



## **GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**

**Speech of the Finance Minister of Assam seeking  
Vote on Account on the Estimated Expenditure  
for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September  
of the Financial Year 2014-2015**

**SHRI TARUN GOGOI  
CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM**

**13<sup>th</sup> February, 2014**

**Mr. Speaker Sir,**

I rise to present an **Interim Statement of the Estimated Receipt and Expenditure of the Government of Assam for the financial year 2014-15.**

2. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the Parliamentary election is expected soon following the completion of the five year term of the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. It is learnt that in view of this, the Central Government will be seeking a Vote on Account on the basis of an interim budget for 2014-15. Moreover, my discussion with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission for finalization of Assam's Annual Plan for 2014-15 is yet to take place. It is expected after the Lok Sabha elections. In this connection, I would like to inform the August House that the Government of India has restructured the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and reduced the number to 66. From next year the Central share under the Centrally sponsored schemes will be routed through the Consolidated fund of the State and it will budgeted as Central Plan assistance to the State. Since a clear picture of the Central Plan assistance and other Central transfers to the State, which is substantial, will emerge only after the regular budget of the Centre, I therefore propose to

present only an interim budget for 2014-15 today. Although I propose to come back to this August House with a detailed and regular budget as early as possible, as a matter of abundant precaution I propose to seek a Vote on Account on the Demands for Grants for a period of six months from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. I would however, like to mention that there will be no slowdown in our developmental activities even during this interim period. The interim budget has been prepared with an eye on this imperative.

3. Before I lay the Financial Statement in this August House, I would like to enlighten the Hon'ble Members of some significant developments relating to the State finances and the State economy.

4. As per advance estimate, the GSDP at constant prices (2004-05) for the year 2013-14 reflected a growth of 5.87 percent. The GSDP at current prices during 2012-13 (quick estimate) is 12.56 percent higher than that in 2011-12.

5. According to advance estimates for 2013-14, the per capita income has registered a growth rate of 4.63 percent at constant prices and 14.53

percent at current prices in 2013-14 over the previous year.

6. I am happy to inform you that we have been able to attain a revenue surplus of Rs.1554 crore in 2012-13. The fiscal deficit has also turned into a surplus of Rs.1516 crore and the fiscal deficit to GSDP ratio has come down to (-) 1.06% of GSDP during 2012-13 as compared to 1.43% in 2011-12.

7. The debt position of Assam has also shown considerable improvement since 2006-07. The debt-GSDP ratio has come down from 30.83% in 2005-06 to 18.52% in 2012-13. Similarly, the ratio of interest payment to total revenue receipts has declined from 18.62% in 2003-04 to 6.87% in 2012-13.

8. Our State finances have been very sound and stable for about last ten years. The Planning Commission and the successive Finance Commissions have commended our State for excellent fiscal management. I thank the Hon'ble Members for your cooperation in this achievement. Beginning with 2008 when there was economic recession and fiscal compression globally and

nationally, our State could sail through the turbulent times without any fiscal constraints. While I am confident that I shall be able to maintain this trend in the coming days too, I would however, like to put in a word of caution. The overall national growth rate continues to be much below expectation. Our State cannot remain totally insulated for long from the global and national economic trends. Moreover, the Central Government has constituted the Seventh Pay Commission. We shall also have to revise our pay structure in consonance with the Central pay scales. Due to these developments and other unavoidable circumstances we will have to be extremely careful to avoid all wasteful expenditure and tap every possible revenue earning sources.

9. A decision was taken to set up 200 new bank branches during 2013-14 in the special meeting of State Level Bankers Committee, Assam held on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013. I am happy to share with you that 128 branches have already been opened.

10. For facilitating e-payment and Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), three banks namely, State Bank of India, Central Bank of India and Assam

Gramin Bikash Bank have jointly executed MOU with the Government of Assam for payment of MGNREGA through EBT mode.

11. The State Government is very much concerned about some fraudulent firms duping the investors by giving them false promises of high returns etc. The State Government is very firm in its stand to stop such practices. The Assam Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act, 2000 has been amended to further strengthen the legal provisions against the frauds committed by the dubious financial establishments in the State. Necessary rules under the amended Act have also been notified.

12. As you are aware, the Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority (AIFA) was created for financing major and critical infrastructure projects whose project costs are Rs.50 crore and above and where State Government's investment is not less than Rs.15 crore. During 2013-14 AIFA has agreed to provide counterpart funding amounting to Rs.79.20 crore as equity contribution to Lakwa Replacement Power Plant. AIFA has also agreed to provide an amount of Rs. 30 crore as cost for acquisition of land for

permanent campus of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Guwahati during the current financial year. Appointment of consultant for preparation of DPR for the six lane road bridge over the Brahmaputra from Narengi to Kuruwa with road link to Dumuni Chowki under AIFA is at final stage.

13. Rs.7050.56 crore was collected as commercial tax revenue during 2012-13 as against Rs.6604.31 crore in 2011-12 registering a growth of 7%. The provisional collection upto December, 2013 is Rs.5428.29 crore as against Rs.4854.79 crore corresponding to the same period of last year showing a growth rate of 12%. By 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014 this growth rate is expected to cross 15%.

14. During 2013-14 till November, 2013 excise revenue of Rs.379.75 crore and sale tax on liquor of Rs.279.38 crore have been collected.

15. Since 2005-06, Government has created 115439 new posts of which 20692 posts have been created during 2013-14. Approval was also given to fill up 86172 vacant sanctioned posts. My Government has given appointment to 100684 persons since 2005-06. I have asked all the

departments to give appointments against all available vacancies numbering around 100927 in a time bound manner.

16. My Government has decided to form a Legislative Council (Upper House) to provide representation of various segments of the society in State Legislature. Necessary proposal has been sent to the Central Government in this regard.

17. Modalities for updation of NRC have been finalized with approval from Government of India. A notification has been issued on 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 for completing updation of NRC, 1951 in the State within a period of three years. Steps have already been taken to digitize the existing NRCs to facilitate the updation process. Further, Central Government has agreed to increase the number of Foreigners Tribunals to 100 from the existing number of 36 for expeditious detection and deportation of foreigners.

18. Although Assam is already having the Institution of Lokayukta under the Assam Lokayukta and Upa- Lokayukta Act, 1985, I propose to introduce a fresh Bill called the Assam Lokayukta Bill 2014 in the next session of the Assembly so as to

strengthen the Institution of Lokayukta by giving it more powers. The draft Bill is at final stage of consultation with various Departments as per procedure. The proposed new legislation will repeal the existing one. The proposed new Lokayukta Institution will be empowered to inquire into and investigate the allegations of corruption against the various public functionaries under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The existing Lokayukta has no such powers. The proposed new State Legislation is in conformity with the Central Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013. Besides Government servants of all grades and employees of Companies, Societies or Trusts set up, financed or controlled by the State Government, current and former Chief Ministers, current and former Ministers, current and former MLAs, elected representatives and employees of the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule districts, PRIs and ULBs etc. will also come under the purview of the new Legislation. This new Legislation will provide a more comprehensive and effective framework for prompt and fair investigation and prosecution of cases of corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

19. Suspension of operation (SoO) agreements have been signed with 13 extremist outfits in our

endeavour towards achieving a peaceful and conducive atmosphere in the State. One of the major achievements is the signing of the Suspension of operation agreement between the Government of India, Government of Assam and the Ranjan Daimary led NDFB on 29/10/13. We are hopeful that Paresh Barua led ULFA (I) and the NDFB (Songbijit) will come forward for negotiations by shunning the path of violence.

20. The process of filling up more than 8000 vacant posts of the Police department has started.

21. To commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India, I propose to enhance the Freedom fighter's Pension from Rs.8,000/- per month to Rs.15,000/- per month.

22. Assam Houses/ Bhawans at various places in the country provide a safe, comfortable and economic accommodation to the Government officials and people visiting such places for educational, medical and other purposes. New Assam Bhawans at Vellore, Chennai, Bangalore and Kolkata are under advanced stages of construction. The Assam House at Mumbai

has also been expanded creating additional capacity. The old Assam House in New Delhi will be reconstructed increasing its capacity to more than seventy rooms. I have also taken up with the Central Government for allotment of land for construction of a Community Centre in New Delhi. In addition to about 100 guest room facilities, the proposed Assam Community Centre will also include a cultural centre, tourist information centre, auditorium, a restaurant to serve cuisines of Assam and other facilities. Initiatives will be taken up for construction of an Assam Bhawan at Hyderabad.

23. The Assam Right to Public Services Act, 2012 is being implemented in the State to ensure transparency, accountability and time bound public service delivery. Under this Act, 55 services encompassing 14 departments have been notified.

24. Universalization of elementary education is one of the priorities of my Government. Under the two Flagship programmes namely, Mid-Day Meal and Sarba Siksha Abhijan, the notable achievements include reduction in numbers of out of school children, increase in retention and decrease in dropout rate of students, appointment of 8866 TET

qualified candidates as teachers, provincialisation of the services of 21300 teaching and non teaching staff, as well as award of special scholarships to 53,781 meritorious students.

25. 140324 bicycles were distributed among girl students belonging to BPL families.

26. The Assam State Higher Education Mission has been constituted for overall up gradation and improvement of the Higher Education sector. 77 Venture degree colleges and 15 Sanskrit and Pali Tols have been provincialised with creation of 1650 and 75 posts respectively.

27. 326 Madrassas and 1 Arabic College have been provincialised and 3822 posts have been created to provincialise the services of the teaching and non-teaching staff in the institutions.

28. It is proposed to establish Community Colleges in five polytechnics. The Assam Science and Technology University has been established. Further an Indian Institute of Information Technology has been set up at Guwahati under PPP mode and its

academic session has already started from August, 2013.

29. The acute unemployment problem in the State can be tackled by enhancing the employability of the unemployed youths through skill upgradation and capacity building. For this purpose we will give added emphasis on employment generation and skill development through several existing agencies working in this field. The capacity of the Industrial Training Centre will be augmented. Required number of teachers/ instructors will be appointed in the ITIs.

30. Under the National Rural Health Mission, significant progress has been made in the delivery of high quality, affordable health care in the State as is evident from several health care indicators. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) has fallen from 480 in 2004-06 to 328 in 2010-12, Infant Mortality rate has decreased from 68 in 2005 to 55 in 2012, Total Fertility rate has become 2.4 in 2012 from 2.9 in 2005, Institutional Delivery is 78.2% in 2013 as against 22.70 % in 2005-06 and Child immunization is 78.25 % in 2013 as against 31.60% in 2005-06.

31. 33 Model Hospitals have been inaugurated on February, 2014. Tezpur Medical College was inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2014. One new scheme namely, 'Sneha Sparsha' has been launched in 2013-14 for aiding specialized treatment of poor children below 12 years of age. My Government will give special emphasis on early detection and treatment of cancer. These facilities will be made available in the medical colleges and other hospitals in the State.

32. 56220 'Matri Sahayok Gut' have been set up in the year 2013-14 for smooth functioning of the Anganwadi centres. Initiatives are being taken for protection of child rights, empowerment of women and protection of women from domestic violence, providing unemployment allowances to disabled persons. Old age home and health care for the aged and night shelter homes for shelterless persons have been given necessary assistance.

33. The National Food Security Act (NFSA) has been notified by Government of India on 10-09-2013. 2.25 crore of rural and 26.5 lakh of urban population in Assam will be benefitted under this scheme. Rice will be provided at Rs. 3 per kg and wheat at Rs. 2 per kg. The scheme is going to be launched in the



State soon. I have also decided to set up a Food and Civil Supplies Corporation which will, inter-alia, procure locally produced rice for distribution under NFSA. This will ensure remunerative prices to our farmers.

34. I feel happy to say that an all time high production of 52.33 lakh MT rice alongwith overall food grain production of 56 lakh MT has been achieved during 2012-13 for which the Prime Minister has acknowledged the State's contribution to rice production in the country. The State is witnessing a positive impact of the Mission Double Cropping which was launched in 2012-13. Thrust will be given on increasing the production of rice, pulses, oilseed and foodgrains during 2014-15.

35. During 2014-15, it is proposed to distribute power tillers, shallow tubewells and diesel pumps with accessories to encourage micro irrigation system. Composite paddy procurement centres, composite training centres, market yards, godowns and modern rice mills will also be developed. Priority of the Government will be to enhance the agricultural output produced by small and marginal farmers in the State.

36. My Government is giving stress on development of dairy, poultry, piggery, duckery and goatery to create more self employment opportunities. A new Frozen Semen Bull Station (FSBS) with state of the art technology is being established at Barapetta in Barpeta district.

37. Three hygienic Fish Markets have been established during 2013-14. A demonstration cum research unit on ornamental fish has been established at Regional Fisheries Training Institute, Amranga, Kamrup. 150 ha of new ponds are being created through women SHGs under the Women Empowerment Programme - *Lakhimi*.

38. We have achieved 8.32 lakh hectare of irrigation potential till March, 2013. Works of three major/medium irrigation projects of Dhansiri, Buridihing and Borolia are progressing well.

39. Works for controlling of Flash Flood, checking of soil erosion and minimizing the siltation in Greater Guwahati will be continued under the project "Bio-diversity conservation of Basistha-Bahini Watershed, Guwahati" during 2014-15. A special drive will be launched to cleanse the Bharalu, Bahini and other

natural streams in and around Guwahati from pollution. Similar steps will also be taken to keep all the rivers and water bodies in the State free from pollution.

40. The Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation has started with financial assistance from the French Development Agency and firewood plantation of 10000 hectares is proposed to be taken up during 2014-15. Firm steps are also being taken to protect Wildlife through procurement of sophisticated arms to counter the poachers in Protected area & other Wildlife Reserve Forests.

41. With implementation of the National Rural Livelihood Mission in 2012-13, 44 development blocks have been covered, 3835 new SHGs have been promoted, 6608 old SHGs have been revived/strengthened, 1859 village organizations have been formed. Schemes relating to providing financial assistance to SHGs will be continued with additional funding.

42. The Socio Economic and Caste census, 2011 is in progress and its outcome will enable the State

government to target the marginalized groups and families through various interventions.

3. My Government is laying special emphasis on creation of durable assets in rural areas. Further, I am happy to say that The Assam Panchayat (Amendment) Act, 2011 has been passed for 50% reservation of woman PRI representatives.

4. My Government has always laid stress on construction and improvement of all weather roads or ensuring better road connectivity. Since 2001, more than 21,000 km of all weather roads and more than 3300 RCC bridges have been completed. Further 5000 km road and 1400 RCC bridges are under various stages of construction. Emphasis is also being given on improvement of major district roads and State Highways besides developing road connectivity in the inter State borders.

5. Providing safe drinking water to the masses is one of my priorities. A substantial number of piped water supply schemes are being implemented for mitigation of arsenic and fluoride contamination. During 2014-15 it is proposed to cover 6500 partially

covered habitations and 3500 quality affected habitations.

46. 447382 Km embankments, 884 anti-erosion and town protection works, 874.97 Km drainage channels have been constructed till the end of 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The 'Brahmaputra Valley' gallery which is the second of its kind in the country is soon going to be established at the Assam Water Research and Management Institute, Guwahati.

47. As a result of the persistent efforts and series of initiatives taken by the State Government, the investment climate in the State has improved significantly. More and more people are coming forward to invest in the industries and commerce sector in the State as a result of such initiatives and confidence. During 2014-15 our major focus will be on creation of industrial infrastructure, skill development, promotion of schemes for traditional industries and special schemes for women SC/ST entrepreneurs, quality upgradation and marketing support. Upgradation and expansion of existing Industrial Estates will continue. It is also proposed to create Logistic Hub and Inter State Border Trade Centres. Adequate fund will be provided for

establishing a Fire Cracker Village at Barpeta. New schemes for providing raw material grants to Bell Metal Artisans of Sarthebari and for development of Assamese jewellery will be introduced.

48. Under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, 51 Cluster Approach Projects and 95 Group Approach Projects are being implemented in the State. 27 Yarn Banks are being set up to provide yarn to weavers at Mill Gate Price. Under Assam Vikash Yojana, one lakh weavers are being provided with free yarn during 2014-15. More beneficiaries will be covered under Jibonjyoti and Boyonjyoti schemes. 10(Ten) Model Sericulture Villages are being set up in 10 districts. Plantation of silk worm food plants are being included under MGNREGA from 2014-15. The second Cocoon Bank in the State is being established at Lakhimpur. A Sericulture Museum is being established in Khanapara, Guwahati. Financial assistance to Handloom and Sericulture sector will be enhanced for benefit of weavers in the State.

49. The power situation in the State is improving. Production of BTPS 1<sup>st</sup> unit of 250 MW is expected within this year. This will help in reducing the peak demand-supply shortfall. Various projects and

schemes financed through RGGVY, APSEIP, RAPDRP, Trade Development Fund are progressing smoothly and are expected to improve the power infrastructure in the State significantly. The commercial production of 3 MW stage -II of Myntriang SHEP is expected to start from March, 2014. The commissioning of the 6 MW stage I is expected to be done by December, 2014. On completion of the ongoing power generation, transmission and distribution projects, the State will be self-sufficient in the power sector.

50. The colleges in Assam will be provided with IT infrastructure, high speed connectivity and access to the Assam Knowledge Cloud. Development of Electronics Hardware Manufacturing in the State is proposed through the Electronics System Design and Manufacturing scheme. Preliminary works are going on for establishing an IT Park at Bangara village in Kamrup to promote software export and entrepreneurship. Emphasis will be given for skill development in IT for students and unemployed youths.

51. Initiatives have been undertaken for setting up of a Science City at Sonapur. An Agricultural Research Information System is being developed to

facilitate sustainable development of Agriculture in the State. Innovative ideas/ projects will be encouraged and supported.

52. Efforts are on for developing a comprehensive drinking water system, mass rapid transport system, storm water drainage project and restoration and conservation of water bodies in Guwahati. Detailed project proposal for a major sewerage project for the city has also been submitted to Government of India, which I expect will be approved soon.

53. Under Integrated Housing and Slum development Programme (IHSDP), 1961 houses have been constructed for urban poor. Assam Urban Water Supply & Sanitation Board has taken up 58 Urban Water Supply schemes in 50 towns in the State.

54. To tap the vast tourism potentials of the State, major thrust is being given on promotion of eco tourism projects, river cruise tourism, construction of tourist complexes, upgradation of tourist lodges, development and beautification of historical places besides development of tourist circuits. The Institute of Hotel Management, now under construction in

Jorhat, is expected to start functioning from the academic year 2014-15.

55. My Government has been laying special emphasis on development of sports infrastructure in the State. Works of 16 Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complexes at block level are going on and construction of 30 such complexes are proposed to be taken up during 2014-15. A Centre of Excellence for Mountaineering and Adventure Sports in Guwahati is also being established. 666 playfields at Gaon Panchayat level and 44 playfields at Block level will be developed under Panachayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan. It is further proposed to establish a Football Academy and a Boxing Academy for providing special coaching to highly talented sportspersons.

56. We are committed to the preservation and promotion of multihued cultural heritage of various indigenous communities in the State. The uniqueness of the culture of different tribal groups all over the State is to be promoted and preserved. The North East Tribal Museum and Cultural centre at Nazirakhat, Jyoti Bishnu Sanskritik Prakalpa in different blocks, Sarat Chandra Sinha Memorial Complex at Chapor and Sri Sri Anirudha Dev

cultural complex at Tinsukia have been constructed. Steps have also been taken for promotion of rural libraries in the State.

57. Strong emphasis is being given on establishment of new courts, development of infrastructural facilities for the subordinate judiciary and setting up of fast track courts for trial of cases relating to women.

58. 22 Breath Analyzers and 8 Traffic Interceptors have been procured by Government to curb the menace of drunken driving and over speeding. All District Transport Offices have been computerized. 2(two) Steel Mar-boats and 2(two) long Steel RPL for Sadia & Dhubri are being introduced to augment Inland Water Transport facilities in interior areas. 120 buses are being procured during 2013-14. During last four years, 440 buses have been procured and placed in the rural and interior areas of the State under Assam Bikash Yojana and these buses have significantly changed the transport scenario in rural areas. ASTC has received 182 buses under the JNNURM Scheme.

59. Adequate funds have been released in respect of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Karbi Anglong and Dhubri districts for relief and rehabilitation of the violence affected families. Rules have been framed under The Assam Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act, 2010. A High Power Committee has been constituted to formulate a new land policy which is expected to submit its recommendation shortly. My Government has decided to reduce the rate of Stamp Duty and Registration Fees to 5 percent in case of male, 4 percent in case of joint registration and 3 percent in case of female registration. Digitisation of cadastral map is in progress.

60. Some of the major infrastructure projects completed during 2013-14 in border areas include Udalguri Bhairabkunda Road, one RCC bridge and 10 HP culverts on Gaharichowa to Bandarchaliha in Jorhat District and drinking water project at Ultapani in Kokrajhar District. In order to provide better employment opportunities to the youths residing in international border areas, Skill Development & Capacity Building Programmes have been taken up.

61. My Government is very concerned for the welfare of the backward sections of the society. With

view to giving special focus on socio-economic development of SC, ST and OBC, Government has decided to create separate Directorates for SCs, STs & OBCs so that special attention could be given to them. During the current year, a total of 24749 ST(P) students were given scholarship amounting to Rs.1010 lakh, 89186 OBC students were given scholarships amounting to Rs.1987 lakh. Similarly, 54699 SC students were given scholarships amounting Rs.1090 lakh. Quantum of fund for all round development of 6 Autonomous Councils and 18 Development Councils will be augmented.

62. My Government has laid special emphasis on developing the scenario of power supply, potable water, health care, education, transport and communication in the Hill Areas of the State. Construction work of Assam Hills Medical College and Research Institute at Diphu is going on. It is also proposed to establish Assam Hills Engineering College and Assam Hills University in the hill districts. Construction of Joising Doloi Auditorium Hall at Diphu has been completed.

63. 2,40,491 students belonging to Tea & Ex-Tea garden tribes have been awarded Pre-Matric & Post-

Matric Scholarships. Financial assistance has been awarded to 9,932 students who have been pursuing higher studies within India and abroad. 51 Skill Development Training Centers have started functioning. Hostel facilities have been provided to needy students belonging to Tea Community in different District and Sub-Divisional head quarters, both for boys and girls.

64. Emphasis is being given on farm mechanization in the Char-Chapori areas. Adequate funds will be provided for implementation of the ongoing schemes relating to different sectors. Construction of the Haj Bhawan at Jalukbari, Guwahati is progressing satisfactorily. During the current financial year 2,10,573 minority students were given scholarships amounting to Rs.58.12 crore. A special package for minority education will be worked out.

65. On various occasions I have announced new developmental schemes and grants to different institutions. I reiterate my commitment to fulfill them in a time bound manner. Provisions for them have been made in the Vote on Account budget itself to enable initiation of the process of implementation.

66 (1) The press and media has a great role to play in the present day society. The State Government would like to recognize the great works done by the Journalists. An award for the best journalist will be instituted in this regard.

66 (2) Many small rural producers of agricultural and other commodities find it difficult to market the produces as they do not have any direct access to the market. To provide direct access to rural producers and to eliminate middleman, rural haats will be established at District and Sub-divisional Headquarters.

66 (3) My Government is keen to provide prompt and efficient services to the people in general. We recognize that there is lot to do in this regard for the rural population. Therefore, to improve the efficiency of administration in rural areas, a Rural Administrative Service will be introduced.

66 (4) A Health Services Corporation will be created to monitor and ensure the supply of free medicines and other essential items for patients in Government Hospitals.

66 (5) The Garo community in Assam has a sizeable population and recognizing their need and to look after the interest of development of the Garo population in the State, a Garo Development Council will be constituted.

66 (6) My Government is whole heartedly committed to economic and political empowerment of women and to provide them with a safe and congenial work environment, Towards empowerment of women and strengthening their cause, a State Women Council will be constituted with special focus on education.

66 (7) The youths provide the vital and vibrant energy for any society and it is desirable to channelize their potential and energy towards social good. To look after the vital interests of the youths in the State, a State Youth Council will be constituted.

66 (8) Today's children are future citizens of our country. It is our whole hearted desire to groom them in such a way that they become healthy, educated, productive, responsible and happy citizens who will contribute to the socio-economic resurgence of the State. To look after the interests of the child

population in the State, a State Child Development Council will be constituted.

66 (9) A new pension scheme has been launched in the State. The scheme is applicable for the weaker and economically backward sections of the society. The scheme is applicable for the workers of the unorganized sector of the State and workers in regular employment of the State Government autonomous bodies, public sector undertakings etc. Against an investment of Rs.1000/- per person the State Government and the Central Government will contribute Rs.1000/- each for investment in his/her account. Assam is one of the very few States who have made such contribution.

66 (10) There are various groups working in the unorganized sector providing useful services to the society. Concerted efforts are required to improve their economic and working conditions. For the social and economic upliftment of the groups like thelawallas, rickshawallas, small and marginal farmers and labourers, landless people and artisans suitable special schemes will be taken up.



66 (11) My Government is concerned about the killings of precious wildlife by the miscreants and it is committed to protecting the wildlife which is a matter of pride for the State. Maintaining ecological balance and conservation of forest resources are also important issues before the Government. For the conservation and protection of wildlife and ecological balance the strength of Assam Forest Protection Force will be adequately enhanced.

66 (12) Exemplary social behavior need to be encouraged as it will help inculcating positive values in the minds of one and all. It has therefore been decided to institute a bravery award in the name of Gunjan Sarmah.

66 (13) The Revenue Administration is presently implementing the Land Revenue Regulation Act of 1886, many of whose provisions have become outdated. Frequent instances of land grabbing and steps to tackle the same are a challenge before the State Government. The provisions of Land Ceiling Act are also to be implemented fully in its true spirit. The Government wants to give a specific focus on the poor people as regards upholding their rights to their land. The Assam Land Revenue Regulation Act of 1886 will

be suitably amended keeping the same in tune with the present circumstances and need.

66 (14) Our State has great potential for ushering in a white revolution. However, the supply of milk has not increased commensurate with the increases in the demand. To tackle that issue in a focused manner and to exploit the available potential in the State, a new Corporation for the development of Dairy Sector and production of fodder will be established.

66 (15) The mighty Brahmaputra has been a blessing for the State in many ways. However, it has created an artificial divide between the North Bank and the South Banks by way of communication difficulties. Construction of more bridges across the river will help people to come closer and promote economic development of the State. A detailed techno economic feasibility report will be prepared for construction of a bridge over Brahmaputra from Disangmukh to Tekeliphuta.

66 (16) All forms of folk arts are great assets for a society and the society is indebted to all the persons who had contributed significantly for its preservation and popularization. It has been decided to install an

appropriate statue in honour of late Pratima Boruah Pandey.

66 (17) Assam is proud of its heritage in sericulture sector. To encourage improvement in the sector in a systematic and scientific manner and to create necessary man power for the same, a Sericulture college will be established at Titabar in Jorhat District. The foundation stone for the same has already been laid.

66 (18) Flood and erosion have been causing havoc to the life and property of thousands of families in our State every year. Emphasis will be given on river research to take up flood mitigation measures. Special package of rehabilitation for erosion affected families will be taken up. Cash and material grants will be provided to such families for construction of their houses.

66 (19) The scenario in the higher education sector has become very competitive these days. To equip our students with better academic inputs and other necessary skills it is required to improve the infrastructure of our educational institutions. Commencing from the next financial year I propose to

give special one time financial grants to all colleges, higher secondary schools, high schools and high madrassas which have completed 25 years or more.

66 (20) The scheme to give NETBOOKS to students who secured less than 60 percent but above 50 percent marks in class X High School Leaving Examinations was launched this year. The scheme will be continued in the next financial year also.

66 (21) I have decided to introduce pension schemes for the teaching and non-teaching staff of Gauhati and Dibrugarh Universities. Token provisions have been kept in the interim budget. On receipt of detailed estimates further provisions will be made in the regular budget.

66 (22) Srimanta Sankar Deva Mission, Nagaon has been providing various social services in the district. A special grant will be provided to them for development of their infrastructure.

66 (23) Every year thousands of pilgrims from Assam undertake their Haj yatras. The Haj Bhawan at Guwahati provides a very critical and necessary transit facility to the pilgrims. A special grant for

infrastructure development for the Haj Bhawan will be provided.

66 (24) For educational advancement of the Bodo and other tribal communities, a separate Education Directorate would be set up.

66 (25) Solar energy provides an alternative to the conventional sources of energy and it has become increasingly popular. It is proposed to install solar panels in all Government and provincialised college phase wise. 1 lakh solar panels will be distributed to students to popularize its use and to help them in their studies.

66 (26) Protection of natural water bodies is of vital importance from the angle of ecological conservation and to prevent encroachment and degradation. To regulate the use of water bodies, it is proposed to set up a Rivers and Lakes Authority.

66 (27) Special grants will be provided for protection and development of ancient monuments of Sivasagar District. Similarly, special grants will be provided for development of Sibsagar Yubadol late

Thaneswar Dutta Memorial Auditorium and for Development of Piyoli Phukan Stadium at Sibsagar.

66 (28) Special grants will be provided for development of Chandranath Sarma Memorial Auditorium at Tezpur.

66 (29) Steps have been initiated to put the land, building and other assets of the closed PSUs including Swahid Kushal Konwar Samabai Cotton Mill in Golaghat to alternative uses like establishment of other new viable industries and institutions.

66 (30) Necessary fund will be provided to renovate the Sarusajai Stadium to make it fully functional.

66 (31) Necessary financial assistance will be provided to Srimanta Sankerdeva Kalakshetra for its proper maintenance and functioning.

66 (32) I am very concerned about the welfare of the elderly people, destitute women and orphans. Necessary fund will be provided to construct old age homes, and homes for destitute women and orphans.

66 (33) A new health insurance scheme with Government support will be introduced for the benefit of common man.

66 (34) The provisions of the Assam Tea Plantations Act shall be implemented in letter and spirit and the right and the privileges of the tea garden workers will be ensured fully. A separate Directorate will be created to spread education among the children of tea garden workers as well as to foster academic excellence among them.

66 (35) A special package for health improvement for malnourished children will be launched.

66 (36) Trafficking in women and witch-hunting has caused serious social problems in the State. Special initiatives will be taken to tackle this very important issue.

66 (37) A special package of incentives shall be worked out for women Self Help Groups.

66 (38) To give the much needed fillip to generation of employment and improving

productivity, an Employment Generation and Skill Development Corporation will be set up in the State.

66 (39) Timely intervention helps avoiding many health problems which not only reduces the pressure on the existing medical care system but it also helps in improving quality of life. Added emphasis will be given to preventive health care measures with focus on safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation. Similarly, special steps will be taken to promote indigenous medicine.

66 (40) We want to positively encourage new ideas and concepts which directly or indirectly will help the State to improve the socio-economic conditions and improve the quality of life and help conserve the delicate balance of the nature. In this context, centre of innovations will be set up in different parts of the State.

66 (41) We want to harness the full potential of the Animal Husbandry and the Fisheries sectors. For this purpose, special packages will be worked out.

66 (42) The employment potentials of the Army, Navy and the Air force have not been exploited by the

State to a significant level. To facilitate the same and to encourage more and more youths to come forward to join the defence services, a new Sainik School will be set up in Upper Assam. I am also contemplating to set up an institute of Marine Services and Technology.

66 (43) Special emphasis will be given to utilize the vast water resources of numerous rivers including the Brahmaputra and the Barak rivers, for irrigation, drinking water supply and transport and navigational purposes.

66 (44) To make more and more of the unemployed youths employable and to help them in becoming self-employed, Entrepreneurs Training Centres will be set up in different districts, ensuring complete gender equality with 50:50 ratio of boys and girls.

66 (45) To improve the output positions of the Self Help Groups and to provide them with a captive market, it will be ensured that minimum 30 % of Government purchases of the relevant items are done from the Self Help Groups. Necessary changes in the

Assam Preferential Stores & Purchases Act will be made accordingly.

(46) During the last several decades, large tracts of land have been lost due to erosion by the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. However, large areas of land can also be reclaimed from these rivers. In this light, to enable us to prepare a long term strategy, it is proposed to set up a River Research Institute.

(47) A special package for socio-economic development of the people living in the inter-state and international border areas will be worked out. Different needs of backward areas will be identified.

(48) A special package for promotion of sports and games will be worked out.

(49) The State Government will pursue with the Central Government for introduction of a new time zone for the State. Meanwhile, working hours for offices and Educational Institutions in the State will be advanced.

66 (50) A training centre for preparing the youth of the State for recruitment to banks/para-military forces / Army/ BSF and similar examinations will be set up. Training Institute for recruitment into the marine sector including Indian Navy and Merchant Navy will be established.

66 (51) Stringent measures will be taken to prevent domestic violence and other crimes against women and children. Gender offences in work places will be sternly dealt with. Special police squads will be set up to prevent trafficking of women and children.

66 (52) A scheme to provide 2 bundles of CGI sheets and Rs.5000/- in cash for rehabilitation of erosion affected families is already under implementation. From the next financial year, I propose to raise the cash component to Rs.7,500/-.

66 (53) Earlier I announced special packages of Rs. 1000 crore for Barak Valley and Rs.100 crore for Sadiya. Concerned Departments have prepared schemes under the packages. I reiterate my commitment to release the required fund for successful implementation of these packages. I

propose another special package of Rs.100 crore for development of Dhemaji district.

66 (54) In the next financial year, developmental assistance to Sixth Schedule Autonomous Districts, other Autonomous Councils and the Development Councils will be enhanced.

66 (55) Substantial funds are being given to the PRIs and the ULBs under the awards of the Thirteenth Finance Commission and the Fourth State Finance Commission. I urge the local Governments both in the urban and rural areas to pay special attention to sanitation, civic hygiene, garbage clearance and overall cleanliness of their areas of jurisdiction. I am prepared to provide additional financial support to them for this purpose if they come forward with concrete and pragmatic proposals. With a view to fostering cleanliness I propose to institute separate annual awards for the cleanest towns and villages.

66 (56) To display the historical heritage of the State I propose to set up a Historical Museum. The glorious histories of all the indigenous communities of Assam like the Kachari, Chutiya, Deori, Moran,

Tiwa, Karbi, Rabha, Ahom, Koch as also the histories of the dynasties like Varmans, Palas and Sala Sthambhas will be showcased in the museum. Similarly, to showcase the natural richness, beauty and diversity of the State, setting up of a Natural Museum is also under my consideration.

66 (57) After two months the people of Assam will be celebrating Rongali Bihu. I propose to give a modest amount as Bihu gift to the poor and needy as a token of my love and concern for them.

66 (58) Before I present the interim budget I would like to mention that the various Statements that are required to be submitted alongwith the State budget as laid down in the Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2005 will be submitted alongwith the regular and detailed budget which I hope to present well before 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

With these words, Sir, I place the Interim Annual Financial Statement and Demand for Grants for the year 2014-15 before this August House. The interim budget shows expenditure upto the minor head level. To defray the obligatory and other necessary

expenses I seek Vote-on Account on the Demand for Grants for an aggregate amount of Rs.28467,19,78,000/- (Rupees Twenty eight thousand four hundred sixty seven crore nineteen lakh seventy eight thousand) for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 2014 to 30<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014.

**JAI AI ASOM**

**JAI HIND**

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