per quarter were provided to the FIC holders. In addition 19.73 lakh lower strata APL families were provided rice at 20 kg per month under Mukhyo Mantrir Anna Suraksha Yojana. The implementation of the National Food Security Act-2013 in Assam shall take place once approval by Government of India is available. Thereafter, the above categories of beneficiaries will be replaced by AAY and priority household categories encompassing 2.52 crores population. Foodgrains shall

be delivered till FP shop level with payment of transportation and commission to GPSS, WCCS, LAMPs and FP shops. In the meantime my Government is taking all necessary action for the implementation of the NFSA. About 60 lakh fresh ration cards have been printed and are in the process of distribution, in which women have been recorded as the head of the households; 5 kg rice will be provided to each selected priority household beneficiary, and 35 kg rice to each eligible AAY household per month at Rs 3 per kg.

To strengthen the institutional framework for procurement and supply of essential items, the "Assam Food and Civil Supplies Corporation" has been set up during 2014-15. To prevent leakages and diversion of foodgrains computerization at all levels has been taken up. Independent District Consumer Courts are planned to be set up in each district to enable consumers to exercise their rights under the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Financial support is planned to be provided to the Fair Price (FP) shops which have been encouraged to upgrade themselves to AAMAR DUKAN to enhance the level of delivery of goods and services to consumers and ration card holders at reduced prices.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

My Government attaches importance to the planned growth of all the cities of the State, whether big or small for the benefit of all citizens. Self government in all the Municipal Boards and Town Committees has been enabled through peaceful and orderly

elections. My Government shall continue to work for their improved functioning and capacity development.

To enable healthy, economically viable and sustainable living in all urban areas of the State, my government shall take up suitable infrastructure development with provision of roads, street lighting, and water supply and sanitation schemes. Schemes and programmes shall be taken up to develop the cities and towns in Assam as SMART Cities with provision of digital connectivity, appropriate infrastructure and sustainable living. Schemes are also being implemented for development of small towns and for cleaning roads and drainage channels with mechanical devices under the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and Assam Municipal Development Project under World Bank Assistance.

To enable orderly development, Master Plans are being prepared for different urban areas of Assam. Till now 29 Final Master Plans and nine Draft Master Plans have been prepared. Another 45 Draft Master Plans are under preparation and 15 Final Master Plans are being prepared by using GIS based mapping. In addition 109 major infrastructure projects are being implemented through urban local bodies and development authorities with total project cost of Rs. 892.51 crores. Special emphasis is being placed on development of infrastructure for hawkers & vendors, truck terminus, multi-utility building, roads, storm water drainage, commercial complexes, etc. Under Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme 2,720 houses have been constructed for the urban poor in 13 towns.

The Assam State Housing Board has taken up construction of 978 housing units. The Assam Urban Water Supply & Sewerage Board has taken up 58 urban water supply schemes in 50 towns including a part of Guwahati city under various programmes. The Fourth Assam State Finance Commission (2011-2016) has earmarked 31 towns for taking up by the Board during the financial years up to 2015-2016. All these schemes shall be continued.

For planned and orderly development of the Guwahati Metropolitan Region, the review and revision of existing Master Plan has been taken up. The proposals for development of the Guwahati Metropolitan Region encompassing the city of Guwahati and its surrounding areas shall be put forward for public consultation shortly. In order to revitalize the Guwahati riverfront and to rejuvenate the city, development of Brahmaputra riverfront from Nilachal Hill to Governor House has been proposed. The feasibility study work regarding rail-based MRTS project for Guwahati city is in progress covering the delineated Guwahati Metropolitan Region.

My Government has taken up the challenge of tackling the problem of urban flooding in right earnest. The existing drains, water ways and water bodies in Guwahati metropolitan area are being restored. Schemes shall be taken up for flood management and drainage during the coming year to mitigate urban flood in Guwahati city and other affected towns in Assam. Existing drainage systems shall be repaired and new drains constructed

where necessary. The construction of Multi-storey Market at Ulubari, Rupnagar and Beltola are in progress. Guwahati Municipal Corporation has taken up the solid waste management of the city by engaging NGOs. The Corporation has started providing street lights in all the lanes and bye lanes of the city. Adabari Bus Stand will be converted as a state of the art, interstate Commercial Hub along with bus stand in PPP mode.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

My Government is firmly committed to provide high quality, affordable health care in the state. To this end, my Government shall take all possible steps for effective implementation of all the schemes under National Health Mission. Simultaneously, facilities for treatment of patients in the State itself and for medical education are being augmented. The 6th Medical College & Hospital of the state at Tezpur has started functioning. Admission for the session 2014 of 100 students has been completed. Assam Hills Medical College and Research Institute at Diphu is in the process of establishment. It has also been proposed to establish three new medical colleges at Kokrajhar, Dhubri and Lakhimpur.

Construction works for establishment of a new 200 bedded cancer hospital with an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores and a separate Super Speciality Hospital building having 375 bed capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 127 crores at GMCH is also going on. My Government shall continue its efforts to improve maternal and child health care in the State. The health care

indicators like Maternal Mortality Ratio has come down from 480 in 2004-06 to 301 in 2012-13. Similarly, Infant Mortality Rate has come down to 54 per 1000 live births in 2013, which was 68 in 2005. The total fertility rate has also come down from 2.9 in 2005 to 2.3 in 2013. However, my Government realises that much more needs to be done and shall continue its efforts to improve these indices.

To ensure the Emergency Referral services in the State, the Government started "Mrityunjoy 108 Emergency Referral Services" in 2008. At present 380 such ambulances and five boat ambulances are deployed in the State for this purpose including obstetric emergencies. One hundred Dolee (Palki) have been introduced for providing services to inaccessible areas. There are 235 vehicles (ADORONI) deployed to drop back mother and new born babies. During 2013-14, '102 Referral Transport Facility' has been launched in the state and 279 vehicles were put into service. Under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) scheme cash assistance to mothers were provided who have delivered in Government Health Institutions and accredited private hospitals. Under JSY total 31.73 lakh mothers were benefitted from 2005-06 till November 2014.

My Government has set up 50 Mobile Medical Units in the State to provide health care in un-served and un-covered areas. 15 Boat Clinics have been made operational in 13 districts to provide health care services in riverine/char areas. Total 12,02,363 patients were treated in 15,320 camps organized by Boat

Clinic since 2008-09 to November 2014. Twenty Special Newborn Care Units have been made operational at District Hospitals/ Medical Colleges (level-III) to provide special care to sick newborn babies. Hospitals are provided with more than 250 types of drugs for free distribution.

Under MAMONI scheme, from 2009-10 to November 2014, a total number of 21,74,516 cheques were paid for 2nd Antenatal Care and 18,45,846 numbers of cheques paid for 3rd Antenatal Care. Under MAJONI scheme of social assistance to the girl child born up to second order is given a fixed deposit of Rs. 5,000/- for 18 years. Total 3,34,861 numbers of fixed deposits have been issued since 2009-10 to November 2014. A total number of 2,593 children having congenital heart disease had free operations at Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bangaluru and Kolkata up to 30th November 2014.

HILL AREAS

My Government is committed to see that the Hill areas also develop at par with other parts of the State. Already more autonomy has been given to both the Autonomous Councils for planning and implementation of various schemes. The Government has laid emphasis on developing the sectors of agriculture, power supply, potable water, sanitation, health care, education, tourism, transport and communication for overall prosperity of these areas. The ongoing construction of Assam Hills Medical College & Research Institute at Diphu in Karbi

Anglong district; completion of Borjan Composite Irrigation Scheme and Phumenn Phangso Irrigation Schemes in Karbi Anglong district, construction of Toned Milk Supply Scheme at Mahur and re-establishment of Government pig-cum-poultry farm at Haflong, both in Dima Hasao district, shall be completed speedily.

INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE

My Government's approach is for a balanced economic development and generation of employment avenues for the unemployed youth through development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Sector in the State. To encourage investment in State, the Assam Industrial & Investment Policy' 2014 has been announced and is put into effect from 1st March 2014. My Government has been pursuing, and shall continue to press upon the Central Government to restore the benefits under the North East Industrial Promotion Policy which were suspended during 2014.

Three major public sector undertakings under Industries & Commerce have performed exceedingly well during the financial year 2013-14. Assam Gas Company Ltd., achieved record turnover of Rs.285 crores with record profit of Rs.101 crores before tax. Similarly Duliajan-Numuligarh Pipe Line Ltd., and Assam Petrochemicals Ltd., have also achieved record turnover of Rs.59.15 crores and Rs.102.84 crores with a profit of Rs.9.29 crores and Rs.11.51 crores before tax respectively.

The Government has also approved the expansion programme of Assam Petrochemicals Ltd., for an investment of Rs.1,028 crores.

A number of other initiatives have also been taken by this sector which includes, "Angel Fund" for providing soft loan at nominal interest rates; sanctioning of 10,073 projects under Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme during the year 2013-14; Trade Mark registration has been obtained for Bell Metal industry at Sarthebari, and setting up of "Mega Food Park" at Tihu; "Bamboo Park" at Chaygaon (both nearing completion); "Tea Park" at Chaygaon and "Plastic Park" at Tinsukia (both under implementation).

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS

My Government has taken up an initiative to set up a State of Art Institution namely Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Photo & Film Archive & Research Centre, which will be implemented in a phased manner. For the Archives, a plot of land measuring 15 bighas at village Kalipahar under Sila Sinduri Ghopa Mouza of North Guwahati Revenue Circle has been allotted. The State Public Works Department has already initiated necessary steps to construct permanent campus during 2015-16.

Lakshminath Bezbarua Government Institute of Mass Communication & Printing Technology & Research is being implemented in a phased manner since 2011-12 for advanced study in Mass Communication and Printing Technology. For

permanent campus of the institute, the Government has allotted a plot of land measuring 30 bighas at village Kalipahar under Sila Sinduri Ghopa Mauja of North Guwahati Revenue Circle. The academic session of diploma course in Mass Communication is likely to start from June, 2015 in a rented house till the completion of permanent buildings.

With the objective of developing the art of public speaking and to inculcate leadership quality amongst the students, an innovative scheme entitled Mukhyamantrir Shabdajyoti Achoni has been taken up since 2013-14. During the year 2014-15 target has been fixed to cover 236 Government and provincialised Higher Secondary Schools.

Some other initiatives are Journalist Medical Welfare Scheme, pension scheme for journalists, and production of documentaries, quickies, audio-spot, tele-serial, etc., depicting the policies, plans and achievements of the Government for creating mass awareness through electronic media. Already 25 documentaries/quickies/audio spot have been produced in the last financial year and target has been fixed to produce 27 during 2015-16.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

My Government is committed to ushering the State of Assam into the digital age so that its people can take full advantage of the facilities and opportunities brought about by their

technology. A Horizontal Connectivity project is being implemented to connect all government offices of the State Capital, Districts, Sub-divisions and Blocks/Circles from the 288 Assam State Wide Area Network (ASWAN) Point of Presence (PoPs). It will enable seamless Internet connectivity for electronic governance and deliverance of Government to Citizen (G2C) services from all departments. So far 680 Government office locations have been connected horizontally and an additional 515 locations have been surveyed this year for horizontal connectivity. e-District Project, initially with five services which are under the Right to Public Service (RTPS) shall be launched shortly. These services shall be delivered through 219 Public Facilitation Centers and 3000 Common Service Centers in the state. The District e-Governance Societies (DeGS) have been formed in 21 districts to coordinate, monitor and manage the e-District Project in the districts.

The Secretariat Less Paper Office project which is an integrated work-flow and e-filing system and along with Assam Online Portal, and is meant to make the workflow and governance in Assam Secretariat transparent and effective has been prepared for implementation during 2015-16. To empower the women in rural areas, the IT Department is imparting training in Digital Literacy through the Common Service Centers. Infrastructure for ready start up by IT Industries shall also be provided.

IRRIGATION

Development of Irrigation facilities in the State is essential to expand multiple cropping agriculture and improving productivity of land. It is proposed to place major emphasis on proper use of the Groundwater resources of the State through shallow and deep tube wells and minor surface irrigation schemes. Meanwhile, under this sector, several major, medium and minor irrigation schemes have been completed creating a potential area of 7.03 Lakh Ha.

To enable community participation in irrigation, 1,095 Water User's Association have been formed of which 582 are registered. District Level Co-ordination Committees have also been formed for proper and optimum use of water by farmers. Minor command area development programmes, incorporating watershed principles and soil conservation shall be taken up all over the State.

LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

Both Central and State labour legislations are being implemented for the welfare of labour and for industrial peace and harmony which is a pre-requisite to any development activities. One of the areas of major concern in this sector is to minimize the incidence of and progressive elimination of child labour. With a view to sensitize the people in the State to the issue of child labour and create awareness about the ban on employment of children in various sectors, suitable measures

are being taken up through mass awareness programmes with the objective of eradicating child labour from every home and neighbourhood.

Social justice and security to the most vulnerable section of unorganized workforce is a thrust area for my Government. Proper and effective implementation of the Plantation Labour Act in letter and spirit and equitable balance between the interests of labour and management shall be pursued. Under the Building & Other Construction Workers' Act, 1996, the Welfare Board has collected Rs. 370.67 crores as Cess, a major amount of which is to be spent for the welfare of the construction workers of the unorganized sector. In this respect more than 45,635 beneficiaries have already been registered till date. Out of these beneficiaries 42,560 workers have been covered under the Janashree Bima Yojana. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the minimum rates of wages have been revised w.e.f. 1 September 2014. For unskilled workers it is now Rs. 154.13 per day, semi skilled / unskilled supervisory Rs. 177.84 per day and skilled workers / clerical works Rs. 246.61 per day. A single umbrella organization known as Assam Skill Development Mission shall be set up to enhance the skills of the work force in Assam and to increase their employment potential. Employment exchanges in the State shall be modernised to enable greater choice for all stakeholders.

LEGISLATIVE and JUDICIAL

Translation of several Central Acts/Ordinances has been done by the Assam Official Language (TCL) Commission during

the year 2014. With a view to arrive at the goal and objective of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, the Assam State Legal Services Authority undertook various programmes like providing legal aid to the targeted beneficiaries, holding of Lok Adalats, legal awareness camps/meetings, seminars, etc. They also observed National Legal Services Day on 9th November all over Assam, conducted awareness programmes on Mental Health Act, seminar on Anti-Ragging Laws, Domestic Violence Act and other beneficiary Legislations, etc., to make people aware of their rights and duties.

During the year 2014, as many as 69 Lok Adalats were held in different districts including the National Lok Adalat held on 6 December 2014. As many as 99,583 cases were disposed off.

The construction of buildings for National Law University and Judicial Academy at Amingaon are going on and is likely to be completed (1st phase) within 2015-16. It is a premiere institution in the North-Eastern region. The first academic session of the integrated 5-years Law degree course commenced from September, 2011 with temporary accommodation at the North Eastern Judicial Officer's Training Institute, Guwahati. The State Govt. has already accorded administrative approval for an estimated amount of Rs 100 crores for the Phase-I construction of permanent building.

Recently, the State Government has sanctioned establishment of five courts at Amingaon for setting up a separate

judiciary for Kamrup district. Apart from that, as per resolution adopted in the Chief Ministers' and Chief Justices' Conference, 2013, to double the number of existing courts, the State Government has, under its consideration, a proposal to sanction 62 new courts as per request made by the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court, in order to provide speedy justice.

MINES & MINERALS DEPARTMENT

My Government shall take necessary measures for exploration and development of the mineral wealth of Assam in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner. The geological investigation works carried out have resulted in establishment of workable reserves of limestone, coal, china clay, glass-sand, sillimanite, iron ore and granite in Assam. On the other hand, exploration works carried out by the public sector units, viz., Oil India Ltd. and Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., have helped in the production of crude oil and natural gas in the state.

The Mines & Minerals Department granted one Petroleum Mining Lease to ONGC Ltd., in Cachar district covering an area of 732 sq. km. in the year 2014-15 for production of crude oil and natural gas. One Petroleum Exploration Licence has been granted for the exploration block covering an area of 396 sq. km. in Karbi Anglong district jointly to four public and private sector companies, viz, OIL, ONGC Ltd., GAIL (India) Ltd. & East West Petroleum Corporation. There has been significant contribution in the revenue earning of the State in the form of royalty, which was Rs. 1,826.99 crores in 2013-14.

PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For the socio-economic development of the rural people, My Government shall continue implementing various poverty alleviation programmes in the State. During 2014-15, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 41.74 lakh rural households have been provided with job cards and 151.63 lakh mandays have been created.

As Chief Minister's Dream Project, some innovative schemes like Dr. Bhupen Hazarika open stage and garden, Jawaharlal Nehru Gramin Sports Complex, and Indira Gandhi Adarsha Gramin Paki Path have been taken up against each block. Moreover, construction of 10 Sishu Seuj Prakalpa in each block have also been taken up. In case of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), construction of more than 1,61,476 houses has already started. Moreover, 77,094 incomplete IAY houses of the previous years are being completed. Provision of sanitary toilets to each sanctioned IAY houses has been made.

Under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), 7,08,771 beneficiaries (age 60-79 years) have been benefited from Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme. Similarly, pensionery benefit has been availed by 41,730 beneficiaries of the age of 80 years and above. Under Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme, 1,08,252 persons were benefitted. Under Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension Scheme, 39,623 persons were benefited. Under National Family Benefit Scheme, 1,794 families have been provided with one time financial assistance due to death of the bread earner of their family.

Under CM's Special Package, benefit in the form of cash and kind are provided to the land less and erosion affected BPL families. Under this scheme, landless families are provided with bicycle while erosion affected families are provided with two bundles of GCI sheets and @ Rs. 5,000 in cash to each. This scheme shall continue in 2015-16 as well.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Sashaktikaran Abhijan, during 2014-15, 84 new buildings for Gaon Panchayats have been approved. Under District Development Plan, 2,045 schemes have been completed. Again, under Backward Region Grant Fund, 1,638 schemes have been completed during the current year. The Socio-Economic & Caste Census, 2011 has been completed and the final draft list have been uploaded in website by NIC.

In 2014-15, an innovative scheme for conducting Social Audit has been introduced. The State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) has been given the responsibility for conducting such Social Audits through teams constituted by it. The SIRD has been regularly organising various training programmes for the elected representatives of PRIs, officials of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Development, and other grass root level functionaries. During the year 2014-2015 (up to December, 2014) the institute imparted training to 87,241 persons. During 2014-2015, the institute undertook social audit in all the 2,201 Gram Panchayats and VCDC/VDC areas of autonomous districts involving 10,686 social auditors. The institutional set up and activities of the SIRD shall be strengthened and enhanced.

PENSION & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

For smooth processing of pension cases, My Government has organised Pension Adalats in Kamrup, Darrang, Udalguri, Jorhat and Golaghat districts in the years 2013 and 2014 where 1,516 pension cases of provincialised employees of various schools were settled. More such Pension Adalats will be held in the other districts for the benefit of retired employees of schools.

The Government has taken a decision for providing annual GPF statement to all State Government subscribers through e-mode. The rate of interest on GPF is enhanced from the existing 8% to 8.6% w.e.f. 01-12-2011 to 31-03-2012 and 8.8% for the financial year 2012-2013 and 8.7% for the financial year 2013-2014 in conformity with the rate fixed by the Govt. of India.

The Government has added three more nationalised banks for payment of pension to the State Govt. pensioners over and above the existing six nationalised banks for convenience of the pensioners. Govt. has also decided to issue Identity Cards to all the retired State Govt. Employees. Necessary orders have also been issued empowering the Administrative Department/Heads of Department and Heads of offices of district to issue provisional pension/provisional family pension and Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG) benefits to all retired Government employees as admissible immediately on their retirement.

POWER

My Government recognises the crucial importance of access to affordable electricity by all the sections of the

population. Extension of the electricity grid to rural households has been pursued under flagship programme of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojna (RGGVY). Other on-going works are also being implemented to inspire generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. For 2015-16, RGGVY 12th Plan Project, DPRs for 16 districts have been approved by Government of India. The electrification works in 8,294 un-electrified and 12,822 partially electrified villages have been completed. The Government has also taken up a target to provide free electricity connection to more than 12 lakhs BPL households and till date more than 11.20 lakhs BPL households have already been given connection. With the continued implementation of rural electrification schemes almost all the villages will be electrified by 2017. The proposals for Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) are under process for implementation in the remaining districts during the year 2015-16.

Project amounting to Rs.1000 crores has been already sanctioned for strengthening transmission and distribution network in the state under Trade Development Fund. Construction of four 132/33 Kv sub-stations, and 53 new 33/11 Kv sub-stations have been taken up under TDF. ADB funded Assam Power Sector Enhancement Investment Programme worth 314 million US Dollars (ADB share is 200 million USD) equivalent to approximately Rs.1,727 crores is under implementation in the state. DPR of 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric project for an estimated cost of Rs.1,490 crores

has been submitted to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for Techno Economic Clearance (TEC). ADB has expressed willingness to extend financial loan to the tune of 200 million USD for the project.

Stress has been given for generation of Solar power. APDCL has been declared as Nodal Agency for development of solar energy in the entire state. Altogether 237 Central Solar Charging stations in 38 villages will be installed. Scheme for Roof-top interactive Solar PV Station installed in colleges and solar energy generation and storage project for farmers shall be taken up. Arrangements are being made for 'Smart Street Lighting' project, using efficient technology. For 'Remote Village Electrification' (state share), project proposal and DPR for 28 villages has been taken up through use of renewable energy. Project proposals for 27 villages/hamlets (Parliamentary Constituency wise) containing 2,569 households have been taken up under the Pilot Scheme for SPV Home System.

The e-filing/on-line application system has been introduced with help of AMTRON for applying for examinations, for grant of Supervisors certificates and Workmen permits. Arrangements are also being made to computerize the Inspectorate along with the Electrical Licensing Board with the help of AMTRON. AEGCL is executing 1,072.11 ckm transmission line and grid sub-station of 1,516 MVA of 132 Kv and above voltage class. At present, handling capacity of AEGCL grid is around 1,617 MW and the same will be increased to 1,950 MW after completion of

1,072.11 ckm transmission line and addition of 1,516 MVA by 2016.

The APGCL shall also pursue generation projects, the 100 MW Namrup Replacement Power Project; 660 MW Super Critical Margheria Thermal Power Project; 30 MW Cachar Project; 70 MW (Nominal) Lakwa Replacement Power Project; 60 MW Revival Chandrapur Thermal Power Station; 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project; 60 MW Upper Borpani Hydro Electric Project and 58 MW Borpani intermediate Hydro Electric Project.

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

There are 38 State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the administrative control of 20 Administrative Departments. During the year 2014-15 the Cabinet approved incorporation of two more new PSUs, viz. Assam State Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. & Assam Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. The Public Investment Board (PIB) recommended for approval of Cabinet for creation of two more new SLPEs, viz. Assam Medical Service Corporation Ltd. and Assam Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. Due to close monitoring of the performance of the PSUs and with various measures to improve the this functioning, the performance of the State PSUs has significantly improved and out of 38 PSUs, as many as 24 have been able to make profit as on 31.03.2013.

Establishment of a Regional Centre for Corporate Governance at Guwahati and development of a web portal for

on-line collection of data /information from the State Public Sector Undertakings and integration of the data/information for publication of the Annual Statistical Report with support from NIC shall be pursued in 2015-16.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

My Government shall continue its efforts to ensure that the people of the State have access to safe drinking water. While currently drinking water is being provided through Pipe Water Supply Scheme and spot sources, in the coming year emphasis shall be given on PWSS.

Up to December 2014, a total of 3,36,310 water supply schemes have been sanctioned which includes 9,073 piped water supply schemes and 3,27,237 spot sources like hand pumps and ring wells. During the year 2013-14 , as many as 4,117 partial covered habitations and 2,408 water quality affected habitations have been covered with a total 91% coverage of habitations. During 2013-14, as a part of the rural school water supply programme, 762 schools and 1,706 Anganwadi Centres were provided with water supply facilities. During 2014-15, the target has been set to cover 6,334 uncovered habitations and 3,604 water quality affected habitations. Till December 2014, as many as 1,478 uncovered habitations and 597 water quality affected habitations have been covered. During 2014-15, two hundred fifty seven new piped water supply schemes have been sanctioned under NRDWP .

Arsenic affected areas have been covered and up to 31 March 2014, quality problem has been addressed for 2,147 habitations in 20 districts of the state by installing 2,509 spot sources and commissioning 294 piped water supply schemes with a project cost of Rs 345.13 crores. During 2014-15 and till date, quality problem is addressed to another 19 arsenic affected habitations. It is noteworthy that, for the first time in the north-east, Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition technology has been introduced in Jorhat in which one authorised person can operate the entire water supply system.

Drinking water supply in Fluoride affected areas is another major cause of concern. Till 31 March 2014, quality problem for 618 Fluoride affected habitations in seven districts have been addressed by installation of 931 spot sources and commissioning of 27 of piped water supply schemes with a project cost of Rs 98.66 crores. During 2014-15 and till date, three Fluoride affected habitations in Dhubri district have been addressed by installing three ring wells.

The Government has undertaken seven mega multi-village schemes with assistance from World Bank in select areas of sixteen development blocks of seven districts.

Twenty six truck-mounted mobile treatment plants for supply of safe drinking water during disaster/emergency situations have been built. During 2014-15, an additional five truck-mounted mobile water treatment plants were sanctioned @ Rs 1.20 crores for flood affected districts of Morigaon, Golaghat, Jorhat, Dhemaji and Lakhimpur.

In 2014 the State Government has launched the MANASA (Mukhya Mantri Asom Nirmal Aru Seujia Asom) Abhiyan to ensure cleanliness in all public places. The Government of Assam is implementing sanitation programme since 1999 as Total Sanitation Campaign which was renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhijan (NBA) from 1st April, 2012. Nearly 23 lakh families were covered with toilet facilities in rural areas of the state. In case of institutions, 34,467 school sanitary block and 11,250 anganwadi toilets have been constructed so far in the state under the programme of Nirmal Bharat Abhijan. The Government shall continue implementation of the Central and State Schemes to provide all households with Individual Household Latrines by the year 2019 to commemorate the 150th birth Anniversary of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

ROADS, BRIDGES & HIGHWAYS

My Government is implementing many schemes and project for improvement of road network in the state. Out of total length of 3,717 km of National Highways (NH) in Assam, 2,134.8 km is under the jurisdiction of Public Works Buildings & NH Department. During the financial year (2013-14), 70.76 km of NH have been improved and construction of fly over near Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport junction has been completed. Several roads have been declared as new National Highways, these include NH-627 connecting Nellie-Baithalangso-Doyangmukh-Umrangso-Sangbor-Harangajao,

NH-329 connecting Manja-Diphu-Lumding, NH-117A from near Bilasipara connecting Kokrajhar and terminating near Garubhasa, NH-127E connecting Barama, Subankhata and terminating at Indo-Bhutan Border, NH-427 connecting Howly-Barpeta-Hajo-Jalukbari, NH-715A connecting Nakhola-Morigaon- Kaupati-Udalguri and terminating at Indo-Bhutan Border in the state of Assam and NH-702 connecting Namtola-Sonari-up to junction near Sapekhati. To avoid traffic congestion the works of bypasses/realignment are in progress near Gauhati University, Tinsukia, Mohanbari-Chabua, Makum, Rupai, Silchar, North Lakhimpur, Katlicherra and Hailakandi.

To enable sustainable building construction, energy efficient GREEN BUILDING concept is being introduced in all ongoing and future major building projects. Many projects including High Court Annex building, 200-bedded Cancer Hospital at GMCH & Superspeciality Hospital at GMCH, 17 veterinary dispensaries & hospitals, NEJOTI building at Guwahati, Regional Institute of Livestock Entrepreneurship and Management Assam at Rani, medical colleges at Tezpur and vertical extension of Assam Bhawan at Navi Mumbai have been completed. Some of the major ongoing building projects in progress are Swargadeo Chaolung SIU-KA- PHA memorial-cum-museum at Jorhat, new Assembly building at Dispur; Assam Bhawans at Bangalore, Chennai, Vellore and Kolkata; Women University at Garmur (Majuli) and planetaria at Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur and Nalbari.

In the last 14 years, my Government has given priority to construction of all weather roads and RCC Bridges. Since 2001, more than 23,000 km of all weather roads and 3,800 RCC bridges were constructed. Moreover, construction of about 5,000 km all weather road and 1,250 RCC bridges are in progress. Major road projects such as improvement of Jorhat-Morioni-Mokokchung, Morigaon-Nagaon-Naltoli, Barpeta-Abhayapuri-Bongaigaon, Dudhnoi-Goalpara-Pancharatna and RCC bridges over river Khabalu and Lohit on North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari Road have been taken up under the World Bank funded Assam State Roads Project. Special initiative has been taken up under CM's Special Packages for improvement of the road network in the Barak Valley, Dhemaji district and Dhakuakhana sub-division. Special package for improvement of the inter-state border roads have also been taken up. A major project for construction of RCC bridge over river Barak at Sadarghat near Silchar has already been sanctioned. A scheme for construction of 500 km all weather roads in all LACs will be taken up in the year 2015-16 for which Rs. 50.00 crore has been allocated in the budget.

REVENUE

E-Panjeeyan system has been operationalised in all Sub-Registrar offices of the State from 2011. A Pilot project in the district of Kamrup (Metro) and Kamrup has been introduced for collecting Revenue through E-stamp selling from 2009 and the Government plans for roll-out of e-stamping throughout the State. After amendment of the Indian Stamp (Assam Amendment) Act,

2013 stamp duty payable to the Government comes as two percent of the market value for women and three percent of market value for others instead of five percent for women and six percent for men respectively. The fees of registration of conveyance deeds have been reduced and now be payable to the Government as 1% of the market value of the property in case of Women; 2% of the market value of the property in case of joint registration with Women, and 2% of the market value of the property in case of other registrants.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

My Government has taken steps to promote knowledge of science among the general people across the state, by establishing new institutions of excellence, maintaining the facilities already developed, and encouraging the use of science for the benefit of common man.

In order to promote science in every nook and corner of the State, especially in the rural areas, Aryabhatta Science Centres have been established in 219 blocks of Assam. Besides, 219 high quality telescopes have also been distributed to each of these centres with a view to ignite the interest of students in the field of Astronomy. Moreover, two Mobile Science Laboratories have been designed and developed in collaboration with Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhijan and UNICEF for science practical classes in the schools of Assam.

Among the institutions of excellence coming up in the State are the Science City and the Biotech Park. In respect of Science

City, around 249 bighas of land have been acquired at Tepesia, near Guwahati. An MoU has also been signed by the Govt. of Assam and National Council of Science Museums to further the process of setting up the Science City. Regarding the Biotech Park, around 44 bighas of erstwhile STATFED land have been settled in favour of Guwahati Biotech Park Society.

In addition, 6,754 solar lanterns have been distributed to the meritorious students of the State, and solar electrification of 757 villages under Remote Villages Electrification Programme, covering 35,568 households has been completed.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

My Government is committed to ensure overall development of women, children, and persons with disability and senior citizens and drug addicts. These groups need special care and intervention. One of the National Flagship Scheme viz., Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme has successfully been launched and implemented since 1975. At present 62,153 Anganwadi Centres including Mini Anganwadi Centres are in operation. In order to make these centres closer to the public as well as for smooth functioning, 56,220 "Matri Sahayok Gut" have already been established. More are being established.

The State Child Rights Commission and Juvenile Justice Board/Child Welfare Committee are functioning in 27 districts of the State. Implementation of scheme for empowerment of

adolescent girls, i.e., Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls is going on in 78 ICDS projects of eight districts and during the current year an amount of Rs. 2.65 crores has been allocated. Same amount has been also proposed for the year 2015-16. Under 'Mukhya Mantrir Mahila Samridhi Achoni', the department is providing financial assistance to 1,500 Women Self-Help Groups. Unemployment allowance is provided to 6,530 disabled persons who are registered under special employment exchanges and have not received any gainful employment.

Social Welfare Department, Assam, has also taken up a programme for health care for the aged persons. Old Age Home will also be set up during the financial year 2015-2016. Further, a scheme, 'Home for Shelterless People' is being implemented with the help of NGOs with active financial support from the State Government. The process of opening Night Shelter Homes for shelter less persons in all district headquarters of Assam is also going on.

SOIL CONSERVATION

The soil conservation efforts taken up by the Government have developed an area of 9,929 hect. of land for agricultural crop cultivation and benefited 21,890 families. A Rural Self Income Generating and Employment Generating Scheme for cultivation of 231 hect. of rubber cultivation has been implemented with benefits to 105 families. A scheme "Bio-Diversity Conservation at Basistha Bahini Watershed" under NEC

near Guwahati is also being implemented. My Government shall pursue "Integrated Watershed Management" approach in all the 27 districts to preserve the land resources of the State. Livelihood schemes for assetless poor, production system and micro enterprises have been implemented through user groups and SHGs, from where marginal farmers and BPL families are getting maximum benefits.

SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE

My Government proposes to improve the facilities of sports infrastructures, including construction/improvement of stadium and playfields and construction of indoor halls in the State. Some noteworthy initiatives in this sector include establishment of Centre of Excellence for Mountaineering and Adventurism, and completion of a multistoried building (NCC & Yuva Bhawan), Paltanbazar.

Through State Level Advisory Committee (SLAC) for Students & Youth Welfare, financial assistance will be provided for taking-up various activities for welfare of students and youth of the State and providing sports goods and cultural equipments to voluntary organizations. Sports Talent Search Scholarship will be given to 1150 players during 2015-16. Fifty coaches will be engaged on contractual basis for proper coaching to the budding sports talents, to train-up talented players, coaching camps in various sports disciplines will be held and various sports competitions at state and district levels will be organized. Revival of Bordoloi Trophy is also proposed.

TEA TRIBES WELFARE

The Tea Tribes Welfare Department is to look into the needs and wants of the people belonging to the Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes and to explore the means and ways for all round development of this people in the State of Assam, as per the mandate of the Tea Tribes Welfare Department.

Since 2008-2009, several development schemes for Welfare of the Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes have been taken up covering larger number of beneficiaries with the increase in budgetary allocation. Between 2008-09 and 2014-15, a total of 3, 28,491 students of Tea & Ex-Tea Garden Tribes were awarded Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarships. During the same period, financial grants were awarded to 1,620 non-Govt. educational institutions and financial assistance for higher studies was awarded to 14,055 students prosecuting higher studies including in foreign countries. 51 Skill Development Training Centres started functioning under PPP mode of operation w.e.f. September, 2012. Power tillers were distributed to 1,975 Self-Help Groups benefitting 13,846 individual families. Under total sanitation and drinking water supply schemes in tea gardens, 29,515 low cost sanitary latrines and 820 water supply sources have been provided covering 248 tea gardens. A Tea Tribes Museum is coming up at Guwahati for preserving the cultural heritage of the community.

Construction of 14 Handloom & Handicrafts Production Centres, 17 library-cum-cultural centres in the tea dominated

LACs, a modern auditorium-cum-museum and mini library at Dibrugarh and a modern Conference Hall at Guwahati are some of the key schemes taken up during 2013-14. Under Chief Minister's special package, development of education in the tea garden areas has also been taken up. All these initiatives shall be continued.

TOURISM

Tourism is a fast growing industry in the State and has the potential to provide avenues for employment and revenue, including foreign exchange. Assam Tourism has undertaken various infrastructure development projects for promotion of tourism in the state with financial assistance from the Government of India as well as from its own resources. Development of Mega Circuit destinations like the Chirang-Barpeta-Nalbari-Guwahati-Morigaon-Nagaon-Sonitpur-Tawang; development of Tourist facilities at Kalamati in Chirang on the Indo-Bhutan Border; development of a Pilgrimage Circuit in an around Guwahati; development of Infrastructure at major tourist spots in the Barak Valley; development of a Vaishnavite Circuit in Assam; development of a Tea Tourism Circuit in Assam covering Nagaon, Jorhat, Golaghat, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts; setting up of Eco-Tourism projects near River Brahmaputra at Tezpur, near River Champa and near Dihing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary, and development of Tourist spots in BTAD areas and the Hill districts are some of the new infrastructure development projects that have been taken up.

The Department has organized various fairs and festivals across the state during the Financial Year 2014-15, including the Assam Carnival that comprised of various events in Guwahati like the Kite Festival, Urban Festival, etc. The Jon Beel Mela, the DouL Utsav in Barpeta, the Raas Festival in Majuli, Ambubachi Mela and and Bhogali Utsav in Guwahati are some other festivals. In order to lay down standards for tour operators, hoteliers, etc., and for preventing harassment of tourists, the Tourism Department is examining the feasibility of enacting legislation for regulation of tourism trade and also making Rules under it in 2015-16.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

My Government is committed to ensure smooth and safe transport services to the people of the State. A Road Safety Authority is proposed. Road safety measures are being implemented through enforcement of law and promotion of awareness and education programmes. As many as 44 Breath Analysers have been procured to curb the menace of drunken driving. Eight 'Traffic Interceptors' have been procured out of which three are used on National Highway stretch near Kaziranga National Park for protection of wild life as per direction of National Green Tribunal and proposal for 22 more Interceptor vehicles and 30 other vehicles for detection of over speeding, drunken driving and rash driving, have been made.

E-Transport project, i.e software- "Sarathi" (for Driving Licence) and "Vahan" (for registration of vehicle) is in

implementation in all the District Transport Offices. Proposal for BSNL-leased line connection in all the districts for implementation of on-line registration of vehicles, licensing of drivers and conductors, payment of taxes, etc., have been made.

For up-gradation of Mohanbari Airport at Dibrugarh, land has been acquired and handed over to the airports authority of India.

Inland Water Transport has been operating 97 ferry services on the river Brahmaputra, Barak and their major tributaries. There are commercial services for development of River Tourism with the services of river Cruising facility (AC & non AC) and floating restaurant (AC & non AC). For providing adequate terminal facility, the IWT has completed construction of 20 steel floating terminals for Rs. 4.50 crores. For restructuring, institution building and all round development of IWT Sector in Assam assistance is being sought from the World Bank. Infrastructure development of IWT services on the River Brahmaputra and Barak are also proposed to be taken up.

Under C.M.'s Assam Vikash Yojana, 119 new buses are being procured during 2014-15 and 460 buses placed for rural connectivity under Assam State Transport Corporation. Ten city buses for ladies have been introduced in Guwahati City Service for safe journey of lady passengers. About 400 buses have been ordered under JnNURM scheme for operation in Guwahati city under a Subsidiary Corporation of ASTC in the name and style as "Assam State Urban Transport Corporation", which has been

established recently. A travel scheme for senior citizens has been introduced under which senior citizen can travel in ASTC buses at 30% fare concession.

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Flood is a regular annual phenomenon in Assam and every year there is damage to rural infrastructure, agriculture and cultivation, livestock and habitation owing to floods and submergence. Though reasonable protection has been provided to 16.50 lakh hect. of land out of 31.05 lakh hect. flood prone area of the State through construction of 4,473.82 km embankment, 911 anti-erosion and town protection works, 874.97 km drainage channels, 94 major sluices and 545 minor sluices. My Govt. has taken up 100 schemes under Flood Management Programme (FMP). Among these, 92 schemes are physically completed and 8 are nearing completion.

In addition to the Schemes already completed, 24 schemes with benefitted area of about 86,584 hect., costing Rs.10,764 crores has already been sanctioned under NABARD (RIDF-XIX) and the works are in progress; 11 schemes with benefitted area of about 65,424 hect. costing Rs. 50 crores has also been sanctioned under NABARD (RIDF-XX) for execution during 2015-16.

In addition, 2 schemes costing Rs. 11.10 crores has been taken up in the year 2014-15 as State Specific Scheme and the works are in progress. Eight schemes costing Rs. 42 crores

approved under Chief Minister's Special Package in Barak Valley (Phase-I) for execution during 2013-14, are in progress. More Schemes under Chief Minister's Special Package in Barak Valley (Phase-II) and Dhakuakhana have been taken up.

The Department has taken up works of 11 State Specific Schemes at a cost of Rs. 60.93 crores in the year 2014-15 for improvement of drainage system of Guwahati city. The work on these schemes is progressing.

WELFARE OF PLAINS TRIBES & BACKWARD CLASSES

The Government has been implementing various welfare schemes/ projects for the upliftment of SC, ST (P) and OBC people of the state. Several schemes have been taken up for employment, education, health care, infrastructure development and socio economic empowerment of SC, ST and OBC people.

Various skill development training programmes for self employment are being imparted to the unemployed youths of backward classes communities, and also hostel facilities have been proposed for the year 2015-16.

Specific development of various tribal communities in the six Autonomous Councils and other communities in the 19 Development Councils have been taken up.

The Government is actively considering creation of Garo Autonomous Council and four more Development Councils for Kumar, Madahi, Sut and Hajong communities, and Development Council for SCs.

WELFARE OF MINORITIES & DEVELOPMENT

My Government works for the all-round welfare and socio-economic upliftment of the minority communities in Assam, including the religious and linguistic minorities, as well as the various communities living in the char areas in the State. The Welfare of Minorities and Development Department implements schemes for multi-sectoral development in education, health, agriculture, social welfare, etc. sectors and provides assistance for improving the infrastructure in hospitals, anganwadicentres and educational institutions, e.g., constructing additional class rooms in schools, constructing new ITI buildings, among others. We provide pre-matric, merit and post-matric scholarships to the students, and arrange for the skill development of young girls and boys, e.g., ANM and GNM training, Air-hostess and stewards training, courses in Pharma, Medical and Lab technician, hospitality and other good employment sectors. For helping in the agriculture sector, we provide them modern implements and inputs such as tractors, power tillers, pump sets, hand sprayers, seeds, etc.; for safe drinking water, we provide them hand pumps; for self-employment, we give commercial vehicles, auto vans, foot sewing machines, etc. to the beneficiaries, in addition to the required training, e.g., electrician, automobile, etc. The Assam State Hajj Committee provides assistance for performing the haj pilgrimage, construction of hajj bhawan, etc. The Assam Board of Wakfs provides book grants to selected madrassas, financial

assistance for the development of graveyards, self-employment of the physically handicapped, etc.

Hon'ble Members, I have placed before you the policies and programmes of my Government. My Government is committed to implement its policies and programmes that have been outlined. I urge that this House support these schemes so that balanced, all round development of all sections of population in the State is achieved.

"Jai Hind"

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