



**SPEECH**  
**OF**  
**SHRI DORJEE KHANDU**  
**HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER**  
**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**AT THE**  
**54<sup>TH</sup> NDC MEETING**

**AT**  
**VIGYAN BHAVAN**  
**New Delhi**

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*Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chairman of NDC,  
Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission,  
Hon'ble Union Ministers, My colleague Chief Ministers,  
Distinguished members of the Planning Commission,  
Senior Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

It is indeed a proud privilege and honour for me to participate in this 54<sup>th</sup> NDC meeting. This meeting has been convened essentially to consider and approve the Draft 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2007-2012). The visionary and comprehensive Eleventh Five Year Plan envisions to steer the process of development through rapid reduction of poverty and creation of employment opportunities, access to essential services like health and education specially for the poor, equality of opportunity, empowerment through education and skill development to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability . However, I would like to share our views on some of the important issues and recommendations highlighted in the agenda.

2) Let me start with reiterating what our Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated in his Independence Day address on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2005. “ *in this new phase of development, we are acutely aware that all regions of the country should develop at the same pace. It is unacceptable for us to see any region of the country left behind other regions in this quest for development. In every scheme of the Government, we will be making all efforts to ensure **that backward regions are adequately taken care of.** This has been ensured in the Food for Work Programme and the National Rural Health Mission. **We will also focus on the development of our border areas. We will ensure that these regions are provided basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity and telephone connectivity in the next 3-4 years.**”*

3) And here I am standing in this 54<sup>TH</sup> NDC meeting representing the state having one of the longest international borders with China, Myanmar and Bhutan. The response of my frontier state to the Draft

11<sup>th</sup> five year plan is based on the statement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and also based on the recommendations of the two task forces set up by the Planning Commission. One is the '**Task Force on Connectivity and Promotion of Trade and Investment in North-East Region**' and the other on the '**Border Area Development Programme**'.

4) The Eleventh Plan document envisages an overall 9 percent GDP growth of the country. This envisaged growth rate is essential in order to integrate our country's economy into global economy. However, achieving such growth rate will necessarily entail **augmentation of investment** substantially in the backward States like Arunachal Pradesh along with re-orientation/restructuring of present policies and removal of infrastructural impediments that hinder rapid economic growth.

5) As a part of inclusive growth strategy in the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan some 27 monitorable socio-economy targets in the key areas such as income and poverty, education, health, women and children, infrastructure and environment have been identified. We re-iterate that realisation of these intended targets and their sustainability must be backed up by appropriate policies and programmes as well as adequate resources. Further, quantification of targets should be based on a realistic assessment of the State's potential and it should be finalised in consultation of States so that the State Specific issues are clearly addressed.

6) **The landmark feature of this plan document is incorporation of a separate chapter on North- Eastern Region.** It is a welcome step, which signifies the Govt. of India's special attention to the North Eastern Region. We appreciate the issues and developmental strategies to be adopted outlined in the plan document and we endorse the views. In fact, critical parameters for growth of NE Region envisaged in the plan document deserve discussion as realisation of such approach and strategies will entail collective wisdom and endeavour of the Central and State Governments. Here I

must congratulate the Planning Commission for bringing two excellent task force recommendations which I mentioned earlier. These task forces have elaborately dealt with the infrastructural gaps in the North-eastern states and their recommendations, if implemented will go a long way in the development of the north-eastern region. However, I appeal to the planners that **a clear, time bound, resource based action plan needs to be devised to implement these recommendations.** As far as North-eastern states are concerned, we also had many rounds of NEC sectoral meetings to cover various sectors like railways, civil aviation, education etc. But we need strong support from the Government of India to realise the resolutions passed in various NEC meetings.

**7) Agriculture Sector:** Agriculture in my state is vulnerable to the vagaries of monsoons. Agriculture is beset with problems of a poor and deteriorating land resource base, small and fragmented land holdings of cultivatable land, lack of assured irrigation facilities, lack of appropriate technology and inadequate credit and marketing facilities. Low agricultural yields and traditional farming are mainly subsistence level which is today compounded with increase of population and shrinking Jhum cycle. Despite such odds, the State has achieved a commendable success in the last successive plan periods. Land utilization statistics reveals that net area sown increased from 1.15 lakh hect in 1971 to 2.09 lakh hect. in 2006-07. Similarly, in the same period gross cropped area enhanced to 2.7 lakh hect from 1.3 lakh hect. Special emphasis is required to be given on scientific use of shifting cultivation, ensuring better land management, introducing improved cultivation in slope land through agro-forestry, horticulture and encouraging other household, income generating non-farm activities.

8) The country's envisaged growth rate of agriculture during 11<sup>th</sup> plan is 4 % annually, while, the target fixed for Arunachal Pradesh is 2.8%. Achieving this growth rate would definitely call for multi-pronged measures like introduction of location specific technology and adequate package of inputs mix; appropriate cropping pattern,

effective extension services and availability of credit which can create a green revolution in agriculture in the State. Diversification of agriculture and intensive cultivation with double cropping will be of utmost importance with a view not only to attain self-sufficiency in food grains, but also to increase employment opportunity and income generation avenue. **Therefore the need for facilities for post harvest management in the shape of cold-chain, storage space and transport subsidy** to make agriculture produce of the State competitive in markets outside the States will have to be provided for. The State is also handicapped by lack of R&D facility and poor extension support. Because of the varying agro-climatic conditions **setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district** for transfer of technology, training and dissemination of information is essential.

9) Given that Arunachal Pradesh is endowed with favourable agro-climatic conditions for growing **horticultural** crops ranging from tropical to temperate and considering the limitations of the terrain and land holding pattern, excellent scope exists for cultivation of large varieties of low volume high value fruits, vegetables, spices, floriculture and medicinal crops. The main thrust has to be on development of a suitable marketing mechanism and development of infrastructure so that farmers may become equal partners in the process of development. In my State, horticulture, because of its high potential, can transform the rural and hilly areas in the long run. **Establishment of fruit processing units predominantly in the private sector with the assistance from Govt. of India is a viable solution.**

10) The undulating topography of Arunachal Pradesh does not cater to large irrigable command area in a compact area. The irrigable command areas are limited only in small patches of about 15 to 10 hect in the river valleys and plateaus. **Therefore, the existing eligibility criteria under AIBP for inclusion of minor irrigation schemes may be relaxed from 20 hect for individual schemes and 50 hect for cluster schemes to 5 hect and 20 hect respectively as a special case.** With this, the valuable land

resources of hilly states could be brought under irrigation. The geographically fragile situation also induces heavy soil erosion, landslide and bank erosion during monsoon. The existing irrigation structures are always prone to water related natural calamities and rendered defunct. Maintenance and repairs of such damaged infrastructure remain unattended due to resource constraint of the State. **Therefore, resource support from the centre for reconstruction and rejuvenation of damaged irrigation projects are urgently required.** For tapping the ground water potential, formulation of an appropriate Centrally Sponsored Scheme is imperative.

11) The State is participating in the CSS Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) to address the institutional support to the WUA. There exists a utilization gap of about 55%. In order to increase the utilization area in consonance with the potential creation, I urge upon you to enhance the **Central share of CADWM from existing 50% to 90% with the AIBP.**

12) Because of abundance of varied flora and fauna, Arunachal Pradesh is considered one of bio-diversity "Hot Spots" in the world. This requires effective environmental management for the conservation, protection and restoration of eco-system. However, the proposal for **establishment of a National Institute of Bio-diversity Studies** in Arunachal Pradesh assured by the Govt. of India long ago has not been take off despite our long spell of persuasion. In fact for a common citizen having the 82% of the geographical area covered with the forest does not give any benefit. Many times it is seen as hindrance in the development as the issues like environmental clearances etc take lot of time and energy. Some policies need to be evolved so that the common tribal man feels that the forests are his own assets and he starts deriving some employment or income form it.

13) **Infrastructure Development:** Before discussing about development of infrastructure, let me make this august gathering

aware of the fact that at the time of independence, the area which now constitutes Arunachal Pradesh was an un-administered and excluded area having no trace of development. Unlike other States, Arunachal Pradesh did not have the benefit of inheriting any social or economic infrastructure such as roads, buildings, educational, health institutions. It was only after the independence the modern administration was introduced in my state and later the developmental process started. Today, however, our people have become conscious of their relative backwardness and there is a tremendous urge for the removal of same and to bring about a speedy economic transformation in the State. Despite very poor living conditions, we have been able to maintain Arunachal Pradesh as an oasis of peace in the disturbed North East region. To consolidate this spirit and to sustain it further, it is very important that this aspect is given due recognition and **a specific programme for the economic transformation of the state is required to be initiated.**

14) Arunachal Pradesh is endowed with highest hydro power potential in the country. It is estimated that out of about 1,50,000 MW hydro-power potential of the country, 56,151 MW is available only in Arunachal Pradesh. The State Govt has already signed MoUs with seven CPSUs for generation of 10,230 MW and MoAs with 35 Nos. private developers for generation of 13361 MW. When all these projects are commissioned, they will be asset not only for Arunachal Pradesh but for the entire nation and **hence these hydro-projects should be looked as Projects of National Importance.**

15) However the State is confronting certain major issues for developing hydro potential, viz., (a) Most of these projects are located in remote valleys. Proper approach roads to the project sites will be required to be constructed (b) There is the need for **inter-sectoral co-ordination** in respect of the issues regarding transmission of power from the project sites, construction of approach roads from the existing major road-heads to the project sites, facilitating clearances related to environment & forest and formulation of R & P package for the project effected families/ person (c) There is

also the need for **inter-ministerial co-ordination** between the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Surface and Road Transport, and the Ministry of Environment & Forest at the Center for expediency of this important programme of development of Hydro Power Projects in Arunachal Pradesh.

16) Over 54000 MW of power would be surplus in the State by the end of 2022 if its hydro-power potential is totally tapped. **An ultra high capacity and ultra high voltage mega structure would be required to transmit this power to the Central load centres** of India through the narrow chicken neck corridor. This power evacuation system would be a technological challenge, as new technology; new standards for design and development of such mega structure, capable of carrying over 50,000 MW of power are to be put in place. Further in the absence of the State Grid, it may happen that the many villages in my state will be in dark while we supply power to the country. All these aspects need to be taken into consideration for the future plans.

17) It is pertinent to mention that small States like Arunachal Pradesh with small size of population with vast area converge cannot afford to develop such capital intensive infrastructural projects. The Central schemes like APDRP, RGGVY etc. do not cover these areas of infrastructural requirement of this State. This gap needs to be bridged specially for Arunachal Pradesh where, no infrastructural development in transmission system could take place in the past. In other words, the popular schemes under RGGVY and APDRP of Central Govt., shall not be able to yield the desired results as envisaged, if this grid is not developed. Today, more than 50% of the villages in my state are not electrified.

18) Construction of roads in the mountain state like ours is a challenge. Having started with a clean slate at the dawn of Independence having just a few dirt roads, the State, now has over 18000 km of roads today. However, even today our **road density** is just **21.80km/100 Sq.km** in comparison to national average of **76.80**

**Kms/100 Sq.km.** Coverage of National Highway in the state is only 0.5 kms/100 sq kms which is very poor against the requirement of 5 kms/100 sq kms. Even today, I have 31 administrative centres not connected by road.

19) Some of the issues which require immediate attention of the planners as far as road development in my state is concerned:

- (a) Connecting all the 16 district headquarters with NH standard road. In SARDP Phase A and Phase B, only 14 districts are covered and two most important districts of Changlang and Tirap are missing. **These two roads should be included immediately.**
- (b) There are only four roads in SARDP Phase A and remaining are in Phase B. However the Phase B will take off only after Phase A is over. This arrangement needs to be changed and **both the phases should start simultaneously.**
- (c) For many years we are asking for the Tran-Arunachal Highway so that we can travel from one part of Arunachal to other without touching Assam. Total length of this proposed Trans-Arunachal Highway is 1860 KM. Most of its segments are covered under SARDP and missing gap is only 778 KM. Expeditious completion of this road projects is required to bring about sense of integration, avoid of detour of Assam to reach from one station to another within the State of Arunachal Pradesh and also to combat insurgent activities especially in the eastern districts of the State. **Hence some programme to cover this 778 kms for completion of Trans-Arunachal Highway need to be taken up.**
- (d) Government of Arunachal Pradesh has already drawn 42 MoUs / MoAs with various CPSUs and Private Developers for generation of hydro power. Further, State is endowed with vast mineral resources like Oil & Natural Gas , Coal, Lime Stone, Graphite etc apart from immense tourism

potential . **Therefore, early completion of SARDP (NE) in Arunachal Pradesh is a top priority.**

- (e) **Dholla- Sadiya Bridge** to be completed to facilitate HEPs in eastern districts of the State.
- (f) Completion of **Bogi-beel Bridge over Brahmaputra** will have a major positive impact on the development of Arunachal Pradesh.
- (g) The Report of the Task Force on Border Area Development Programme constituted by the Planning Commission ( July, 2007) has recommended additional allocation of resource development and other mega structures like two Lane Border Highway along the Border, railways network, air links, power distribution, telecommunications and information technology. **Recommendations of the Task Force need early implementation.**
- (h) **Bridges having a span up to 25 mtrs can only be funded under the PMGSY.** In case the span exceeds 25 mtrs the pro-rata costs beyond 25 mtrs are to be borne by the State Government. In such situation, even if a road is qualified as per guideline but not in a position to propose under PMGSY where the alignment encounter streams more than 25 mtrs design waterway for want of counterpart share to met out of state resources
- (i) **Only 24% of villages satisfy the criteria of PMGSY** and hence a special programme for the rural connectivity for the North-East is the need of the hour.
- (j) In order to ensure that the local entrepreneurs and the agencies participate in the road construction work, a **concept of 'Machinery Bank'** can be established from where the heavy machineries can be taken on hire.
- (k) Our border areas are having approximately 8000 kms of porter track and hundreds of foot suspension bridges and their total span will be around 24000 mtrs. Most of these porter tracks and FSBs are used by the defence personnel for the patrolling. But as on today they are in a very bad shape and many times are not negotiable. There have been

many incidences of causalities also. **All these porter tracks and FSBs are strategically very important as most of these are located along the international borders. We need support from the Government of India for maintenance of these tracks.**

20) **The telecommunication** links within the State are extremely tenuous. Frequent failures cut off the State with the rest of the country. The situation is further compounded in the monsoon periods when such facilities are urgently required for rescue, relief and resettlement operations when the State confronts with floods and other natural disasters. Therefore, expeditious completion of on-going telecommunication works, provision of new modern and reliable techniques/equipments/tool etc. and enhancement of present capacities are need of the hour. **Considering the long-gestation period and heavy recurring costs for the traditional land line telecommunication, we strongly recommend mobile services in the border areas.**

21) Our proposals for up gradation of Guwahati – Rangia-Murkongselek meter gauge railway line to broad gauge, laying of Lekhapani (Assam) -Kharsang extension line, Rupai to parshuramkund , Harmutty (Assam) to Itanagar need to be expediated. A rail track to all the foothills in the first phase would immensely boost the socio-economic development of the State. With the maga-hydro projects coming up, the need of the railway network has been felt very seriously. Proper transportation facilities through railways will facilitate exploration and exploitation of huge deposit of minerals and marketing of horticulture and agriculture produce outside the State. Further, completion of road-cum-rail bridge at Bogibeel will boost the economy of north bank of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. This bridge will link eastern part of Arunachal Pradesh with rest of the State ensuring faster access. Further the proposed bridge at Dhola-Sadiya over Brahmaputra should be converted as rail-cum-road bridge. **Here, I must tell the planners that the routine formulae of cost-benefit analysis will never work**

**in this part of the country.** But we must also realise that if the train can reach up to Lhasa, then our people can easily ask why not to Tawang or Mechuka or Kibithu?

22) Although my Government had proposed three Greenfield Airports at Itanagar, Pasighat and Tawang in the recent past, it is now given to understand that the Govt. of India has considered only Itanagar Greenfield Airport during 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. Inter-district air connectivity is an urgent felt necessity as the surface roads in the State remain disrupted due to natural calamities like floods, landslides etc. Therefore, I urge upon the Govt. of India to consider our proposal of **construction of three Greenfield Airports at Itanagar, Tawang and Pasighat.** Further, since the State is strategically located, the defence personnel mostly use the ALGs and, therefore, upkeep and maintenance of existing ALGs and landing strips assume importance, besides maintaining air connectivity to many administrative centres located in the remote and inaccessible areas of the State. **These ALGs which are constructed during second world-war are strategically very important and hence the Govt of India should provide special funds for their maintenance.** Many of these ALGs are deteriorating due to want of maintenance. If we loose these ALGs, it will be a great national loss.

23) For historical reasons, Arunachal Pradesh is a late starter in the field of **education.** Before independence the State had only two primary schools with negligible literacy rate. Despite lack of proper infrastructural facilities like school buildings, hostels etc., Arunachal Pradesh has achieved a commendable milestone as the literacy rate increased from 11.29% in 1971 to 54.74% in 2001. Similarly, enrolment has been increased from 14164 in 1971 to 340965 in 2006-07, a quantum jump indeed. The State Government has taken major initiative under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' to provide education for children population in the age group 6 to 14 years to achieve the goal of UEE through a time bound integrated approach. Though implementation of SSA has resulted in significant increase in the

number of children completing elementary education, lack of adequate State share is the main hurdle for smooth implementation of SSA. **Under no circumstances the programmes should be transferred to the States in near future and should run as CSS only.**

24) Arunachal Pradesh has one of the lowest access rates of **higher education** i.e. 6% against the national access rate of 10%. Further the number of students pursuing science and commerce are negligible for the want of proper infrastructure. This is because of having only 15 colleges in the state 8 of which are Govt. Colleges and rests are under private sector. These colleges are located in 8 districts out of 16 districts of the state. Therefore, more colleges, at least one in each district require to be established. In technical education also there are only 2 Polytechnics, one in govt. and other in private sector, in the state. Keeping in view the increasing demand of technical education in the state, **more Polytechnics and at least one engineering college** is required to be established. Similarly, to meet the demand for medical education in the state, **establishment of a medical college** is required. **Establishment of a Sainik school** is also our long-felt demand.

25) In my State improvement in **health** has not been able to keep pace with the spread of education or with the growth of income. The health status of the people of Arunachal is not commendable when measured by conventional indicators. Hilly and steep terrain, inaccessibility, scattered habitations, absence of basic infrastructure, trained manpower etc. result in poor access to medical facilities and consequently to poor health leading to high rates of Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in the State. In the absence of any referral hospital, well equipped indoor wards, medical and surgical equipments and adequate specialists, delivery of effective, efficient and cost effective public health care services is one of the most challenging tasks facing Arunachal Pradesh. Therefore, consolidation of PHCs, CHCs, SCs and maximizing benefits from the existing infrastructure will be the major thrust areas during 11<sup>th</sup> plan period.

**Here, I must congratulate the Government of India for launching the NRHM and hope that the requirement of state share for the programme will be waived off.**

26) The State has suffered from **acute problems of basic amenities like water supply, sanitation and sewerage**. Despite a huge potential surplus of water resources that could be harnessed, scarcity of drinking water is a common phenomenon despite we having abundant water resource. The drinking water facilities in many rural areas in Arunachal Pradesh were extended in the 1970s/ 1980s. The existing systems have outlived their utility. Augmentation and extension are needed to rejuvenate and cater to the needs of the increasing populace. **The existing funding pattern of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Program (ARWSP) needs to be relaxed to 90:10 instead of 50:50** to enable to cover a large number of habitations in the remote and inaccessible areas under this water supply program. The sanitary environment in the State is generally poor. Therefore, a massive awareness about hygiene and civic sense is called for. The programmes like **Total Sanitation Campaign** etc which are tailor-made for the main-land states would not work in Arunachal Pradesh unless the local situations are considered at the planning stage.

27) The degree of backwardness of a State can also be judged from the estimation of Human Development Index (HDI). The first ever National Human Development Report (NHDR), 2001 brought out by the Planning Commission estimated the value of Human Development Index (HDI) for Arunachal Pradesh at 0.242 and 0.328 for 1981 and 1991 respectively. Among the States, Arunachal Pradesh ranked at 28 and 27 respectively during the aforesaid period. Amongst the North Eastern states Arunachal Pradesh had the lowest HDI. However with the sustained efforts from both Central and State Government, **our HDI was 0.515** in 2001 and can be treated as average HDI. Of the three indices which make HDI, the

education index is 0.566, Health index 0.484 and the income index is 0.495.

28) Though endowed with rich forests, mineral resources and conducive climate, our State is still industrially backward for various reasons like communication bottlenecks, inadequate availability of power, low level of local entrepreneurship etc. For rapid industrial development in the State, direct intervention of the Central Govt. is a must for achieving envisaged rate of growth of industrial sector of 8%, though may not be feasible for Arunachal Pradesh, during 11<sup>th</sup> plan period. Alternately, we suggest creation of SEZ in this regard.

29) **Tourism** is considered one of the most potential areas in Arunachal Pradesh on account of its serene nature, mystic mountains, varied and vibrant culture and unique bio-diversity. Given its rich and varied natural and socio-cultural characteristics, Arunachal Pradesh has a large potential to develop the following: (a) eco-tourism; (b) village tourism; (c) cultural and religious heritage tourism; (d) nature tourism; (e) adventure tourism and (f) health tourism. But tourism could not make much headway in the State due to the problems of accessibility although the investment friendly "Tourism Policy- 2003" of the State provides various incentives for development of tourism for employment generation. The constraints in development of tourism sector are (i) poor accessibility due to remoteness of the State from Highways, poor road network and absence of air connectivity (ii) poor state of other infrastructure (iii) Travel restrictions imposed by PAP/RAP (iv) Shortage of hotels, restaurants, motels and wayside amenities.

30) The Planning Commission' intervention for **promotion of tourism** in the State will include (i) Development of tourism infrastructure facilities like hotels, tourist lodges, cottages, motels (ii) Development of existing tourist circuits (iii) Opening up of new tourist circuits (iv) Inclusion of Arunachal Pradesh in the national Buddhist circuit and develop action plan thereof (v) Development adventure

tourism, cultural and heritage tourism, destination, rural tourism and eco- tourism.

**31) Exploration/Exploitation of Natural resources like oil, gas,**

**mines and minerals :** There are confirmed economic deposits of very good quality dolomite, limestone, graphite, granite, oil and gas etc. For viable economic exploitation of natural resources, additional survey and investigation is urgently needed. This is beyond the capability and resources of the State Government. The Govt. of India's intervention in this sector will include provision of power and transport subsidy and encouragement of private investors for taking up of projects on PP basis. Setting up of a gas turbine plant in Kharsang area of Changlang district could also be explored.

**32) Social Security :**

The welfare and developmental measures need to be directed towards empowering the socially disadvantage groups especially women and development of child, resettlement of handicapped, welfare of destitute. In the field of social welfare, special focus will be required on juvenile, rehabilitation for persons with disability, implementation nutrition programme and financial assistance to Arunachal Pradesh Social Welfare Advisory Board.

33) The ICDS project was started in 1979 with one ICDS project and 47 Anganwadi centres and today we have 85 projects with 4277 anganwadi centers which is a quantum jump indeed. However as far as SNP programme is concerned, **we strongly advocate that it should be 100 % supported by the center and not on 50:50 basis.**

34) Given the overall backwardness of the state, **all the 16 districts should be covered under Backward Regions Grant Fund.** We also strongly advocate that the Central Government should re-think about the population as the criteria for some of the schemes. Apart from the population, the relative backwardness, topography, remoteness, geographical vastness etc should also be included in the criteria for deciding the funding.

**35) JNNURM, UIDSSMT and IHDP :** The indicative allocation received under JNNURM, UIDSSMT and IHDP for the Mission period ( 2005-2012) based on population criteria will not fulfil the aspirations of the people and allocation should be based on geographical consideration and actual requirement on ground as assessed in the CDP. Further, linking of budget provision of JNNURM with NLCPR will not favour the resource crunch State like Arunachal Pradesh.

**36) Promotion of Border Trade:** Being a land locked State, Arunachal Pradesh suffers the obvious disadvantage of a long transport lead and heavy transport costs. Therefore, there is an urgent need for an intensive development of infrastructure in the border areas, including promotion of border trade as the State has long international borders ( 1680 Kms) with three neighbouring countries viz., Myanmar, Bhutan and China (Tibet). We suggest that the trade points at Pangsu Pass (Nampong, Changlang district), Bletting and Bumla (both in Tawang District), Jorging, Gelling, Kibitho, Nampong, Mechuka, Taksing and Sarli be taken up for facilitating border trade with Myanmar, Bhutan and China (Tibet) for free flow of goods and trade between Arunachal Pradesh and its neighbours. Unless huge investment is made, promotion of border trade will be a far cry. For this, apart from funding assistance from the Planning Commission for infrastructure, assistance is needed to expedite clearances from concerned Ministries for the border trade points. In fact, success of India's "Look East Policy" will largely depend upon promotion of border trade with its neighbouring South East countries/ASEAN countries only.

**37) Development of International border areas :** Since Arunachal Pradesh has a very long international border, a special attention is needed to be given to the border areas to provide the basic amenities of life to the villages situated near the international borders. **Allocation under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is not adequate enough to match the growing demands of the settlers of border areas and living condition of the other parts**

**particularly border areas of China.** The necessity of developing the border areas is urgent in view of the efforts and achievements made by our neighbour, particularly China to develop and upgrade infrastructure and services on their side to international standards. We advocate the need for matching development on our side of the international border with that on the Chinese side with a policy for advancing administrative centres close to the border and keeping the border areas populated. In this context, we re-iterate that the **recommendations of the task force on the BADP constituted by the Planning Commission should be converted into reality in a time-bound** manner by evolving appropriate policies and programme to obviate sense of negligence amongst our poor people which will ultimately arrest immigration and large exodus from border areas. Such a step is urgently required for maintaining territorial sovereignty and integrity of our country.

**38) Access to Topo Sheets of the areas adjoining the international Border areas :**

On the basis of the restriction imposed by the Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, the Topo sheet of the areas adjoining the International borders are not available with the State's road construction agencies. This creates difficulties in planning of road network for the un-connected villages located in border areas. Hence, the Govt may find an appropriate solution so that access to Topo sheet of areas adjoining to the International Borders for restricted use by the Arunachal Pradesh may be allowed.

**39) Addressing Regional disparity :** The 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan document recognizes the harsh reality of increasing regional disparity amongst the States in terms of development. Arunachal Pradesh is the largest State amongst the NE States. But the State is lagging far behind in terms of development indicators in comparison to even other States of NE Region. From the point of view of social indicators also, there exists among the N.E States a wide variation. To tackle the problem of regional disparities and backwardness, the focus during 11<sup>th</sup> plan should be on recognition of backwardness of

individual States as the main factor to be taken into account in the transfer of financial resources from the Centre to the States, encouragement of investment in backward States both through mobilizing more internal resources as well as ensuring a much larger flow of resources from outside through different mechanisms. The issue of orientation of working of the financial institutions has to be addressed to be effective in favour of poorer States. Further, dovetailing of public sector projects with regional development plans by consciously developing regional linkages and implementation of special area specific development programmes would reduce the existing regional imbalances. **In the greater interest of the national integrity and harmony, there is a need to develop consensus for balanced economic development and concrete policies need to be evolved.**

40) **Monitoring of Plan Expenditure** : Setting up of a comprehensive Decision Support System ( DSS) and Management Information System( MIS) for effective monitoring of plan expenditure would definitely support planning, budgeting, effective monitoring and decision making. We endorse the suggestion.

**41) Transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes** : Time and again the issue of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes has cropped up . In this context, **we would like to re-iterate that for the Special Category of States, all CSSs should be fully funded by the Govt. of India** in view of the fact that in many cases it becomes impossible to provide State's matching share resulting in non-implementation or deferred implementation of schemes.

42) Major national flagship programmes like Bharat Nirman Programme, SSA, NREGP etc. involve substantial State's matching share. Obviously, a poor resource base State like Arunachal Pradesh is deprived from full benefits from such flagship programmes. Relaxation/modification in funding pattern and guidelines will facilitate effective implementation of such important national programmes.

**43) Size of Eleventh Plan for Arunachal Pradesh :** We had proposed the plan size for Rs.8790.55 crore **for 11<sup>th</sup> plan to the Planning Commission.** The Report of the Working Group on States' Resources for the Eleventh Five Year Plan has recommended aggregate resources of Rs. 8105.00 crore (at current prices) for Arunachal Pradesh. On the other hand, the Planning Commission vide D.O. No. M-12011/1/2007-SP-Coord dated 6<sup>th</sup> November,2007 from the Member-Secretary, Planning Commission has indicated a plan outlay of Rs. 7901.00 crore for Eleventh Five Year Plan which will not be in consonance with the State's barest requirement during 11<sup>th</sup> plan period. **We urge upon the Planning Commission to restore our original projected outlay of Rs. 8790.55 crore.**

44) In this regard, we expect from the Planning Commission and Govt. of India, a sympathetic and liberal attitude in allocating adequate funds to my State. Development in Arunachal Pradesh has to be considered not only in economic terms, but also in terms of change in the total complex of socio-economic life of our indigenous people. Otherwise, our whole planning exercise for achieving "Inclusive Growth" may prove to be an utopian dream. While finalizing the plan size, I would fervently appeal that the major development issues and concerns consistent with the requirements of the State need to be appreciated and addressed in right earnest. Once again it is my request that the Planning Commission should take a bold decision for the long term benefit of my State vis-à-vis other developed States of the country. Our justification that investment in Arunachal Pradesh should be construed not only from the angle of backwardness but also from the defence and security aspects of the country needs to be taken care of and such investment should be treated as a national investment.

45) At the end, I conclude by saying that my state has now just started standing on its own legs and will need support only for next two 'five year plans'. Once our dream of hydro-power development is realised, we will not require any central assistance. On the contrary, we will be the power-house of the country providing valuable

electricity to the nation, which is the backbone of the economic development. Myself and my people in the remote mountains are confident that the Central Government will whole heartedly support this frontier state in its endeavour. Here I express my gratitude and sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Chairman and the distinguished personalities present here and wish all a very happy and prosperous new year.

**THANK YOU**

**JAI-HIND**