

SUMMARY OF REVIEW OF FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES AND OTHER KEY ISSUES IN ASSAM

This is part of a continuous process and the first in the series of visits and reviews of national flagship programmes in Assam, as directed by the Prime Minister of India. This report is based on a desk review of data provided by the central ministries, meetings with staff of the Government of Assam, field visits and interaction with field officers and recipients.

Important issues raised with Government of Assam during Annual Plan 2009-10 discussions

- The sharp deterioration in the BCR was a matter of concern.
- The lower growth rate of Assam, which was 6% as against the all India figure of 9%.
- Agricultural performance needs to be accelerated to achieve the 11th Plan growth target of 2%.
- Need to put in place a mechanism for monitoring expenditure especially of externally aided projects.
- Lack of coordination among the various departments was quite apparent and needs to be addressed.
- Implementation of irrigation projects needs special attention as almost 75% of the potential created is no more available. The state needs to take concerted action to complete 7 long pending major and medium irrigation projects.
- Education is yet another major area of concern. The number of out of school children is 3.39 lakh. 36% teachers at primary level and 10% at Upper Primary level are untrained.
- Birth rate is 27% against the all India rate of 26%, death rate is 9.7 against the all India rate of 8.7, IMR at 66 and MMR at 490 in Assam is much higher than the all India figures of 58 and 301 respectively.
- Priority should be to cover all quality affected habitations and slipped back habitations with water supply schemes.
- The Dhansiri Mini Hydro Electric Project, Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Project, Namrup Power Replacement Project, Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project are some of the projects which require early completion to improve the power situation.
- It was suggested that the State Govt. of Assam may seek guidance of CSIR for industrial research and development.
- Facilities of the regional remote sensing centre should be utilized for digital mapping of forest reserves and data generation for a bio-diversity study.
- To meet the requirements in the services sector, the State needs to take more initiatives in skill development, especially of the youth.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES:

1. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

- Though the number of job card holders has been steadily increasing from 15.66 lakh in 2007-08 to 33.63 lakh upto Sept 2009, the number of households provided employment in 2008-09 was 18.74 lakh and upto Sept. this year, 11 lakh. The average annual person days of employment generated per household increased from 39 in 2007-08 to 40 in 2008-09 but is still very low.
- Payment through banks has increased from 28% in 2008-09 to 61.32% this year.
- Utilisation of allocations / releases has been 69% and 72% in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. It, however seems to be picking up this year.

2. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)

- This is one of the most popular schemes. In the field there is a constant clamour for IAY houses.
- Beneficiaries were satisfied with their houses and had invested their own money as well.
- The permanent IAY lists, based on the 2002 BPL surveys are being used to determine priority.

3. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- While there has been 100% utilisation of funds for Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, the other 2 pension schemes, i.e. Indira Gandhi Widow Pension Scheme and Indira Gandhi Disability Pension Scheme had not yet taken off.
- The State Government is contributing Rs. 50 per month to the Gol amount of Rs.200. but this is not being disbursed regularly or transparently.
- According to the State Government, 75% payments are being made through banks/post offices.
- Beneficiaries of National Family Benefit Scheme were very appreciative of the Rs.10, 000 they received but requested for more.

4. Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Though the financial progress under this scheme is excellent, having spent more than they received from Government of India, the physical achievements falls short since many projects are not completed since they require bridges/culverts, in view of the terrain in Assam.
- Field visits indicated many roads were PMGSY roads which appeared well maintained.

5. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)

The Government of Assam is according health and family welfare utmost priority. While many commendable efforts have been made, much still remains to be done. Though expenditure under NRHM has been picking up, it was still only 67% in 2008-09, which was an improvement over 41% in 2006-07. Some of the other important features of the programme are:

- Chronic shortage of medical and para-medical staff is a persisting problem. For example, of the 400 specialists required in CHCs, only 117 are in position and that too all of them are on contract basis.
- However the State is trying to tackle this problem in multiple ways:- (a) MBBS aspirants can get a MD seat only if they put in at least one year of service in the rural areas; (b) 3 new medical colleges and 2 new nursing schools are being set up (c) residential quarters for staff are being constructed in rural areas, in clusters, to encourage staff to stay in the field.
- 343 of the 844 PHCs and all the CHCs are functioning 24X7.
- Institutional deliveries have risen from 23% according to NFHS III to 55% in 2008-09.
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is doing well and is very popular.
- The percentage of fully immunised children increased from 19% in NFHS I to 32% in NFHS III and service statistics peg the figure at 70% in 2008-09.
- Female sterilizations are still taking precedence. However male sterilizations have increased from 19 in 2007-08 to 4325 so far in 2009-10.
- The State has also started some innovative new initiatives described below:- (a) Boat clinics in riverine areas (b) '108' Ambulance services whereby anyone can call "108" for an ambulance in an emergency (c) The State has entered into 'private-public-partnerships' with the tea gardens for providing health services in the gardens (d) mobile clinics in inaccessible areas (e) evening OPDs.
- The State of Assam has also introduced 2 new schemes from their own resources. The first is 'Mamoni' for pregnant women (not limited to BPL) who receive Rs 500 each on going for 1st and 3rd ANC visits respectively. The second scheme is called 'Majoni' and is for the first 2 girl children in a family. At the time of the birth of the girl child Rs.5000 is put in a Fixed Deposit account for her.

6. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)

- Visits to the field revealed that this programme is not delivering as it should.
- In the 5 AWCs visited supply of Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) started between 15 July and 15 October only for the year 2009-10 . This is really distressing, especially since funds were available. In fact, in 2007-08 and 2008-09 only 88 and 53% of funds available for SNP were utilised.
- Last year SNP was supplied between 75 to 129 days as against the norm of 300 days a year.
- Attendance at the AWCs was also very low. Children who were not present were marked present and some school children (in regular school uniforms) and other non registered children were also present at the AWC during visits.
- Pre-school education seems to be slightly better delivered. However government lower primary schools all have Ka-shreni (nursery) classes in addition to the regular class I to IV. Most children go to ka-shreni

and not AWCs. But they are registered both in AWCs and lower primary schools. Possibility of booking expenditure for these children both in ICDS and MDM needs to be examined.

- Supervision by Supervisors, CDPOs and POs is very slack if not completely absent.

7. Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

- Performance of this programme has been slow for the following reasons – (i) Most of the uncovered habitations fall in the NC Hills area where the role of the Public Health Engineering Department is not always recognised. (ii) law and order problem (iii) it took some time to find a technically sound solution for the arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. (iv) Late and less releases of state share. (v) Flood situation hampers work from time to time. Progress is however picking up in 2009-10.
- The main problem in these areas seems to be the quality (high iron content) of the water and not the quantity.

8. Rural Sanitation programme

- Progress of this flagship programme is very slow and very disappointing. Some reasons given by the State Government Department are (i) there are too many aspirants but resources are limited, so it is becoming difficult to finalise the list of beneficiaries (ii) Unit costs are too low.
- It was suggested that convergence with SSA, NREGA and ICDS be considered. It appears that the departments do not even talk to each other.
- The individual household latrines appeared to have been constructed as best they could, within the constraints of resources. The women beneficiaries were very happy with the latrines.

9. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

The total literacy in the state of Assam is 63.3% which is even less than the national average. The education infrastructure scenario in Assam is quite unique. Most primary and upper primary schools are started by the community / private individuals – they are called 'venture schools'. Government later takes them over and they are then referred to as 'provincialised' schools. At present about 8000 'venture' schools are waiting to be provincialised.

- All primary schools have a 'ka-shreni' or nursery class.
- Ratio of primary to upper primary schools is 5 primary schools to 1 upper primary school, which is much less than the norm required by SSA of 2:1
- Though drop out rates have decreased slightly, but still very high at 8.8% and 15.5% for primary and upper primary respectively.
- The number of pupils per teacher at 26.8 is not too bad, but the distribution is very uneven and needs to be rationalised.
- The quality of education was also not very satisfactory.
- School infrastructure is not always adequate. All the schools visited had separate toilets for girls and boys, though some were kept locked.
- Expenditure increased from 76% in 2007-08 to 93% in 2008-09.

10. Mid Day Meal Scheme

This programme has been a late starter in Assam, but is now picking up.

- Expenditure was only 71% in 2007-08 and fell to 28% in 2008-09. In this financial year, there has been no expenditure upto September 2009. No state share has been released in 2009-10.
- The situation of the upper primary school children is not at all encouraging. In fact in 2007-08, not a single student was provided MDMs and in 2008-09 only 3.37 lakh students were given MDMs for 14 days in the whole year. However, it is picking up this year.
- In 2007-08 and 2008-09 primary school students were provided MDMs for 131 and 121 days respectively as against the PAB approved days of 217 and 206 respectively.
- Meals are cooked by mother's groups, local NGOs and hired cooks at different schools.
- At one place, children did not want any rice as they get that at home. They suggested some fruit, or bread-butter or biscuits etc. In fact eating a meal at noon or lunch time is not a custom in Assam. The custom is to eat rice in the morning before leaving the house for school or work and then have a snack at lunchtime. This matter needs to be studied further.

- The State Government complained about late and erratic release of rice and the low cost of cooking provided by the centre. Since cooking costs include cost of dal, condiments, vegetables, fuel etc., it definitely needs to be revised.

11. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

- Guwahati City has been declared a mission city under JNNURM. M/o Urban Development has approved five schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 477 Crores, against which about Rs.99 crore has been released and utilization had been of the order of Rs.20 crore.
- Guwahati Municipal Corp (GMC) won the second prize for reforms. It has computerised its entire property tax data base and made it very user-friendly.
- Visited the Solid Waste Management Project being set up in PPP mode. While JNNURM had contributed Rs 35 crore to the project, the private company had put in Rs. 67 crore. The project envisages proper collection of waste, its transportation to the landfill site, sorting and segregation of waste, composting, and even generation of electricity from the waste. The last component is not part of JNNURM and will require bank funding.
- Progress of the projects seems to be hampered due to lengthy process involved in the funds reaching the implementing bodies.
- Assam has 15 projects under IHSDP and 30 projects under UIDSSMT. Almost all projects are running behind schedule.
- This is mainly due to late release of funds and the channels through which funds have to pass before reaching the implementing agency. Examples were cited when funds took 20 months from the time of release by Gol till they were received by the urban local body. It is suggested that funds could be released to a State Urban Development Agency, which could be a 'society'. This would be appropriate because the JNNURM itself is a 'mission'.
- The State is also not releasing its share thus further compounding the problem.
- State Government suggested that 10% of the total allocation of JNNURM may be made available for the NE states, like for many other schemes.

12. Technology Mission for Horticulture in the North East (TMNE)

- The Technology Mission on Horticulture for the North-East is one of the most useful and liked flagship programmes in Assam and the north-east in general. It also has vast potential in Assam.
- Assam has not yet taken up any activities under Mini-Mission I (Research), Mini-Mission III (Post Harvest Management and Marketing), and Mini-Mission IV (Processing and Export). They have however sent proposals in 2007-08 for Mini-Mission III but approvals are yet to be received.
- Setting up some common facilities for processing and marketing for two or more of the north-eastern states should also be considered since the states are in close proximity of each other and may not require separate facilities in each state.
- The present cost norms are not realistic. For example the cost of cultivation of 1 hectare of banana is Rs.55,000 while the norm is Rs.15,000 only. Cost norms need to be revised.
- Visited Benganhati Village where Assam lemon was being cultivated on madrassa land; a Vermiculture project using water hyacinth and banana plant waste as raw materials, which are decomposed by special earthworms which are native of Africa.
- Another activity which has great potential is the production of 'patcholi oil' from patcholi plants which is indigenous to Indonesia but which grows easily in Assam. The oil is extracted from the leaves and is used as a perfume fixer which sells at Rs.4000 per kg. This initiative also has great potential.

13. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)

- It is most distressing to note that 4 major and medium irrigation projects, viz Dhansiri I/P, Champamati I/P, Borolia I/P and Buridihing I/P have been under construction for 20-25 years. The State Government has committed to completing them, in a truncated form, by March 2010.
- In the minor irrigation sector, 357 schemes have been sanctioned during 2007-08 and 2008-09 to achieve a potential of 1,51,710 hectare at an estimated cost of Rs.882.4037 Crore. All the schemes are at different stages of construction and targeted to be completed within 2010.
- Progress under AIBP needs to be stepped up considerably.

14. Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana

- Performance of this programme has been very slow, especially with regard to giving electricity connections to BPL households.
- Only 1%, 15% and 12% of the target for giving BPL households connections has been achieved in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.
- Utilisation of funds has improved from Rs.79 cr in 2007-08 to Rs. 252 cr. already upto Sept 2009.
- This programme needs a push, especially in view of the importance of electricity connectivity for development and the quality of life.

15. Accelerated Power Development and Reform programme

- The Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme has closed in March 2009 and the Revised APDRP has been initiated.
- Of the 14 sanctioned projects under APDRP, all 14 have been short closed.
- Assam has achieved 100% feeder metering and 97.50% consumer metering.
- The AT & C losses which were 39% in 2004-05 have been reduced to 31% this year.
- The Revised APDRP is being implemented in 66 towns in 2 phases. Detailed Project Reports are under preparation

Special issues of importance in Assam.

1. Flood management is one of the biggest challenges in Assam. Assam being in the flood plain, annual flooding and erosion is a major problem. In the recent past 4 lakh ha of agricultural land has been lost and 8 lakh population has been affected. Presently only patchwork solutions and short term measures are being adopted. Even the few structures that exist, are not maintained and so are of little use.

2. A more permanent and long term solution has to be found. This requires the cooperation and support of neighbouring states of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. A proposal for flood management in Assam for approximately Rs. 1000 crores is under consideration of the Asian Development Bank.

3. The largest river island, Majuli is a unique geographical feature and has vast potential for tourism – both cultural and religious. However, erosion of land in the Majuli river island is a major cause of concern. Unless flood mitigation measures are taken at an inter-state level this cannot be stopped. Majuli can become a great attraction and the Brahmaputra river can be made navigable and act as a lifeline. A multi-disciplinary project for about Rs.50 crore has been formulated and the Majuli Development Agency set up, which needs to be taken up expeditiously.

4. Another cause for concern is the persisting insurgency and unrest. Though there has been some improvement in the recent past, things are still not settled in N.C. Hills and Karbi Anglong. With the surrender of some major groups things improved for a while but the situation is very volatile. Realising the role of development, the State has announced special packages for NC Hills and Karbi Anglong.

5. Assam, as also the other states of NE, needs a special dispensation in the norms of centrally sponsored schemes, in view of their special circumstances.

6. Guwahati is not only the principal city of Assam, but is also the stepping stone for most of the other north-eastern states. Air and road links all go through Guwahati. This puts tremendous pressure on the city's infrastructure. This should be kept in mind while making city-wise allocations of resources.

REVIEW OF FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES AND OTHER KEY ISSUES IN ASSAM

This is part of a continuous process and the first in the series of visits and reviews of national flagship programmes in Assam, as directed by the Prime Minister of India. This report is based on a desk review of data provided by the central ministries, meetings with staff of the Government of Assam, field visits and interaction with field officers and recipients and non-recipients of government programmes¹. Some key statistics regarding Assam, especially in relation to some other states in the north-east are given below:

| Sr | Indicator | Assam | Manipur | Tripura | All India |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1 | Area (sq km)* | 78,438 | 22,237 | 10,486 | 31,66,414 |
| 2 | No: of districts* | 23 | 9 | 4 | 593 |
| 3 | No: of blocks* | 214 | 34 | 38 | 5,550 |
| 4 | No: of towns* | 125 | 33 | 23 | 5,161 |
| 5 | No: of villages* | 26,312 | 2,391 | 870 | 6,38,588 |
| 6 | Total Population (lakhs) * | 266.38 | 23.88 | 31.91 | 102,70.15 |
| 7 | Rural Population* | 232.49 | 18.18 | 26.48 | 74,16.60 |
| 8 | Urban Population* | 33.89 | 5.70 | 5.43 | 28,53.54 |
| 9 | ST Population* | 33.08 | 7.41 | 9.93 | 8,43.26 |
| 10 | Population density* | 339.83 | 97.05 | 305.07 | 324.85 |
| 11 | Sex ratio* | 935.00 | 978.00 | 948.00 | 933.00 |
| 12 | Infant mortality rate | 66.00 | 14.00 | 32.00 | 58.00 |
| 13 | Maternal mortality rate | 490.00 | NA | NA | 301.00 |
| 14 | Crude birth rate | 27.00 | 18.60 | 17.00 | 26.00 |
| 15 | Crude death rate | 9.70 | 5.40 | 5.70 | 8.70 |
| 16 | Total population below poverty | 36.09 | 28.54 | 34.44 | 26.02 |
| 17 | Total rural population below poverty | 40.04 | 40.04 | 40.04 | 27.01 |
| 18 | Total urban population below poverty | 7.47 | 7.47 | 7.47 | 23.62 |
| 19 | Total literacy rate | 63.3 | 70.5 | 73.2 | 64.8 |
| 20 | Female literacy rate | 54.6 | 60.5 | 64.9 | 53.7 |
| 21 | Male literacy rate | 71.3 | 80.3 | 81.0 | 75.3 |

* for 2001

Important issues raised with Government of Assam during Annual Plan 2009-10 discussions in Planning Commission.

1. The sharp deterioration in the BCR was a matter of concern. This was mainly due to inclusion of revision of pay and pension arrears in the Annual Plan 2009-10. The Planning Commission advised the State to give emphasis on proper management of the state's finances in view of the fact that at present there are also huge cash reserves. The State's borrowings are also very high, which are at a financial cost. The available resources should be utilized judiciously for maximum output.
The Chief Minister remarked that despite numerous problems, the fiscal health of the State has improved significantly since 2002-03. With the State's tax revenue collection growing at more than 30% till October, 2008 but the economic slow down has affected this since 2008-09.
2. The lower growth rate of Assam, which was 6% as against the all India figure of 9% during the 10th Plan period was another area of concern. While the growth in the industries and services sector had been around 8 to 8.5%, the agricultural growth has declined from 0.4% in 9th Plan to -0.27% in the 10th Plan. Agricultural performance

¹ Meetings with State Government officers and field trips (details at Annex 1) from 20th to 23rd October 2009 to Nagaon (Amonisali, Salmara, Khahigarh, Jungalbalahu, Raha, Bengenati, Amolapatty, Kaliabor and Kuwaritol) Sonitpur (Tezpur, Mazgaon, Besseria, Likhak, Thelamora, Dhekiajuli and Mizibari), Darrang (Mangaldai, Bechimari, Kharupetia char, Bordoulguri) and Guwahati-metro districts, especially to visit flagship programmes.

needs to be accelerated to achieve the 11th Plan growth target of 2% for this sector. There is need for optimally utilizing allocated funds in the plan.

The state government clarified that special attention will be given to agriculture to achieve a growth target of 2% for the 11th Plan through maximum utilisation and effective monitoring of RKVY scheme, Technology Mission for Horticulture in the North-East activities, quality agriculture inputs, massive seed village programme, etc.

3. There is need to put in place a mechanism for close and regular monitoring of expenditure for effective utilization of funds, especially funds of externally aided projects. Lack of coordination among the various departments was quite apparent and needs to be addressed. The State Government agreed to look into this.
4. Implementation of irrigation projects needs special attention as almost 75% of the potential created is no more available. The state needs to take concerted action to complete 7 long pending major and medium irrigation projects. Implementation of ongoing AIBP projects also needs to be geared up. The State Government agreed to expedite completion of existing projects.
5. Education is yet another major area of concern in the State. The number of out of school children are 3.39 lakh out of which 1.97 lakh are in the age group of 6 – 11 years and 1.42 lakh are in the age group of 11 – 14 years. It is further highlighted that 36% teachers at primary level and 10% at Upper Primary level are untrained. The pupil teacher ratio which is uneven in most of the State schools needs corrective action. The State also has inadequacy of educational infrastructure in many areas. Emphasis should be given to the quality of education for employability especially in the services sector. The State Government mentioned that for higher technical education, private initiatives to set up technical institutions and state knowledge commission would be encouraged. For promoting computer literacy, necessary infrastructure in schools has been put in place.
6. The nutritional and demographic indicators are not so favourable. Birth rate is 27% against the all India rate of 26%, death rate is 9.7 against the all India rate of 8.7, IMR at 66 and MMR at 490 in Assam is much higher than the all India figures of 58 and 301 respectively. There is a great shortage of specialists in the hospitals. However, there has been improvement in the institutional deliveries and immunization of infants. The State needs to improve its performance in the health sector and should expedite the completion of the ongoing 3 medical colleges. The Chief Minister mentioned that to address the issue of shortage of para medics in the rural areas, 3 years medical/para medical courses would be introduced. The State has also started evening OPDs in the Govt. Hospitals to maximise the health infrastructure and increase outreach of the health sector. More attention is being given to preventive medicine. Traditional medicine, based on aromatic plants are also being given emphasis.
7. Priority should be to cover all quality affected habitations and slipped back habitations with water supply schemes.
8. The power sector also needs immediate attention. It was noted that though the T&D losses have come down but, they are still too high. Early completion of feeder metering and consumer metering is important. The RGGVY scheme implementation needs acceleration to achieve the target. All ongoing power projects should be completed on priority to avoid further time and cost over runs. The transmission and distribution works need to be completed to improve power supply. The Dhansiri Mini Hydro Electric Project, Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Project, Namrup Power Replacement Project, Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project are some of the projects which require early completion to improve the power situation.
9. Priority should be given to completing the ongoing ACA projects. For better implementation the State may consider introducing mechanism for third party monitoring.
10. For industrial growth of the state, the State needs to stress on human resource development and the necessary infrastructure in power and roads and also invest in industrial training, marketing hubs, industrial sheds etc. The State should focus on improving the health of the tea industry. Old tea bushes require faster replacement at the rate of 3% every year.

11. It was suggested that the State Govt. of Assam may seek guidance of CSIR for industrial research and development.
12. Facilities of the regional remote sensing centre should be utilized for digital mapping of forest reserves and data generation for a bio-diversity study.
13. To meet the requirements in the services sector, the State needs to take more initiatives in skill development, especially of the youth. Out of 218 blocks in the state, 200 blocks have no Industrial Training Institutes (ITI). Adequate provisions should be made for vocational centres. The State Govt. should set up new ITIs under public private partnership.
The State proposes to set up 22 rural development and self employment training institutes for skill development. It has also been proposed to introduce training courses for weavers and evening shifts in the ITI s to maximize utilization of existing infrastructure. The State intends to introduce vocational training in every block.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES:

8. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)

| SI No | Year | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (upto Seopt'09) | Total |
|-------|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | No. of Job card issued in lakh Nos) | 1565775 | 2969266 | 3363656 | 3363656 |
| | | (cumulative) | (cumulative) | (cumulative) | (cumulative) |
| 2 | No. of households provided Employment | 1254800 | 1873629 | 1099603 | |
| 3 | Persondays generated (In Lakh mandays) | 487.86 | 751.07 | 250.94 | 1489.87 |
| 4 | Average persondays (per HH) | 39 | 40 | 29 | |
| 5 | Average Wage Rate (In Rs.) | 67.00 | 77.00 | 80.00 | |
| 6 | Mode of payment | | | | |
| a) | (through Bank in %) | 0% | 28% | 61.32% | |
| b) | Cash | 100% | 33% | 38.68% | |
| 7 | Periodicity of payment | 15 days | 15 days | 15 days | |
| 8 | Nos of work completed | 6339 | 7135 | 12317 | 25791 |

| Financial (Rs. In lakhs) | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| SI. No. | Description | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (Sept'09) | Total |
| 1 | Funds released by (Gol) | 52363.01 | 95904.86 | 29084.45 | 177352.32 |
| 2 | Funds released by State | 2444.87 | 9747.13 | 2700.00 | 12192.00 |
| 3 | Total Fund available including OB | 80609.74 | 132230.13 | 68238.05 | 281077.92 |
| 4 | Expenditure (in Lakhs)(% of expenditure in brackets) | 54914.93 (68.82 %) | 95380.8 (72.13 %) | 40533.47 (59.40) | 190829.2 |

- Though the number of job card holders has been steadily increasing from 15.66 lakh in 2007-08 to 33.63 lakh upto Sept 2009, the number of households provided employment in 2008-09 was 18.74 lakh and upto Sept. this year, 11 lakh. The average annual persondays of employment generated per household increased from 39 in 2007-08 to 40 in 2008-09 but is still very low.
- The average wage rate is Rs.80 per day, which used to be the minimum wage rate till last month when it was revised to Rs.100.

- It was good to see some innovative projects like development of fish ponds and eco-hatchery, and plantations being taken up. Interactions with beneficiaries in the field revealed that they all had bank accounts or post office accounts. They requested for payment of at least Rs.100 a day.
- Payment through banks has increased from 28% in 2008-09 to 61.32% this year. The State would soon be launching bio metric smart cards as well. There are rather long delays in payments.
- Since the wage rate is less than the market rate, more women come for NREGS work, while the men don't mind going further from home for work and getting a market rate.
- Utilisation of allocations / releases has been 69% and 72% in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. It, however seems to be picking up this year.

9. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY)

| YEAR | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 (Up to Sept'09) | |
|--------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | Target | Achievement | Target | Achievement | Target | Achievement |
| No of Houses constructed | 149593 | 150775 | 186,631 | 150,775 | 240446 | 55158 |

Note : (I) Achievements include incomplete houses of previous year.

(Rs.in lakhs)

| FINANCIAL | 2007-08 | 2008 -09 | 2009-10 |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Central Allocation | 30853.65 | 43225.67 | 64914.87 |
| Central funds released | 28948.94 | 65432.765 | 31246.2 |
| State Contribution | 8285.51 | 14779.49 | 0.00 |
| Total Fund available | 47190.61 | 75734.77 | 54581.17 |
| Utilisation of Funds(%) | 43346.69 (92.00%) | 62704.10 (82.79 %) | 33005.11 (60.47) |

- This is one of the most popular schemes. In the field there is a constant clamour for IAY houses.
- The lower than targeted achievement in 2008-09 was due to very late upward revision of target.
- All the beneficiaries I met during my field visit were very satisfied with their houses and had invested their own money as well. The Rs. 38,500 per house provided under the scheme was not adequate. Most of the beneficiaries had also built extensions.
- Credit under DRI (at 4% interest) was not being tracked and it is doubtful if anyone was availing of it.
- The permanent IAY lists, based on the 2002 BPL surveys were displayed in the 3 Gram Panchayat offices I visited. The lists were being followed, category-wise and ward-wise.
- A large group of widows that I met at Mangaldai requested they be given IAY houses, on priority as most of their names were not in the BPL list – at best their husband's names, as head of households were in the list.
- A lot of IAY houses had latrines built under the TSC, but other government schemes like smokeless chulahs had not been converged, systematically – a lot depended on the initiative of the local Deputy Commissioner. Since the houses were built by the beneficiaries themselves, the design was by and large custom-made and of reasonable quality.

10. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

(Rs.in lakhs)

| Financial Status | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (upto Sept'09) | TOTAL |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------|-------|
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|------|-----------|
| Release by GOA | 4000.00 | 1000.00 | 0.00 | 5000.00 |
| Release by GOI | 16268.00 | 16532.51 | 0.00 | 32800.51 |
| Utilization of funds | 20268.00 | 17532.57 | 0.00 | 37800.57 |
| (in %) | (100 %) | (100 %) | | (100 %) |

(PHYSICAL)

| Physical Achievement | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (up to Sept'09) | Total |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| No. of Beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi National Old age Pension Scheme | 6,28,949 | 6,28,950 | 6,29,949 | Same persons |
| No. of Beneficiaries under National Family Benefit Scheme | 7514 | 9636 | 15000 | 32150 |
| No. of Beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi Widow Pension | 0 | 0 | 201557 (Proposed) | 201557 |
| No. of Beneficiaries under Indira Gandhi Disability Pension Scheme | 0 | 0 | 86839 (Proposed) | 86839 |

- While there has been 100% utilisation of funds for Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, the other 2 pension schemes, ie. Indira Gandhi Widow Pension Scheme and Indira Gandhi Disability Pension Scheme had not yet taken off. In fact officers in the field, leave alone potential recipients of pension had not heard of the schemes.
- The State Government is contributing Rs. 50 per month to the Gol amount of Rs.200. Pensions are paid 6 monthly according to officials, however enquires from beneficiaries revealed that they got only a total of Rs.1350 last year. Officials clarified that, that was only 6 months payment. Even so, it should have been Rs.1500.
- It was suggested that even if payments are not made monthly, the beneficiary should be provided a payment slip so that they know how much and for which month they are receiving the pension.
- According to the State Government, 75% payments are being made through banks/post offices. The State Government mentioned that they are streamlining the procedures and trying to ensure payments are made more frequently.
- Beneficiaries of National Family Benefit Scheme were very appreciative of the Rs.10,000 they received but requested for more. Many of them were young widows who should be rehabilitated by providing some kind of skill building so that they can earn a livelihood instead of being dependant on government doles. The local administration was advised accordingly.
- Processes were underway for computerisation and creation of beneficiary data-base.

11. Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

| PMGSY | With Population of | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | 1000+ | 500-999 | 250-499 |
| No of Eligible Habitations | 6102 | 2379 | 1793 |
| Habitation Connected upto 31st Aug,09 | 3293 | 1315 | 1109 |
| Balance (from eligible Habitations) | 2809 | 1064 | 684 |
| PHYSICAL PROGRESS | | | |
| | New Connectivity of Habitations 1000+ | New connectivity (Length in KM) | Up gradation (Length in KMs) |

| | | | |
|--|------|----------|-------|
| 2005-06 | | | |
| Target | 642 | 1500 | |
| Achievement | 346 | 563 | |
| 2006-07 | | | |
| Target | 1300 | 2474.28 | |
| Achievement | 804 | 1552.51 | |
| 2007-08 | | | |
| Target | 995 | 1685 | |
| Achievement | 656 | 1141 | |
| 2008-09 | | | |
| Target | 1860 | 2700 | 13.46 |
| Achievement | 1210 | 1999 | 13.46 |
| 2009-10 | | | |
| Target | 1400 | 2900 | |
| Achievement upto August'09. | 115 | 774.577 | |
| Cumulative achievement (upto 31/8/09) | 3131 | 6002.737 | 13.46 |
| Cumulative Percentage achieved | 71% | 60% | 100% |

(Rs. In Crores)

| Financial Status | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (Upto August,09) |
|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Allocation by GOI | 456 | 731 | 731 |
| Released by GOI | 555 | 967.32 | 600 |
| Expenditure | 608.74 | 1007.06 | 497.77 |

- Though the financial progress under this scheme is excellent, having spent more than they received from Government of India, the physical achievements falls short since many projects are not completed since they require bridges/culverts, in view of the terrain in Assam.
- During the field visits many boards indicating roads were PMGSY roads were visible.
- Some of the roads visited, appeared well maintained.
- Along with the contract for the construction of the road, the PWD also awards the maintenance of the road for 5 years as part of the same deal.

12. National Rural Health Mission (NRHM)

| SL. No. | Action Point (Status as on 31st August, 2009) | | ASSAM |
|---------|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | Number of Rogi Kalyan Samitis registered | District Hospitals (DH) | 22out of 22 |
| | | CHCs | 108 out of 108 |
| | | Other than CHC at or above block level but below District Level | 13 |
| | | PHCs | 844 out of 844 |
| 2 | Number of ASHA selected during | 2005-06 | 8,808 |
| | | 2006-07 | 16,704 |
| | | 2007-08 | 21 |
| | | 2008-09 | 2,939 |
| | | 2009-10 | 200 |
| | | Total | 28,672 |
| 3 | Number of ASHAs who have received training | 1st module | 26,225 |
| | | 2nd module | 26,225 |

| | | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| | | | 3rd module | 26,225 |
| | | | 4th module | 26,225 |
| | | | 5th module | 17,453 |
| 4 | Number of ASHAs in position with drug kits | | | 26,225 |
| 5 | Number of Village Health & Sanitation Committee (VHSC) Constituted | | | 26,816 |
| 6 | Number of SCs (as per RHS 2007) | | | 5,109 |
| 7 | Number of SCs which are functional | In Govt. Building (RHS 2007) | | 1,819 |
| 8 | Number of PHCs (as per RHS 2007) | | | 844 |
| 9 | Total Number of PHCs functioning as 24x7 basis | | at start of NRHM 31/3/2005 | 229 |
| | | | as on 31/3/2008 | 297 |
| | | | As on date | 343 |
| 10 | Number of PHCs | | without a Doctor (RHS 2007) | - |
| | | | where three Staff Nurses have been posted | 343 |
| 11 | Number of Community Health Centre as per RHS 2007 | | | 100 (108 reported) |
| 12 | Total Number of CHCs functioning as 24x7 basis | | at start of NRHM 31/3/2005 | 93 |
| | | | as on 31/3/2008 | 108 |
| | | | As on date | 108 |
| 13 | Total Number of specialists at CHCs | | Required (RHS 2007) | 400 |
| | | | Sanctioned (RHS 2007) | NA |
| | | | In Position (RHS 2007) | NA |
| | | | Appointed on contract under NRHM | 117 |
| 14 | Number of District Hospitals | | | 22 |
| 15 | Total Number of centres operational as FRUs as on date | | DH | 22 |
| | | | SDH | 2 |
| | | | CHC and others level | 35 |
| | | | Total | 59 |
| 16 | Number of Institutional Deliveries | | 07- 08 | 322,557 |
| | | | 08- 09 | 356,620 (55%) |
| | | | 09-10 | 177,967 |
| 17 | Number of beneficiaries of JSY (in Lakhs) | | 07- 08 | 304,741 |
| | | | 08- 09 | 327,894 |
| | | | 09-10 | 155,896 |
| | | | Total | 996,388 |
| 18 | Number of Children vaccinated (in '000s) | Full immunization | 2007-08 | 568,665 |
| | | | 2008-09 | 555,741 |
| 19 | Number of Districts where Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) are working | | | 23 |
| 20 | Number of beneficiaries of Male Sterilisations during | | 2006-07 | |
| | | | 2007-08 | 19 |
| | | | 2008-09 | 1,144 |
| | | | 2009-10 | 4,325 |
| 21 | Number of beneficiaries of Female Sterilisations during | | 2006-07 | |
| | | | 2007-08 | 19,978 |
| | | | 2008-09 | 47,916 |
| | | | 2009-10 | 14,354 |
| 22 | Number of Patients seen in OPD (in 2008-09) | DH (in '000s) | 1,916,894 | |
| | | CHC do | 2,697,644 | |
| | | PHC do | 2,831,120 | |
| 23 | Number of Patients admitted (in 2008-09) | DH (in '000s) | 284,815 | |
| | | CHC do | 187,616 | |
| | | PHC do | 151,855 | |

The Government of Assam is according health and family welfare utmost priority. While many commendable efforts have been made, much still remains to be done. Though expenditure under NRHM has been picking up, it was still only 67% in 2008-09, which was an improvement over 41% in 2006-07. Some of the other important features of the programme are:

- Rogi Kalyan Samitis have been set up in all District Hospitals (DH), Community Health Centres (CHC) and Primary Health Centres (PHC). The actual functioning of these bodies is however very mixed with some doing very well, while others are quite dysfunctional.
- Chronic shortage of medical and para-medical staff is a persisting problem. For example, of the 400 specialists required in CHCs, only 117 are in position and that too all of them are on contract basis. Similarly 4334 of the required 4592 ANMs in the Sub-Centres (SC) are contractual staff.
- However the State is trying to tackle this problem in multiple ways:- (a) MBBS aspirants can get a MD seat only if they put in at least one year of service in the rural areas; (b) 3 new medical colleges and 2 new nursing schools are being set up in the state; (c) residential quarters for staff are being constructed in rural areas, in clusters, to encourage staff to stay in the field.
- On the other hand however, all the posts of ASHAs have been filled up and nearly all have received training as well. They seem to be doing a good job and the Ashas I met seemed very motivated. They however suggested that they should be given an honorarium like AWWs instead of incentives. They have been given cycles to increase their mobility.
- 343 of the 844 PHCs and all the CHCs are functioning 24X7.
- Institutional deliveries have risen from 23% according to NFHS III to 55% in 2008-09.
- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is doing well and is very popular. Seven private institutions have been accredited under JSY.
- The percentage of fully immunised children increased from 19% in NFHS I to 32% in NFHS III and service statistics peg the figure at 70% in 2008-09. Service statistics are however not always considered fully reliable.
- Female sterilizations are still taking precedence. However male sterilizations have increased from 19 in 2007-08 to 4325 so far in 2009-10.
- The State has also started some innovative new initiatives described below:- (a) Boat clinics in riverine areas (b) '108' Ambulance services whereby anyone can call "108" for an ambulance in an emergency (c) The State has entered into 'private-public-partnerships' with the tea gardens for providing health services in the gardens (d) mobile clinics in inaccessible areas (e) evening OPDs which greatly benefit the working classes especially the daily wagers.
- The State of Assam has also introduced 2 new schemes from their own resources. The first is 'Mamoni' for pregnant women (not limited to BPL) who receive Rs 500 each on going for 1st and 3rd ANC visits respectively. The second scheme is called 'Majoni' and is for the first 2 girl children in a family. At the time of the birth of the girl child Rs.5000 is put in a Fixed Deposit account in her name. She gets access to it only at the age of 18, if she has appeared for the 10th class exam. It was suggested that full immunization and not being married till 18 could be considered as other conditions.
- In order to have concurrent monitoring and evaluation, it was suggested that every year there should be quick estimates made of IMR and MMR
- My visit to Jakhbandha PHC was very encouraging. The PHC catered to 119 villages, 21 SCs and 7 tea estates. It had a total staff strength of 68 with 13 doctors (11 in position) plus 106 Ashas. Though constructed as a 30 bedded PHC, it was running as a 42 bedded institution and when I visited, 38 beds were occupied. The place looked clean and the patients well cared for. I talked to some of the women who were very satisfied with the services.

13. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS)

(Rs. In lakh)

| Sr. | For ICDS (General) | For Supplementary Nutrition |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------------|
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------------|

| No. | | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 upto Aug/ Sept. 2009 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 upto 8/2009 |
|-----|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Fund released by GOI | 8585.93 | 16182.20 | 3723.73 | 3376.61 | 10541.20 | 17660.74 |
| 2 | Fund released by State | - | - | - | 6982.97 | 7551.45 | - |
| 3 | Total Available Funds | 8585.93 | 16182.20 | 3723.73 | 10359.58 | 18092.65 | 17660.74 |
| 4 | Expenditure | 8585.93 (100%) | 16182.20 (100%) | 3723.73 (100%) | 9098.71 (87.8 %) | 9539.82 (52.7%) | 4955.86 (28%) |

ICDS (Physical)

| S. No. | Year | 2007-08 (as on 31-3-2008) | 2008-09 (as on 31-3-2009) | 2009-10 upto August, 2009 | | |
|----------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | No. of ICDS Projects | | | | | |
| (a) | Sanctioned | Nil | 5 | Nil | | |
| (b) | Operational | Nil | Nil | Nil | | |
| 2 | No of AWCs | | | | | |
| (a) | Sanctioned | Nil | 19646 AWCs* | Nil | | |
| | | | 2967 Mini AWCs* | | | |
| (b) | Operational (existing functional) | 36835 | 36849 (no new ones) | 36918 (no new ones) | | |
| 3 | Beneficiaries of SNP | | | | | |
| (a) | Children of (6 months to 6 years) | 2312856 | 2866809 | 1943765 | | |
| (b) | Pregnant & Lactating Mothers | 1058000 | 1142319 | 555360 | | |
| 4 | Beneficiaries of Pre-School Education | | | | | |
| (a) | Boys (3-6 years) | 810326 | 810678 | 812196 | | |
| (b) | Girls (3-6 years) | 662994 | 663282 | 664524 | | |
| (c) | Total (B+G) | 1473320 | 1473960 | 1476720 | | |

* Operationalisation of 19646 AWC and 2967 Mini AWC with 5 new ICDS Project is under process which were sanctioned by Govt. of India in the Month of December, 2008 and February, 2009 and will be made functional within October, 2009 as the selection of functionaries are under way. .

- Though the State was sanctioned 19,646 new Angan Wari Centres (AWCs) and 2,967 new mini-AWCs in 2008-09, they have not yet been made operational. Recruitment is underway and the centres are likely to be made operational by 1st November. Visits to the field revealed that this programme is not delivering as it should.
- In the 5 AWCs I visited in Salmara, and Gormur in Naogaon district, Konar Bora Chuburi and Likhak Gaon in Samitpur district and Kharghuli in Guwahati town, supply of SNP to children and pregnant and lactating mothers started on 15 October, 21 July, 16 October, 14 October and 15 July respectively for the year 2009-10 - . This is really distressing. And this is when funds for SNP were available. In fact, in 2007-08 and 2008-09 only 88 and 53% of funds available were utilised. On making enquiries from the District Social Welfare Officers, Programme Officers and CDPOs of ICDS, it appears that it takes very long for funds to travel down to the AWC Management Committee's (AWCMC) bank account. This

committee makes local purchases of food grains and other ingredients required for SNP. Menu includes khichri, sweet sooji halwa and savory flat rice. Purchases are done, once a week by the Angan Wari Worker (AWW). Cooking is usually done by the Angan Wari Helper (AWH).

- All adolescent girls are also being fed at the AWC. This is really not part of the ICDS programme. Under the Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) of the Health Ministry there is a component of feeding adolescent girls but it is not universal for all girls like is being provided by the Government of Assam.
- It appears that last year SNP was supplied only for 75 to 129 days in different AWCs as against the norm of 300 days a year.
- Attendance at the AWCs was also very low. Children who were not present were marked present and some school children (in regular school uniforms) and other non registered children were also present at the AWC during my visits.
- AWWs still maintains 13 to 18 registers. New instructions regarding maintaining only 4 registers do not seem to have reached them. Existing registers were incomplete or carelessly filled in most cases.
- Pre-school education seems to be slightly better delivered. However it may be mentioned that government lower primary schools all have Ka-shreni (nursery) classes in addition to the regular class I to IV. Most children go to ka-shreni and not AWCs. But they seem to be registered both in AWCs and lower primary schools. Most schools provide them mid-day meals in schools too. Possibility of booking expenditure for these children both from ICDS and MDM needs to be looked into.
- Supervision by Supervisors, CDPOs and POs is very slack if not completely absent. Shortage of staff and lack of mobility seem to be primary reasons for this. Even though the AWC at Likhak Gaon that I visited was selected by the department, the last visit by the CDPO and Supervisor was on 2/6/2009. Even the Guwahati AWC was visited in Jan 09, then in June 09 and last time in Aug 09. Supervisors have to supervise 20 to 310 AWCs.
- Out of 37,000 AWCs, 22,000 have their own buildings, which is better than many states.

14. Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

| Sl. No. | Habitations | Total Target under Bharat | Target | Achievement | Target | Achievement | Target | Achievement |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| | | | | (%) | | (%) | | (%) |
| 1 | a) Uncovered | 7375 | 2456 | 88.88 | 273 | 50.55 | 135 | 6.67 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| b) Slipped Back | 31535 | 5318 | 33.17 | 8599 | 80.56 | 6630 | 19.03 |
| c) Quality Affected | 29565 | 5920 | 18.80 | 13954 | 9.78 | 6087 | 10.38 |
| d) Total | 68475 | 13694 | 36.95 | 22826 | 36.33 | 12852 | 14.81 |

Financial Component

(Rs. In Lakh)

| | | 2007 - 08 | 2008 - 09 | 2009 - 10 (upto Sept'09) | Total |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | GOI Allocation | 33596.24 | 24655.96 | 30160.00 | 88385.20 |
| 2 | Released by GOI | 29047.33 | 24389.37 | 9173.67 | 62610.37 |
| | | (O.B. as on 1.4.07 =1986.82) | (O.B. as on 1.4.08 =17722) | (O.B. as on 01.04.09 = 5695) | |
| | | Total = 31034.15 | Total = 42111.55 | Total = 9230.62 | |
| 3 | Expenditure in % | 55.16 | 88.15 | 84.50 | 99.09 |

- Performance of this programme has been slow and the State Government has cited the following reasons for the same – (i) Most of the uncovered habitations fall in the NC Hills area where the role of the Public Health Engineering Department is not always recognised. (ii) law and order problem in many areas (iii) it took some time to find a technically sound solution for the arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. (iv) Late and less releases of state share. (v) Flood situation hampers work from time to time. Progress is however picking up in 2009-10.
- The ARWSP projects I visited in Borbhugia, Kaliabor appeared to be well constructed but had only recently started running. While quite a few public stand posts had been installed, very few private connections had been taken.
- At Mizibari Water Supply Scheme, which I visited as well, during discussions with the Gram Panchayat members, they complained of minor leakages in the pipe line which was discouraging the people from taking private connections for which the charges are Rs.50 per month. The PHE department assured that the leaks would be fixed soon.
- The main problem in these areas seems to be the quality (high iron content) of the water and not the quantity.

8. Rural Sanitation programme

| Sl.No. | Description | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 (As on 13 th September'09) | |
|----------------------------|--|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| | | Target | Achievement (%) | Target | Achievement (%) | Target | Achievement (%) |
| 1 | Individual Households with Toilet Facility | * | 3.01 | * | 7.31 | * | 4.43 |
| 2 | Schools with Toilet Facility | | 4.45 | | 23.86 | | 13.84 |
| 3 | Anganwadi with Toilet Facility | | 1.9 | | 7.11 | | 9.28 |
| Financial Component | | | | | | | |
| (Rs. In lakh) | | | | | | | |
| Sl.No. | Description | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | | | |
| 1 | GOI Allocation | ** | | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2 | Release by GOI | Rs. 4256.13 | Rs. 8310.66 | Rs. 726.18 |
| 3 | Expenditure | Rs. 875.78 | Rs. 4102.74 | Rs. 2219.20 |

* The activity wise target is project based as a whole.

- Progress of this flagship programme is very slow and very disappointing. Some reasons given by the State Government Department are (i) there are too many aspirants but resources are limited, so it is becoming difficult to finalise the list of beneficiaries (ii) Unit costs are too low and not realistic. The actual cost for a AWC toilet is Rs.8000 while the approved unit cost is Rs.5000. Similarly, for a school toilet block the actual cost is Rs55,000, while the approved unit cost is Rs.40,000.
- It was suggested that convergence with SSA, NREGA and ICDS be considered. It appears that the departments do not even talk to each other.
- The individual household latrines that I saw in the field appeared to have been constructed as best they could, within the constraints of resources. Many beneficiaries had contributed their own resources and built bamboo mat walls or brick walls and doors or just used plastic sheets. Some had even increased the capacity of the soak pits, at their cost.
- The beneficiaries, especially the women, I spoke to were very happy with the latrines which were being used.
- Since these are small works which are implemented through the Zilla Parishads, it appears they are not given the importance they deserve.

16. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

| Financial | | Rs. In lakh | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Sl No. | Year | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (Up to Sept'09) | Total |
| 1 | Approved outlay | 61,671.62 | 60,664.09 | 59,369.50 | 181,705.21 |
| 2 | Opening balance | 35,503.33 | 16,329.44 | 4,756.30 | 56,589.07 |
| 3 | Central Share released | 28,877.46 | 42,106.41 | 22,480.00 | 93,463.87 |
| 4 | State Share released | 3,180.44 | 5,000.00 | 1,137.00 | 9,317.44 |
| 5 | Other receipt | 1,023.96 | 2,567.22 | 14.86 | 3,606.04 |
| 6 | Total Funds Available (2+3+4+5) | 68,585.19 | 66,003.07 | 28,388.16 | 162,976.42 |
| 7 | Total Expenditure | 52,255.75 | 61,300.77 | 16,646.45 | 130,202.97 |
| 8 | Percentage of expenditure (against available fund) | 76% | 93% | 59% | 80% |

Physical Parameters - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

| S.No | | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | 2009-2010 |
|------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Ratio of Primary to Uper Primary (Ideal is 2:1) | 5:1 | 5:1 | - |
| 2 | No. of new school building constructed | | | |
| (a) | Sanctioned | 204 | - | 1521 |
| (b) | Made operational | 204 | - | - |
| 3 | Drop out | | | |
| (a) | At Lower primary level | 9.83% | 8.80% | - |

| | | | | |
|----------|--|---------|--------|------|
| (b) | At Upper primary level | 15.97% | 15.50% | - |
| 4 | No of schools with adequate Drinking Water Facilities | | | |
| (a) | Sanctioned | - | - | - |
| (b) | Made operational | - | - | - |
| 5 | No of schools with adequate Toilet Facilities | | | |
| (a) | Sanctioned | - | 2799 | 1845 |
| (b) | Made operational | - | 2799 | 1845 |
| 6 | Pupil Teacher Ratio | 27.7 | 26.8 | - |
| 7 | Gross Enrolment Ratio at Primary | | | |
| (a) | For Boys | 100% | 102.8% | |
| (b) | For Girls | 102% | 104.1% | |
| (c) | For Schedule Tribes | 101.7% | 97.9% | |
| (d) | For Schedule Castes | 107.20% | 108.9% | |
| 8 | Gross Enrolment Ratio at Upper Primary | | | |
| (a) | For Boys | 95% | 98.7% | |
| (b) | For Girls | 102% | 96.8% | |
| (c) | For Schedule Tribes | 99.3% | 93.9% | |
| (d) | For Schedule Castes | 109.6% | 106.7% | |

N.B.

No. of Govt-Provincialised Primary schools=30053

No. of Upper Primary Schools= 12790

School building constructed since 2002-03 is 7123 and PAB approval for the year 2009-10 is 1521

Additional Classroom constructed since 2002-03 is 40583 and PAB approval for the year 2009-10 is 3455 nos.

Girls Toilets constructed since 2002-03 is 5251 and PAB approval for the year 2009-10 is 1845 nos.

The total literacy in the state of Assam is 63.3% which is even less than the national average. The education infrastructure scenario in Assam is quite unique. Most primary and upper primary schools are started by the community / private individuals – they are called ‘venture schools’. Government later takes them over and they are then referred to as ‘provincialised’ schools. At present about 8000 ‘venture’ schools are waiting to be provincialised.

- No new primary or upper primary schools have been sanctioned for Assam during this plan period, so far.
- All primary schools have a ‘ka-shreni’ or nursery class. Children between 5-6 years often attend both AWC and ‘ka-shreni’, as school starts at 10.00 a.m. while AWC timings are 8.00a.m. to 11a.m.
- Ratio of primary to upper primary schools is 5 primary schools to 1 upper primary school, which is much less than the norm required by SSA of 2:1
- Though drop out rates have decreased slightly, they are still very high at 8.8% and 15.5% for primary and upper primary respectively.
- The number of pupils per teacher at 26.8 is not too bad, but the distribution is very uneven and needs to be rationalised.
- While gross enrolment rates (GER) for girls and boys and S.C.s at primary level and boys at upper primary level has seen an increase, it is disappointing to see a fall in the GER for STs at primary level and girls, SCs and STs at upper primary level.
- Random questioning of students in the schools I visited, revealed that the quality of education was also not very satisfactory.
- School infrastructure is not always adequate. In one school (Darigazi Lower Primary School) that I visited there was one big shed where 5 classes (separated with 4’ partitions) are held simultaneously. The school had 28 students and 3 teachers for 5 classes.
- All the schools I visited had separate toilets for girls and boys, though some were kept locked and sometimes the number of toilets were inadequate. Most toilets are built by the school management committees, locally.

- No retention policy is followed upto class VIII, so no one fails. Weak students are given 'remedial classes'.
- Expenditure increased from 76% in 2007-08 to 93% in 2008-09.
- Performance of the State has improved with regard to in-service teachers training, supply of free text books to children, teachers grant and EGS centres.

17. Mid Day Meal Scheme

| Financial: | | Rs. in lakh | | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Sl. No. | | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (Upto Sept, 09) | Total |
| 1 | Central Assistance Admissible | 28604.78 | 27156.48 | 17632.01 | 73393.27 |
| 2 | Central Assistance released | 20496.41 | 24005.28 | 4407.46 | 48909.15 |
| 3 | State Share Released | 2208.01 | 2499.95 | - | 4707.96 |
| 4 | Total funds available (2+3) | 22704.42 | 26505.23 | 4407.46 | 53617.11 |
| 5 | Expenditure (%) | 71.22% | 28.34% | - | 60.28% |
| Physical | | | | | |
| 1 | No. of students approved by PAB/GOI | | | | |
| a) | At Primary level | 3525478 | 2427900 | 2427900 | 8381278 |
| b) | At Upper Primary level | 606670 | 1835693 | 1350000 | 3792363 |
| c) | Total students (a+b) | 4132148 | 4263593 | 3777900 | 12173641 |
| 2 | No. of students provided MDM | | | | |
| a) | At Primary level | 3830622 | 2427900 | 3102131 | 9360653 |
| b) | At Upper Primary level | | 337034 | 1211258 | 1548292 |
| c) | Total students (a+b) | 3830622 | 2764934 | 4313389 | 10908945 |
| 3 | Nos. of working days approved by PAB/GOI | | | | |
| | I. Primary | 217 | 206 | 205 | 628 |
| | II. Upper Primary | 140 | 206 | 205 | 551 |
| 4 | Nos. of working days provided MDM | | | | |
| | I. Primary | 131 | 121 | 94 | 346 |
| | II. Upper Primary | Nil | 14 | 88 | 102 |

This programme has been a late starter in Assam, but is now picking up.

- Expenditure was only 71% in 2007-08 and fell to 28% in 2008-09. In this financial year, there has been no expenditure upto September 2009. No state share has been released in 2009-10.
- In 2007-08, 38.31 lakh primary school children received MDMs as against the PAB approved number of 35.25 lakh. However this number fell to 24.279 lakhs (same as number approved by PAB) in 2008-09. This year (2009-10) 31.02 lakh children have already been provided MDM upto Sept 2009.
- The situation of the upper primary school children is not at all encouraging. In fact in 2007-08, not a single student was provided MDMs and in 2008-09 only 3.37 lakh students were given MDMs for 14 days in the whole year. However, it is picking up this year as 12.11 lakh students have been provided MDMs for 88 days, upto Sept.2009.
- In 2007-08 and 2008-09 primary school students were provided MDMs for 131 and 121 days respectively as against the PAB approved days of 217 and 206 respectively.
- Meals are cooked by mother's groups, local NGOs and hired cooks at different schools.

- Menu is either khichri, or dal rice and vegetables or sweet kheer. The day I visited one school was serving dal and rice and one school dal rice and mixed vegetables (potatoes, soya chunks, papaya and pumpkin).
- Most of the children in one school (Amolapty Lower Primary School, Nagoan) that I visited did not want any rice as they get that at home. They suggested some fruit, or bread-butter or biscuits etc. In fact eating a meal at noon or lunch time is not a custom in Assam. The custom is to eat rice in the morning before leaving the house for school or work and then have a snack at lunchtime. This matter needs to be studied further.
- Most schools have their own kitchens built from SSA funds or MDM funds. Cleanliness was satisfactory. Children bring their own plates / utensils.
- The head master of the school usually buys the dal, condiments and vegetables once a week.
- The State Government complained about late and erratic release of rice and the low cost of cooking provided by the centre. Since cooking costs include cost of dal, condiments, vegetables, fuel etc., it definitely needs to be revised.
- The State has set up Steering and Monitoring Committees. Guwahati University is doing third party monitoring of the programme.

18. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

GUWAHATI

(Progress up to September,2009)

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | Description | Project-1 | Project-2 | Project-3 | Project-4 | Project-5 | Total |
|---------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | (Name of the Project) | (Name of the Project) | (Name of the Project) | (Name of the Project) | (Name of the Project) | |
| 1 | Under Sub- Mission (UIG/UIDSSMT/ BSUP/IHSDP) | Solid Waste Management (SWM) | BSUP-1 | South Guwahati Water Supply | BSUP-II | Buses | |
| 2 | Approved cost | 3517 | 5395 | 28094 | 5449 | 5255 | 47710 |
| | &date of approval | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | |
| 3 | Cost Sharing | 90:10:00 | 90:09:01 | 90:10:00 | 90:09:01 | 90:10:00 | |
| a) | ACA Committed | 3165.3 | 4855.5 | 25284.6 | 4904.1 | 4729.5 | 42939 |
| b) | State Share | 351.7 | 485.55 | 2809.4 | 490.41 | 525.5 | 4662.6 |
| c) | ULB Share | Nil | 53.95 | Nil | 54.49 | Nil | 108.44 |
| d) | Total | 3517 | 5395 | 28094 | 5449 | 5255 | 47710 |
| 4 | Funds Released | | | | | | |
| a) | ACA Released | 791 | 1214 | 6321 | Nil | 711 | 9037 |
| b) | State Share | 88 | 109 | 632 | Nil | Nil | 829 |
| c) | ULB Share | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| d) | Total Fund Released | 879 | 1323 | 6953 | Nil | 711 | 9866 |
| 5 | Expenditure | | | | | | |
| a) | ACA Share | 791 | 1005 | 57.42 | Nil | Nil | 1853.4 |
| b) | State Share | 88 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 88 |
| c) | ULB Share | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| d) | Total Expenditure | 879 | 1005 | 57.42 | Nil | Nil | 1941.4 |

| 6 | Description of project | Solid Waste Management | Construction of Houses | Water Supply | Construction of Houses | Purchase of 200 Buses. | |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| a) | No. of Houses sanctioned | | 1232 | | 1028 | 50 buses ordered | |
| c) | No. of Houses under construction | | 1104 | | Nil | Orders for 150 buses being issued | |

N.B.=2nd Installments of SWM=791 lakhs; BSUP-1=1214 lakh and SGWS=6321 lakhs; total=Rs8326 lakh released by Gol but Yet to be released by the State

- Guwahati City has been declared a mission city under JNNURM. M/o Urban Development has approved five schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 477 Crores, against which about Rs.99 crore has been released and utilization had been of the order of Rs.20 crore. Guwahati city has 5 projects under JNNURM – one for solid waste management, one for water supply, one for busses and 2 for basic services for the urban poor.
- Guwahati Municipal Corp (GMC) won the second prize for reforms. It has computerised its entire property tax data base and made it very user-friendly. The GMC has adopted the unit area method and GIS system and has put in place self assessment of property tax like in income-tax. Accounting reforms have also been done. GMC has been given a B+ credit rating. They have adopted double entry balance sheet.
- I also visited the BSUP I project at Fatasil where 1104 houses were under construction, at a cost of Rs.51 crore. Each housing unit of 27.40 sq mts. comprises 2 rooms, a kitchen, a toilet and bath and a small verandha. The unit is likely to cost about Rs.4.8 lakh each. Each allottee will have to pay about Rs.2500 and will not be allowed to sell for some years. The houses are proposed to be allotted in joint names of husband and wife, whose biometrics will also be taken.
- I also visited the Solid Waste Management Project being set up in PPP mode. While JNNURM had contributed Rs 35 crore to the project, the private company had put in Rs. 67 crore. The company will run the project for 20 years. The dumping /landfill site, just outside Guwahati was presently just a heap of garbage, emitting a horrendous stench. However the project envisages proper collection of waste, its transportation to the landfill site, sorting and segregation of waste, composting, and even generation of electricity from the waste. The last component is not part of JNNURM and will require bank funding.
- Progress of the projects seems to be hampered due to lengthy process involved in the funds reaching the implementing bodies. For example, though 2nd instalment of funds had been released by Government of India for project 1 to 3 above, the State Government had not yet released the funds to the GMC. Release of state share of the projects is also very uneven and in most cases state's share has not been released, though in the statement above it is being shown as released.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)

Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) (Progress upto September, 2009)

Rs. in lakhs

| Sl. No | | Project IHSDP 2006-07 (3 projects) | Project IHSDP 2007-08 (9 projects) | Project IHSDP 2008-09 (3 projects) | Total (15 projects) |
|--------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Under Sub - Mission IHSDP | | | | |
| 2. a | Approved cost | 1224.34 | 2606.72 | 2876.1 | 6707.16 |

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| b | Date of Approval | 27.02.07 | 27.04.07, 26.09.07 & 6.10.07 | 11.02.09 & 26.02.09 | |
| 3 | Cost Sharing | | | | |
| a | ACA Committed | 1078.5 | 2232.14 | 2337.82 | 5648.46 |
| b | State Share | 145.84 | 374.58 | 538.28 | 1058.7 |
| c | ULB Share | | | | |
| d | Total | 1224.34 | 2606.72 | 2876.1 | 6707.16 |
| 4 | Funds Released | | | | |
| a | ACA Released | 539.25 | 1116.09 | 1168.91 | 2824.25 |
| b | State Share | 56.54 | 81.52 | | 138.06 |
| c | ULB Share | | | | |
| d | Total Released | 595.79 | 1197.61 | 1168.91 | 2962.31 |
| 5 | Expenditure | | | | |
| a | ACA Spent | 266.98 | 71.75 | | 338.73 |
| b | State Share | 2.78 | | | 2.78 |
| c | ULB Share | | | | |
| d | Total Expenditure | 269.76 | 71.75 | | 341.51 |
| 6 | No. of Houses Sanctioned | 613 | 4780 | 1974 | 7367 |
| 7 | No. of Houses completed / under construction | 118/105 | 130/264 | Nil | 248/369 |

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) - UIDSSMT
Progress upto September, 2009 *(Rs. In lakhs)*

| Sl. No | Description | 3 Storm Water Drainage Projects during 2006-07 | 1 Water Supply Project during 2006-07 | 13 Storm Water Drainage Projects during 2007-08 | 1 Water Supply Project during 2007-08 | 12 Storm Water Drainage Project during 2008-09 | Total (30 projects) |
|-------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. a | Approved cost | 1877.63 | 1055.55 | 3405.74 | 815.88 | 13628.47 | 20783.27 |
| b | Date of Approval | 31.3.2007 | 31.3.2007 | 26.3.2008 & 4.4.2008 | 26.3.2008 | 24.10.2008 & 17.2.2009 | |
| 2 | Cost Sharing | | | | | | |
| a | ACA Committed | 1689.87 | 949.99 | 3065.17 | 734.29 | 12265.62 | 18704.94 |
| b | State Share | 187.76 | 105.56 | 340.57 | 81.59 | 1362.85 | 2078.33 |
| c | ULB Share | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| d | Total | 1877.63 | 1055.55 | 3405.74 | 815.88 | 13628.47 | 20783.27 |
| 3 | Funds Released | | | | | | |
| a | ACA Released | 1345.07 | 490.82 | 1572.83 | 367.65 | 6179.57 | 9955.94 |
| b | State Share | 93.87 | 52.77 | 25.67 | Nil | Nil | 172.31 |
| c | ULB Share | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| d | Total Released | 1438.94 | 543.59 | 1598.50 | 367.65 | 6179.57 | 10128.25 |
| 4 | Expenditure | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| a | ACA Spent | 780.03 | Nil | 147.63 | Nil | Nil | 927.66 |
| b | State Share | 41.44 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 41.44 |
| c | ULB Share | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| d | Total Expenditure | 821.47 | Nil | 147.63 | Nil | Nil | 969.10 |

- Assam has 15 projects under IHSDP and 30 projects under UIDSSMT. Almost all projects are running behind schedule.
- This is mainly due to late release of funds and the channels through which funds have to pass before reaching the implementing agency. Examples were cited when funds took 20 months from the time of release by GoI till they were received by the urban local body. It is suggested that funds could be released to a State Urban Development Agency, which could be a 'society'. This would be appropriate because the JNNURM is a 'mission' with a definite time frame and objectives.
- The State is also not releasing its share thus further compounding the problem.
- The short working season and internal unrest / insurgency also greatly hampers execution of works.
- State Government suggested that 10% of the total allocation of JNNURM may be made available for the NE states, like for many other schemes.

19. Technology Mission for Horticulture in the North East (TMNE)

| Sl. No | Physical Progress | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | | Total | |
|----------------------|--|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | | Target | Achivmnt | Target | Achivmnt | Target | Achivmnt | Target | Achivmnt |
| | ACTIVITIES | | | | | | | | |
| | Mini Mission – II - For improved production & productivity | | | | | | | | |
| a | Area Expansion & Rejuvenation programme (Ha) | 11355 | 11355 | 14895 | 13855 | 16540 | 4585 | 42790 | 29795 |
| b | Bee Colony & Hives (nos) | 1500 | 1500 | 4500 | 2300 | - | - | 6000 | 3800 |
| c | Farmers Trained | 4670 | 4670 | 2540 | 2424 | 2600 | 496 | 9810 | 7590 |
| d | Women SHGs formed | 250 | 250 | 255 | 185 | - | - | 505 | 435 |
| e | Women Trained | 5000 | 5000 | 2002 | 1552 | - | - | 7002 | 6552 |
| f | Supervisors Training Centre | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| (Rs. In lakh) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Financial | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 | | Total | |
| 1 | Opening balance | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Allocation by GOI | 2680.7 | | 3952 | | 3300 | | 9932.7 | |
| 3 | Released by GOI | 2680 | | 3675 | | 800 | | 7155 | |
| 4 | State share released | Nil | | Nil | | Nil | | Nil | |

| | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------|------|------|--------------|
| 5 | Total Fund available (3+4) | 2680 | 3675 | 800 | 7155 |
| 6 | Expenditure (%) | 100 | 92.5 | 82.5 | 97.77 |

- The Technology Mission on Horticulture for the North-East is one of the most useful and liked flagship programmes in Assam and the north-east in general. It also has vast potential in Assam.
- Assam has not yet taken up any activities under Mini-Mission I (Research), Mini-Mission III (Post Harvest Management and Marketing), and Mini-Mission IV (Processing and Export). They have however sent proposals in 2007-08 for Mini-Mission III but approvals are yet to be received.
- Setting up some common facilities for processing and marketing for two or more of the north-eastern states should also be considered since the states are in close proximity of each other and may not require separate facilities in each state.
- The physical performance in 2008-09 has been lower than that in 2007-08, but the expenditure increased from Rs.2680 lakhs in 2007-08 to about Rs.3500 lakhs in 2008-09.
- In the current year (2009-10) however the GoI has only released Rs.800 lakhs most of which has been spent. The State Government has not released its share either in 2007-08, 2008-09 or the current year.
- The present cost norms are not realistic. For example the cost of cultivation of 1 hectare of banana is Rs.55,000 while the norm is Rs.15,000 only. Cost norms need to be revised especially for the north-east.
- I visited Benganhati Village where Assam lemon was being cultivated on madrasa land by the community. Till the lemon plants are fully grown at 4years, farmers do inter-cultivation of vegetables, chillies and black gram. They are presently getting a return of about Rs.22,500 per ha. Assam lemon as a new crop is picking up very well in the State.
- Vermiculture using water hyacinth and banana plant waste is a very interesting and promising activity. I visited a unit in Senchowa village where the entrepreneur was supported under TMNE for 2 units at a cost of Rs.30,000 and he has now expanded to 5 units after investing Rs.2.5 lakhs. The bio-fertilizer produced is marketed under the name of 'Vermivita' and in view of the emphasis these days on organic products, has great potential. The water hyacinth which grows in abundance is collected free of cost from the road side and banana plants that have lived their life are also considered waste. These raw materials are decomposed / acted upon by nature and special earthworms which are native of Africa.
- Another activity which has great potential that I visited was production of 'patcholi oil' from patcholi plants which is indigenous to Indonesia but which grows easily in Assam. This Kaliobar nursery owner sells the patcholi plants to farmers and buys back the patcholi leaves from them. The oil is extracted at the nursery from the leaves and is used as a perfume fixer which sells at Rs.4000 per kg. This initiative also has great potential.

20. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP)

A. MAJOR/MEDIUM

| | | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (upto Sept'09) | Total |
|---|---|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| 1 | No of Projects Approved | 6 | 5 | 4 | 15 |
| 2 | No. of Projects Completed | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| 3 | Irrigation Potential Targeted ('000 hectares) | 5.2 | 25.658 | 88.106 | 118.964 |
| 4 | Irrigation Potential Created('000 Hectares) | 4.551 | 8.795 | - | 13.346 |

Financial

| | | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (upto Sept'09) | Total |
|---|------------------------|---------|---------|------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Amount released by GOI | 1519 | 9163.76 | 1200.4 | 11883.16 |
| 2 | Expenditure | 588.8 | 4533.26 | 5780.70 | 10902.76 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|---------|----------|--------|
| 3 | Unspent Balance | 930.2 | 4630.50 | -4580.30 | 980.40 |
| 4 | % Utilisation | 38.76 | 49.47 | 481.56 | 91.74 |

B. MINOR

| | | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (upto Sept'09) | Total |
|---|---|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| 1 | No of Projects Approved | 92 | 265 | 104 | 461 |
| 2 | No. of Projects Completed | 72 | 30 | | 102 |
| 3 | Irrigation Potential Targeted ('000 ha) | 39.431 | 112.279 | 37.444 | 189.154 |
| 4 | Irrigation Potential Created('000 Hectares) | 31.576 | 9.653 | NIL | 41.229 |

Financial

| | | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (upto Sept'09) | Total |
|---|------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Amount Released By GOI | 6708.64 | 18125.3 | 12109.49 | 36943.43 |
| 2 | Expenditure | NIL | 13655.46 | 7060.72 | 20716.177 |
| 3 | Unspent Balance | 6708.64 | 4469.84 | 5048.77 | 16227.249 |
| 4 | % Utilisation | NIL | 75.3 | 58.3 | 56.08 |

- It is most distressing to note that 4 major and medium irrigation projects, viz Dhansiri I/P, Champamati I/P, Borolia I/P and Buridihing I/P have been under construction for 20-25 years. The State Government has committed to completing them, in a truncated form, by March 2010 to achieve an additional irrigation potential of 88,106 hectare (balance potential) for which an amount of Rs. 116.51 crore as central assistance and Rs.12.96 crore as state share will be required.
- In the minor irrigation sector, 357 schemes have been sanctioned during 2007-08 and 2008-09 to achieve a potential of 1,51,710 hectare at an estimated cost of Rs.882.4037 Crore. All the schemes are at different stages of construction and targeted to be completed within 2010.
- Land Acquisition issues often delay completion of projects and are being tackled with assistance from the district administration.
- Progress under AIBP needs to be stepped up considerably.

21. Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana

| Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (As on 30/09/09) | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Sl. No. | | 2007 - 2008 | | 2008 - 2009 | | 2009 - 10 | |
| | | Target | Achievement (%) | Target | Achievement (%) | Target | Achievement (%) |
| 1 | BPL Household given connectivity | 29794 | 300 (1.04%) | 150142 | 2700 (15.35%) | 521,843 | 60,000 (12.17%) |
| 2 | Unelectrified Villages electrified | 96 | 84 (87.50%) | 1127 | 650 (60.87%) | 2973 | 297(10.1%) |
| 3 | Intensification of Electrified Villages | 232 | 75.40% | 1847 | 35.46% | 6642 | 11.28% |

| Financial Component | | (Rs. in Lakh) | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| Sl.No. | | 2007 - 2008 | 2008 - 2009 | 2009 - 10 |
| 1 | Funds released by GOI | 10421.10 | 28129.75 | 39182.63 |
| 2 | Funds Utilized | 7944.50 | 11998.32 | 25224.83 |
| 3 | Percentage of Utilization | 76.23% | 42.65% | 64.38% |

- Performance of this programme has been very slow, especially with regard to giving electricity connections to BPL households.
- Only 1%, 15% and 12% of the target for giving BPL households connections has been achieved in 207-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. This is quite dismal. The State has explained this situation by mentioning that the SC /ST households who are mostly the BPL households are very spread out and inaccessible.
- Utilisation of funds has improved from Rs.79 cr in 2007-08 to Rs. 252 cr. already upto Sept 2009. The State Government has assured that the targets including the backlog for electrification of villages and intensification of electrified villages will be achieved within the stipulated period.
- This programme needs a push, especially in view of the importance of electricity connectivity for development and the quality of life.

22. Accelerated Power Development and Reform programme

| Sl. No. | Description | Up to 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | Total |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Nos. of Projects sanctioned | 14 (for 14 Circles) | - | - | 14 |
| 2 | Value of Project sanctioned | 650.73 Cr. | - | - | 650.73 Cr. |
| 3 | No. of Projects completed | - | - | 14 (Short closed) | |
| 4 | Value of Projects completed | - | - | 619.92 Cr. | 619.92 Cr. |
| 5 | AT & C loss | 31% | 30% | 31% (Upto July'09) | |
| 6 | Commercial losses | --- | --- | --- | |
| 7 | Feeder Metering (%) | 100% | - | - | 100% |
| 8 | Consumer Metering (%) | 97.50% | - | - | 97.50% |
| 9 | Amount released | | | | |
| a) | Loan | 64.525 Cr. | - | - | 64.525 Cr. |
| b) | Grant | 473.715 Cr. | 100.00 Cr. | - | 573.715 Cr. |
| c) | Total | 538.34 Cr. | 100.00 Cr. | - | 638.34 Cr. |

- The Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme has closed in March 2009 and the Revised APDRP has been initiated.
- Of the 14 sanctioned projects under APDRP, all 14 have been short closed.
- Assam has achieved 100% feeder metering and 97.50% consumer metering.
- The AT & C losses which were 39% in 2004-05 have been reduced to 31% this year.
- The Revised APDRP is being implemented in 66 towns in 2 phases. Detailed Project Reports are under preparation and work will be taken up only thereafter.

Special issues of importance in Assam.

7. Flood management is one of the biggest challenges in Assam. Assam being in the flood plain, annual flooding and erosion is a major problem. In the recent past 4 lakh ha of agricultural land has been lost and

8 lakh population has been affected. Every year, the affected families get poorer, become houseless and lose their livelihood. Since this is an annual feature, just about the time that people have recovered, floods visit them again and so the cycle continues. Presently only patchwork solutions and short term measures are being adopted. Even the few structures that exist, are not maintained and so are of little use.

8. A more permanent and long term solution has to be found and flood management in the true sense of the word has to be taken up. This requires the cooperation and support of neighbouring states of Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. A proposal for flood management in Assam for approximately Rs. 1000 crores is under the active consideration of the Asian Development Bank. This will ensure more long term strategies and solutions.
9. The largest river island, Majuli is a unique geographical feature and has vast potential for tourism – both cultural and religious. However, erosion of land in the Majuli river island is a major cause of concern. Unless flood mitigation measures are taken at an inter-state level this cannot be stopped. With proper planning and an appropriate strategy, Majuli can become a great attraction and the Brahmaputra river can be made navigable and act as a lifeline. In order to ensure the integrated development of the island, a multi-disciplinary project for about Rs.50 crore has been formulated and the Majuli Development Agency set up. This project needs to be taken up expeditiously for it will not only save Majuli but also provide a boost to the economy.
10. Another cause for concern is the persisting insurgency and unrest. Though there has been some improvement in the recent past, things are still not settled in N.C. Hills and Karbi Anglong. With the surrender of some major groups things did look up for a while but the situation is very volatile and can erupt at the slightest excuse. Realising that development is one of the best solutions to this problem; the State has announced special packages for NC Hills and Karbi Anglong.
11. As for other north-east states, Assam also needs a special dispensation with regard to norms of centrally sponsored schemes, in view of the terrain, inaccessibility, unavailability of many resources and short working season.
12. Guwahati is not only the principal city of Assam, but is also the stepping stone for most of the other north-eastern states. Air and road links all go through Guwahati. This puts tremendous pressure on the city's infrastructure. This should be kept in mind while making city-wise allocations of resources.

(Firoza Mehrotra)
Special Consultant
Planning Commission

Annex 1

**Places visited by Ms. Firoza Mehrotra, Special Consultant, Planning Commission, in Assam
from 20th to 23rd October 2009**

| Sr. no: | LOCATION | UTILITY/PROGRAMME VISITED |
|------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Amanisali, Nagaon | Lower Primary School / SSA |
| 2 | Amanisali, Nagaon | IAY houses |
| 3 | Salmara, Nagaon | Anganwari Centre / ICDS |
| 4 | Salmora, Raha block, Nagaon | Gram Panchayat office |
| 5 | Jungal Balahu Garh, Nagaon | Sub-Centre / NRHM |
| 6 | Raha MVS, Nagaon | School / SSA |
| 7 | Khahigar, Nagaon | NREGA road |
| 8 | Gormur, Nagaon | Anganwari Centre / ICDS |
| 9 | Nagaon-Dakhnipat Road | PMGSY road |
| 10 | Benganahati, Nagaon | Assam lemon cultivation / TMNE & NREGA |
| 11 | Benganahati, Nagaon | Potato cultivation / TMNE |
| 12 | Amolapatty, Nagaon | Lower Primary School / SSA & MDM |
| 13 | Senchowa, Nagaon | Vermicomposting / TMNE |
| 14 | Kalibor, Nagaon | ARWSP & TSC |
| 15 | Darigazi, Nagaon | Lower Primary School / SSA & MDM |
| 16 | Kalibor, Nagaon | Patcholi plants and oil / TMNE |
| 17 | Bechimari, Daarang | Fishery and eco-hatchery, NREGA |
| 18 | Mangaldai, Daarang | NSAP beneficiaries & block staff |
| 19 | Baruajhar, Daarang | IAY houses |
| 20 | Dhanwangar, Mazgaon | TSC latrines and IAY houses |
| 21 | Bogabori Chuburi, Besseria | TSC latrines in school and AWC |
| 22 | Tezpur | DC and District officers |
| 23 | Konar Bora Chuburi, Sonitpur | Anganwari Centre / ICDS |
| 24 | Bogabori Chuburi, Besseria | NREGA road and NSAP beneficiaries |
| 25 | Besseria, Sonitpur | Gram Panchayat office |
| 26 | Likhak Gaon, Sonitpur | Anganwari Centre / ICDS |
| 27 | Thelamora, Sonitpur | PMGSY road |
| 28 | Na-Chahar, Sonitpur | Upper Pr. School, SSA & MDM |
| 29 | Mizibari, Sonitpur | ARWSP |
| 30 | Kharguhuli, Guwahati | Anganwari Centre / ICDS |
| 31 | Guwahati | BSUP of JNNURM |
| 32 | Guwahati | Solid Waste Management Project / JNNURM |