

Hon'ble Prime Minister, His Excellency the Governor of Manipur, Hon'ble Union Ministers, Council of Ministers, distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, on behalf of Council of Ministers and people of Manipur, I welcome you on your 2nd visit to the State as Prime Minister of India. Hon'ble Prime Minister, your visit to Manipur though very short, has shown your great concern for the multi-dimensional problems facing the State and has raised expectations that they will receive your undivided attention and will be expeditiously resolved. It is indeed a great privilege for the entire people of Manipur to have got an opportunity to welcome you to this tiny and problems ridden state.

Sir, it was during your last visit to Manipur in November, 2004 that the long cherished aspiration of the people of Manipur had been fulfilled by handing over the historic Kangla Fort to the people of Manipur. Some of the remarkable announcement you had made and also foundation stone laid during your visit include, conversion of Manipur University into Central University, laying of foundation stone for the construction of Capital Project, laying of foundation stone for the extension of railway line from Jiribam to Tupul and more importantly implementation of six important projects under Reconstruction Plan with the financial assistance from the Govt. of India for a period of three year starting from 2004-5 to 2006-07. Sir, all the announcement you has made on that historic day had already been translated into action. Implementation of some of the projects is in good progress.

Sir, to cite an example, it is under Reconstruction Plan that implementation of Special Employment Generation Programme are implemented in the State. Under this programme more than 10000 youths both educated and uneducated unemployed have been benefited. Many more will be covered in the next few years.

Construction of capital project having a component of Assembly, High Court and Civil Secretariat are making good progress under Reconstruction Plan. Works for some other projects are completed and good progress are being made in some other projects. Sir, since the implementation of some of the projects are three year period, the funds for the year 2006-07 for the projects are yet to be released by the Govt. of India. Since there is only few months left for the current financial year, I sought your active cooperation in timely release of funds so that the implementation of project may not suffer.

Sir, since your assumption of office as Prime Minister of India, the problems of Manipur have been receiving the much needed attention and support in solving these problems. The financial problems of the State have been, to large extent minimized, though not fully solved. This has succeeded in taking up developmental activities in the State. In addition, the State Govt. have succeeded in garnering support from the M/O DONER for taking up various developmental infrastructure projects under NLCPR.

Sir, taking the advantage of your august visit to Manipur, I would like to welcome you once again and have the pleasure to place the following proposal concerning my state for your kind consideration and making an announcement for its implementation.

1. Construction of 50 bedded District Hospital in all Hill District:

With the view to provide improved health care services to the tribal's in the hill districts of Manipur, the State Government has proposed to the Ministry of DoNER for construction of 50 bedded hospitals in the hill district headquarters of Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Senapati, Chandel and also in Bishnupur district and Jiribam sub-division. The project proposals of the State Government have been retained by the Ministry of DoNER and the revised DPRs have been submitted to the M/O DONER. Each project is expected to cost in the range of Rs.24 to 26 crores.

2. Upgradation of Manipur Institute of Technology to the status of National Institute of Technology.

In order to provide facility for imparting engineering studies in Manipur, a College of Technology was set up by the Government of Manipur as a Society during 1998. The college has been approved by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and is under the Manipur University. The college has been renamed Manipur Institute of Technology (MIT). However, since there is a large need for a national level engineering college in the North East, the State Govt has proposed to convert the Manipur Institute of Technology to

National Institute of Technology. This institution would cater to the need of students of the north east. 150 acres of land has been identified for Manipur Institute of Technology and the State Govt would give this land free of cost. Hon'ble Prime Minister is requested to take steps to upgrade this college as NIT.

3. City Development Plan of Imphal City under JNURM.

In recognition of the importance for implementation of Development Plan for Imphal City under JNNURM, the city investment plan for the Imphal city has been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs 1873.32 crores. The project is an integrated approach covering 10 (ten) sectors namely, i) Environment, ii) Tourism and Heritage, iii) Basic services to Urban Poor, iv) Water Supply, v) Transportation, vi) Drainage, vii) Sanitation, viii) Solid Waste Management, ix) Capacity Building of IMC and x) Other activities. The source of funding of Rs. 1873.32 crores is proposed to be financed in the form of 90% grants from JNNURM and 10% loan/ULBs from the open market/FIs. The JNNURM Mission is an important landmark in making the Urban Local Bodies self-sufficient and financially independent and to ensure that the assets being created are adequately maintained and adequate resources are allocated for the mission. The City Development Plan (CDP) has already been approved by the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt of India on 26.10.2006.

4. Upgradation of NH-39 from double lane to four lane from Maram to Imphal Section (78 kms):

Presently, Manipur is connected with the rest of the Country by NH-39 as other National Highways i.e. NH-53 and NH-150 are not fully operational. All essential commodities are carried through this National Highway-39. Considering the important nature of this Highway, Hon'ble Prime Minister may kindly consider the improvement of the Highway for the portion from Maram (Km 235.80) to Imphal (Km 317.55) to four lane standard [from Dimapur-Kohima-Maram has already been approved for four laning]. Only a small portion at the heart of the Imphal city i.e. from Km 311.00 to Km 317.55 has been improved to four lane standards.

5. Construction of NH-150A from Thinungei (Km 431 on NH-150) – to Jiribam (Km 222- on NH-53):

The free movement of the essential commodities to the State is frequently disturbed due to blockades on NH-53 and NH-39 by different NGOs. To avoid the frequent hardships faced by the people of this State, the construction of alternate Highway became an urgent necessity. The proposed alternate Highway having an approximate length of 136 Km will connect Jiribam the only Railhead of the State with NH-150 at Thinungei (Km 431). May kindly consider for the construction of fourth National Highway i.e. NH-150A.

6. Upgradation of Bishnupur to Nungba Road (old Cachar Road) and declaring it as NH-53A:

The upgradation of Old Cachar Road from Bishnupur to Rengpang via Khoupum as NH-53 (A) assumes a great significant in view of the frequent disturbance by the various organization on both NH-39 and NH-53. The total length is 93 kms. This is a fair weather road with standard single lane. In view of the economic importance of the road, a proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 43 crores has been submitted to Ministry of Surface Transport for funding on sharing basis of 50:50 between the Central Govt and State Govt. In addition to this, a proposal costing Rs. 86 crores has also been submitted to NEC for inclusion in the 11th Plan proposal for NEC.

7. Upgradation of RIMS (Regional Institute of Medical Sciences) to the status of AIIMS (including increasing the number of seats for MBBS from 100 to 150 & number of bed by 300 to accommodate superspecilty):

Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) was established in 1972 by the name of Regional Medical College under the North Eastern Council (NEC). The College has been imparting quality medical education to the students of North East and college has so far produced 2041 medical graduate and 432 nos of doctors in different PG courses since its inception. RIMS also runs an 881 bedded hospital and is a referral centre for many of the North Eastern States. The Institute is managed with the financial support from the constituent states and the Ministry of DoNER, Govt of India through the North Eastern Council. The financing pattern is 100% by NEC both for College & Hospital in respect of nonrecurring expenses and

50% by NEC and remaining 50% by the constituent States in respect of recurring expenses. RIMS is doing a yeoman services not only to the people of Manipur but also to the people of this N.E. Region.

Given the role and responsibility in imparting quality and advance medical education and also services provided to the people of this region, a proposal has been submitted for upgrading the Institute by adding superspeciality disciplines and other facilities. The proposal is estimated to cost Rs. 99.98 crores. This may be cleared by Govt of India (Ministry of Health).

8. Upgradation of facilities at Imphal Airport including night landing facility:

Since the State is connected with New Delhi as well as with other important cities/centres through a long surface route the people prefer to travel by Air for all important/urgent matters including for treatment, study outside State, attending meetings etc. A number of private airlines have also been started operating in Imphal airport. However, due to lack certain facilities, there is limited scope for landing facility. There is immediate need to improve the passenger facilities available at Imphal Airport, particularly the lounge area including VIP lounge. Night landing facilities should also be provided at the airport so that landing at night could be made possible.

9. Extension of Jiribam-Tupul Railways line upto Imphal:

Although Manipur has a rail head in its western border in Jiribam, its impact on the economy of the state is marginal as it is far away

from Imphal, the business hub and administrative centre of Manipur. There is lack of communication as the state depends mainly on NH-39 and 53 which are also far from satisfactory. On the request of State Govt, Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone for the construction of railways line from Jiribam to Tupul during his visit in Nov, 2004. The State has already requested for rail connectivity upto Imphal which will result in faster and cheaper form of goods and passenger transportation and will make the eastern border State of Manipur an important commercial centre and gateway to the south-east Asia. It is requested that the proposal for railway line upto Imphal be taken up expeditiously.

10. Construction of Imphal City bye pass road on NH-39:

In view of the rapid expansion of urbanization in Manipur, there is an immediate need for the expansion of Imphal city by way of construction of Imphal city bye pass road on NH-39 from Khonghampat (north to Imphal city) to Canchipur (south to Imphal city) on western side of existing of NH-39 road. The volume of traffic in the Imphal city is also assuming an alarming proportion with the increase of population. The existing road network on NH-39, NH-53 and NH-150 will be inadequate in the next coming year to cope with the ever increasing the volume of traffic. Hence construction of Imphal city bye pass on NH-39 from Khonghampat (km 309) to Canchipur (km 327) appears to be the only solution to solve the problem. It may be necessary to mention that the alignment of the proposed bye pass has already been approved by the MOST, Govt of

India. The project is proposed to be taken up at a total estimated cost of Rs.50 crores for a total length of 18 kms. Govt of India may kindly agree to the taking up of Imphal City bye pass on NH-39.

11. Construction of Water Sports Complex at Takmu near Loktak Lake.

The State Government has prepared a Project proposal for Rs.12 crores for construction of Regional Water Sports Complex at Takmu on the periphery of Loktak Lake. The Project proposal has already been submitted to the North Eastern Council and they have favourably considered it. Keeping in view the adequate sports talent in Manipur, setting up of such facilities will go a long way in encouraging the sports persons in Manipur and neighbouring States.

12. Construction of District Mini Sports Complexes in all the Hill Districts of Manipur.

The State Government is proposing to set up Mini Sports Complexes in all the Hill Districts of the State. Ministry of DONER has already retained the project proposals for setting up of District Mini Sports Complex at Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Churachandpur and Bishnupur District Headquarters. Each Mini Sports Complex will cost Rs.12 crores. State Government want to set up Mini Sports Complex at Senapati and Chandel District Hqs. The Project reports are to be submitted to the Ministry of DONER. Setting up of such Sports Complexes will be helpful in promoting young talents as well as properly channelising their energy in a productive way.

Lastly, on behalf of the council of Ministers and also the people of Manipur, I welcome you once again to Manipur and thank you for paying a short visit in the midst of your hectic schedule. Your visit to Manipur will certainly give a fillip in fulfilling some of the burning problems in the State.

JAI HIND