

CHAPTER-XX

WELFARE PROGRAMMES-SOCIAL SECTOR

The salient features of some of the welfare measures undertaken by the State Government for the social and economic upliftment of the weaker sections of the society are laid down below :

WELFARE OF TEA AND EX-TEA GARDEN TRIBES:

20.1.0 The Directorate of Welfare of Tea Garden and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes, Assam, established in the year, 1983 for the welfare of the Tea Tribes Community has been implementing various Schemes in the State as follows.

1. Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme (FOIGS):

The main objective of the scheme is to provide assistance in the form of Government Grants-in-aid to the Tea Tribes families living below the poverty line with a view to enable the families to enhance their annual income. Under this scheme a total of 800 Nos. of Tea Tribes families have been assisted by utilizing an amount of Rs.33.00 lakh during the year 2003-04 and an amount of Rs.70.50 lakh has been sanctioned for the year 2004-05.

2. Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship:

Under this scheme, economic assistance is provided to poor Tea Tribes students who are pursuing Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Courses and encouraging them to pursue their further studies. Under Pre-Matric scholarship altogether 7626 Nos. of students were awarded scholarship utilising Rs.25.71 lakh during 2003-04 on the basis 50:50 Central and State share. On the other hand Post-Matric Scholarship is 100 percent Central share and under this scheme 992 nos. of students were awarded scholarship with an amount of Rs.10.00 lakh during the same period.

3. Grants to Non-Government Educational Institutions:

The objective of the scheme is to create educational environment among Tea Tribes Educational Institutions by providing financial assistance to such Institutions for purchasing teaching instruments, books, furniture and major repairing as well as extension of the school building. An amount of Rs.4.00 lakh was sanctioned in the year 2003-04 under the scheme.

4. Grants for Cultural Activities including Educational Tour:

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the Cultural Organisations of Tea Garden and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes for development of their cultural heritage, which includes purchase of musical instruments, holding cultural functions and exchange of cultural troops etc. An amount of Rs.1.00 lakh have been utilized for providing assistance to 20 Organisations in 2003-04.

5. Grants for Non-Government Organisation:

The purpose of the Scheme is to assist the Non-Government Organisations such as Mahila Samittee, Association, Clubs, Libraries of Tea Tribes Community, which are rendering services for all round development of the community. An amount of Rs.3.00 lakh was sanctioned in the year 2004-05.

6. Grants to Patients suffering from T. B./Cancer and other Malignant diseases:

Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to poor Tea Tribes Community people suffering from various malignant diseases like Cancer, Tuberculoses etc. for their treatments. During the year 2003-04 an amount of Rs.0.45 lakh has been spent for providing assistance to 42 patients.

7. Grants for Purchase of Uniforms:

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to poor Tea Tribes students for purchase of their School uniform. An amount of Rs.0.68 lakh has been utilized to provide uniform to 450 nos. of students during the year 2003-04.

WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES:

20.2.0. The Assam State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes Limited was set up in the year, 1975 for the purpose of socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes people of Assam living below the poverty line through implementation of different poverty alleviation schemes as per directives of the Government. The schemes implemented by the Corporation are as follows:

1. Family Oriented Income Generating Schemes (FOIGS):

The Corporation has been implementing Family Oriented Income Generating schemes for the benefit of the poor Scheduled Castes people of the State below the poverty line under Point 11(A) of the 20 Point Programme. The details of beneficiaries covered during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and targets taken up for the year 2004-05 are shown in Table 20.1.

TABLE-20.1

| FAMILY ORIENTED INCOME GENERATING SCHEME (FOIGS) (Rs. in lakh) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Year | Physical target | Special Central Assistance (SCA received) | Target achieved | Amount utilized | Percentage of achievement |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 2002-03 | 8334 | 224.99 | 9167 | 224.99 | 110 |
| 2003-04 | 3314 | 113.00 | 3314 | 113.00 | 100 |
| 2004-05 | 8000 | 150.00 | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |

2. National Safai Karmacharies Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC):

The Corporation has been implementing NSKFDC Term Loan scheme to uplift the socio-economic condition of the Safai Karmacharies and their dependents of the State through different Income Generating schemes. The fund required for the scheme is received as loan from NSKFDC, New Delhi with an interest rate of 4% p.a. and gives loan to the beneficiaries at an interest rate 6% p.a. The details of achievement are shown below in table 20.2.

TABLE-20.2

NATIONAL SAFAI KARMACHARIES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (Rs.in lakh)

| Year | Amount available | Amount utilized | Number of Beneficiaries achieved |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2002-03 | 426.89 | 56.46 | 85 |
| 2003-04 | 370.43 | 53.44 | 73 |
| 2004-05 | 316.98 | N.A. | N.A. |

3. *National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (Sanitary Mart) :*

The Corporation has been implementing NSLR Sanitary Mart Scheme to relieve the Scavengers and their dependents from their tradition unclear occupation for their socio economic development. The fund required for the scheme is released by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi, as grants-in-aid. The Corporation provides training as well as loan for implementation of the scheme to a group of 25 members of scavengers. The 50 per cent of the total Scheme sanctioned as subsidy and 35 per cent as Term Loan and the remaining 15 percent as Margin Money loan. The 35 per cent term loan has been sanctioned and released by NSKFDC and 15 per cent MML would have to be borne by the Corporation. During the year 2002-2003 training was provided to 780 nos. of beneficiaries by utilizing an amount of Rs.21.66 lakh and rehabilitated 300 nos. of beneficiaries by utilizing an amount of Rs.30.00 lakh in the same year. During the year 2003-04 and 2004-05, Rs.25.00 lakh and Rs.5.00 lakh were spent to rehabilitate 250 nos. and 50 nos. of beneficiaries respectively.

4. *National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC Regular):*

The Corporation has been implementing NSFDC scheme by providing 90 per cent of the unit cost as term loan and remaining 10 per cent as promoters contribution under Trade and Business Sector, Transport, Agriculture etc., to generate employment among the Scheduled Castes poor unemployed educated youths. During the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 an amount of Rs.357.30 lakh and Rs.88.76 lakh were utilized for 185 and 50 number of beneficiaries respectively.

5. *National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation NSFDC (MCF):*

The Corporation has introduced Micro Credit Finance (MCF) scheme with a term loan of Rs.10,000 per unit under different small trade and business like weaving, bamboo works, cycle repairing, carpentry, rice business etc. as 100 per cent loan. Subsequently, the NSFDC raised the term loan @ Rs.25,000 from the year 2003-04 for the economic development of poor Scheduled Caste people of the State living below the poverty line.

WELFARE OF PLAIN TRIBES:

20.3.0. The Assam Tribal Development Authority was set up in November, 1983, as per provisions of the “Assam Tribal Development Authority Act. 1983”. The jurisdiction of the Authority is over the Plains Tribal Areas of the State of Assam excepting two Hills Districts of the State, North Cachar Hills and Karbi-Anglong.

The main sources of funding the Authority are Special Central Assistance (SCA), Central Sectoral Assistance and State Sector Assistance. The ATDA has been implementing some Welfare Schemes for all round development of the Tribal people as follows :

1. *Family Oriented Income Generating Scheme (FOIGS):*

This Scheme is being implemented by the Assam Tribal Development Authority as an anti-poverty measure for the upliftment of the socio-economic condition of tribal people as well as to generate self-employment opportunities for tribal families, living below poverty line. The scheme implemented under FOIGS includes the facilities for purchasing Auto-Rickshaw, Fishery, Piggery, Poultry, Goatery, Handloom, Sericulture, Weaving etc. The tribal families who achieve benefits under FOIGS are as follows :

| Year | Physical Achievement (In Nos.) | Amount involved (Rs. in lakh) |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2002-03 | 1850 | 103.36 |
| 2003-04 | 748 | 42.30 |

2. Infrastructure Development Scheme (IDS) :

The ATDA has been implementing the Infrastructure Development Scheme from its inception. The Scheme covers renovation / repairing of Educational Institution, construction of Roads/Bridges, construction of Community Centre etc. The achievements under the scheme are shown below:

(a) Under IDS, several educational schools/ Institutions have been provided financial assistance for renovation, repairing which include development of science laboratories, play grounds etc. Thus rural tribal students have been availing such facilities for improving their educational and extra-curricular activities.

The achievement under the scheme with financial assistance from ATDA are as follows :

| Year | Physical Achievement (Nos. of Schools) | Amount involved (Rs. in lakh) |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2002-03 | 10 | 8.90 |
| 2003-04 | 68 | 118.57 |

(b) Construction of Link Roads:

The communication system in the rural tribal areas is still far from satisfactory position. Therefore, to improve the same ATDA has taken up the task of construction of link-roads, link-bridges, culverts etc. under the scheme and the achievements are as follows :

| Year | Roads (Km) | Bridges (Nos.) | Amount involved (Rs. in lakh) |
|---------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2001-02 | 3.000 | - | 1.65 |
| 2002-03 | 8.000 | 1 | 13.05 |
| 2003-04 | 49.000 | 4 | 107.76 |

(c) Drinking Water Facilities:

In most of the rural tribal areas, drinking water facilities are inadequate. Therefore, ATDA has been providing financial assistance for installation of ring-wells and tube-wells etc. During 2003-04 a scheme for supply of water by constructing a water reservoir and pipes for running water has been implemented by spending an amount of Rs.9.00 lakh and the achievements are follows:

| Year | Item | Achievement (Nos.) | Amount involved (Rs. in lakh) |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2001-02 | Ring-wells | 2 | 0.50 |
| 2003-04 | Water Reservoir (Bundh) | 1 | 4.00 |
| 2003-04 | Irrigation, Fishery Tank | 2 | 6.50 |

Source : Assam Tribal Development Authority, Guwahati.

(d) Youth Welfare and Cultural Activities:

In order to create facilities for development of talents in games and sports in tribal areas, general awareness of physical health among the young generation of the tribal people is considered to be essential. The scheme has been taken up by ATDA in order to encourage socio-cultural activities especially by women.

The ATDA has assisted 285 nos. of Clubs and Organisations with the financial involvement of Rs.162.58 lakh during the period from 1997-98 to the end of February, 2004.

(e) Vocational Training Institutes (VTI) Scheme:

In order to generate employment opportunities to the tribal youths, and to divert one from indulging in anti-social activities, ATDA has set up vocational training institutes in tribal belts under a Central Sectoral Scheme with 100% financial assistance from the Department of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India. 26 Vocational Training Centres have been setup in different districts in TSP areas, with financial involvement of Rs.276.00 lakh. It is worth mentioning that under the scheme 100% center assistance is given to the states for setting up and running vocational training centres.

(f) Construction of Community Centre:

With a view to promote Art and Culture among different communities, the Assam Tribal Development Authority has been granting financial assistance for construction of Community Centres in Tribal Areas of various Districts of Assam.

So far, an amount of Rs.111.51 lakh has been released for construction of 24 Nos. of Community Centres, out of which construction of 11 Nos. of Community Centres have already been completed. An amount of Rs.30.70 lakh has been sanctioned for 15 community centers during the year 2003-04.

WELFARE OF MINORITIES:

20.4.0 The State Government has been taking various measures to improve the Socio-Economic condition as well as welfare of Minorities people living in the State. At present the following Government / Semi Government Organization is looking after the development of Minorities.

1. Directorate of Char Areas Development, Assam:

The riverine areas of the mighty river Brahmaputra formed either in heart or on its Bank are inhabited by large group of people specially Minorities people and suitable for cultivation. These areas are known as "Char Areas" of Assam. As per Socio-Economic Survey, 2002-2003 conducted in these Areas, there are 2251 Nos. of Char Villages from Sadiya to Dhubri under 60 Nos. of Community Development Blocks of 23 Civil-Sub-divisions within 14 nos. of District comprising 3.60 lakh hectare of land and 24.90 lakh population. Out of the total population, 19.31 percent are literate and 67.88 per cent people in average are living below poverty line.

In order to implement Developmental Schemes in these areas, the State Government had set up the Assam State Char Areas Development Authority in the year 1984. Subsequently, the Authority was converted to full fledged Directorate in 1996 in the name of "Directorate of Char Areas Development, Assam."

The main function of the Directorate is to implement Development schemes as mentioned below-

(i) *Agriculture* :

- (a) Distribution of HYV Rabi seeds.
- (b) Distribution of STWs.
- (c) Tillage Operation by Power Tillers.

(ii) *Veterinary and Dairy* :

- (a) Construction of Raised Earthen Platform for sheltering Cattle and Human being during Flood Season.

(iii) *Drinking Water Facilities.*

- (a) Distribution of Hand Tube Wells.

(iv) *Cottage Industry:*

- (a) Distribution of Sewing Machine
- (b) Distribution of Handlooms.
- (c) Six months training Programmes for Weaving, Sewing, Cutting-Knitting etc. unemployed educated Girls of Char Areas.

- (v) Education scheme:
- Aid for improvement of school building.
 - Computer training for educated unemployed Youths.
 - Nurse-cum-Midwife training Programme to educate girls.
 - Distribution of Sports Goods/Books to School/Club/Library etc.

20.4.1 ASSAM MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

With a view to promote Welfare activities the Assam Minorities Development Board was allocated a sum of Rs.50 lakh during the year 2002-2003 and Rs.35 lakh was released during the same period. The fund was spent in providing training in various fields of activities such as Computer, Cutting, Tailoring, Embroidery etc. Altogether 322 nos. of beneficiaries were imparted training during the aforesaid period.

ASSAM MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.(AMDFC):

20.4.2 The Assam Minorities Development and Finance Corporation Ltd. was constituted in 1997 with a view to extend financial assistance to the beneficiaries belonging to the Minority Communities of Assam.

The performance of the Corporation in the State during the years from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 may be observed from the information furnished at Table-20.8.

TABLE-20.8
AMOUNT RECEIVED AND DISBURSED BY AMDFC

| Period | Amount Received (in Rs.) | Amount Disbursed (in Rs.) | No. of Loanees | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------|-------|------|--------|
| | | | Total | Rural | Urban | Male | Female |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1999-2000 | 1,06,08,250 | 1,06,08,250 | 175 | 110 | 65 | 151 | 24 |
| 2000-2001 | 80,47,000 | 77,93,450 | 212 | 84 | 128 | 181 | 31 |
| 2001-2002 | 1,00,00,000 | 86,06,250 | 212 | 117 | 95 | 170 | 42 |
| Total | 2,86,55,250 | 2,70,07,950 | 599 | 311 | 288 | 502 | 97 |

Source: Assam Minorities Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.

SOCIAL WELFARE:

20.5.0. The Social Welfare Department is functioning since 1960 and implementing the various schemes with the objectives to cater the need of the weaker section of the society which includes disabled persons, women belonging to poor section, destitute children and women, juvenile delinquent and neglected people in the society etc. With the objectives in view the Social Welfare Department is implementing about 25 Nos. of Schemes under the following Sub-heads.

- Welfare of handicapped.
- Child Welfare
- Woman Welfare
- Welfare of Old infirm and destitute
- Nutrition Programme.
- Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).

(i) Welfare of handicapped :

The problem of physically disabled are acute than the normal persons and they require to be looked into on humanitarian consideration. The Department of Social Welfare is endeavouring to offer scholarship to the disabled students, rehabilitations grants to the disabled persons and provided school facilities to the disabled persons like Deaf and Dumb School at Guwahati, Blind school, Jorhat, School for Hearing Impaired, Jorhat, workshop for blind and financial assistance in the shape of grants-in-aid to the voluntary Organisation etc. Besides the above there was a centrally sponsored scheme run by this Department since 2001-02.

(ii) Child Welfare:

A number of programmes for the development of children have been undertaken by this Department. Some of the programmes are common to women and children. The following Institutions look after the minor children besides the family and child welfare projects.

(a) Home for orphan and destitute children at Nagaon.

(b) Bal Bhawan, Guwahati and Dibrugarh and Balwadis programme, family and children welfare projects.

(c) Home for destitute and vagrant children, North Lakhimpur.

(d) The Juvenile Justice Act was passed in 1986 and same has been implemented in the State since 1987 and under this Act the neglected and delinquent boys under 16 years and girls under 18 years kept in the Juvenile Home for prevention and treatment of juvenile delinquency and negligence.

(iii) Women Welfare:

A number of schemes and Institutions are maintained for the welfare of women in the State. Vocational Training cum Production Centres are established to create self employment avenues among rural women who could not otherwise get education are given vocational training in crafts according to their skills and aptitudes. There are also homes for destitute and helpless widows. The Women Commission in the State is also funded by this Department.

(iv) Nutrition Programme:

The Social Welfare Department has been implementing the nutrition programme in the ICDS projects under the scheme PMGY which is a 100 per cent centrally sponsored scheme. Under this scheme the children from the age group of 0-6 years and the pregnant and nursing mothers are provided supplementary nutrition for improvement of their health and other condition. An amount of Rs.9500.00 lakh has been proposed under this scheme for the year 2003-04.

(v) Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme:

The ICDS scheme was started in the year 1975-76, the objectives of the schemes are to –

(a) Improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age group of 0-6 years.

(b) Lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the children.

(c) Reduce the incidence of mortality and school drop out.

(d) Achieve effectively the policy and implementation among the various Departments to promote child development.

(e) Enhance the capacity of mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

To achieve the above objectives there are at present 195 ICDS projects in the state and there are all together more than 25336 Anganwadi Centres in the state for this purpose. In order to deal with and achieve the above objectives the following packages of services has been formulated under ICDS scheme:

(1) Supplementary nutrition.

(2) Immunization.

(3) Health checkup.

(4) Referral services.

(5) Nutrition and health education.

(6) Non-formal education.

(vi) Old Age Pension:

The Government in the Department of Social Welfare is paying old age pension at the rate of Rs.100/- per month and it is introduced in the State in the year 1983. The target for the year is fixed is 43,5000 nos of persons throughout the State.

(vii) Agriculture farmer/ widow pension

State Government in the Department of Social Welfare is paying assistance to agricultural farmers and widows under National Social Assistance programme in the event of their death.

(viii) ICDS training programme project-UDISHA

It is a world Bank assisted programme. This department is imparting training to the various functionaries of ICDS under this programme. There are 38 nos. of AWITs and two MLTCs under this programme. This department sponsors trainees to these centers for proper training and all financial expenditure is borne by this department.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE:

20.6.0 In the health sector, the State has continued to strengthen the curative health services while at the same time ensuring the expansion of basic health care facilities so that the people living in the remote and inaccessible areas get proper health care. The State Government has taken a number of steps to improve the quality of health facilities in the State.

20.6.1 The Family Welfare Programme of the State Government aims at promoting responsible parenthood with a two children family norm and the programme in Assam was started in 1956. The Family Welfare Services in Assam are offered through the existing network of Primary Health Centres, Sub-Centres, Community Health Centres, Civil Hospital and other Health Centres of both Government and Non-Government Organisations.

24 hours delivery : Assam

| | | |
|--|-------|-------------|
| (a) Number of Institution (Block PHC/ CHC/ FRU | ----- | 150 |
| (b) Total night delivery conducted (2002-2003) | ----- | 28749 |
| (c) Total number of Institutional delivery day & Night (2003-04)----- | | 136025 |
| (d) Total night delivery conducted (2003-04) | ----- | 27144 |
| (e) Fund received from Govt. of India so far | ----- | Rs. 3640000 |
| (f) Fund released to the district | ----- | Rs. 2841570 |

The Government has laid special emphasis on immunization programmes against preventable diseases throughout the State during the year under report. Some of the achievements of Family Welfare Programme, Immunization Programmes and Health facilities under the State Government are given in Appendix.

EDUCATION:

Sarva Siksha Abhijan:

20.7.0 In the field of Education, the primary objective of State Government is the universalization of Primary Education and Qualitative improvement of Higher Education. The State is committed to work for achieving universal Elementary Education (UEE) and is being pursued with the help of programmes like District Primary Education programme (DPEP), Sarva Siksha Abhijan (SSA) and other schemes under the State Plan. The entire UEE effort is being co-ordinated through a UEE Mission called the Axom Sarva Siksha Abhijan Mission. The salient four objectives of the Mission are :

- (i) All children of 6-14 years in School by 2003
- (ii) All children of 6-14 years complete five years schooling by 2007
- (iii) All children of 6-14 years complete eight years schooling by 2010
- (iv) Bridge all gender and social category gaps at Primary stage by 2007 and at elementary level by 2010.

The total plan size of Sarva Siksha Abhijan, Assam for the year 2003-04 was Rs.41859.24 lakh (including spill over), Rs.18719.13 lakh (45%) has been spent during the financial year Rs.690.73 lakh has been earmarked for State level activities and Rs.439.38 lakh spent till 31.3.04. Some of the important Indicators of Elementary Education are stated below :

| | | |
|--|-----|-------------|
| Total population (2001 Census) | ... | 2,66,55,528 |
| Children population 5-13 years | ... | 52,37,964 |
| Children enrolled (in School) 5-13 years | ... | 46,28,181 |
| Children out of School 5-13 years | ... | 4,24,845 |
| Enrolment in LP Age Group | ... | 24,07,124 |
| Enrolment in UP Age Group | ... | 19,63,995 |
| Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) | | |
| Lower Primary | ... | 96% |
| Upper Primary | ... | 91% |
| Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) | | |
| Lower Primary | ... | 86% |
| Upper Primary | ... | 72% |
| Average Teacher Per School | | |
| Lower Primary | ... | 3 |
| Upper Primary | ... | 7 |

Secondary and Higher Secondary Education:

20.7.1 Secondary stage of Education covers the classes from class VIII to X of the students belonging to age group of 14-16 years and the Higher Secondary stage covers classes XI- XII of the students belonging to age group of 17-18 years. However, Composite Secondary schools are imparting education from class V onwards. The Government of India has launched a scheme viz. "Improvement of Science Education" with 100 per cent Central Assistance and under this scheme each High and Higher Secondary School will be benefited with Scientific Equipment, Library Books and Furniture etc. The State Government introduced Rajib Gandhi Computer Literacy Programme in 210 Higher Secondary Schools of the State and proposes to extend it to 200 more Higher Secondary Schools. During 2003-04 the State Government grant an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh per School to 20 nos. of Government High School for renovation of their School buildings.

Higher Education:

20.7.2 At present, there are five Universities in the State. As per provisional information available there are altogether 363 Institutions for Higher Education serving by 12425 nos. of Teachers in the State during 2002-2003. The Institutions in general areas consist of 4 Government Colleges, 189 Non-Government Deficit Colleges, 30 Ad-hoc Colleges, 117 Affiliated Colleges, 81 Sanskrit and Pali Prakrits, 16 Ad-hoc Sanskrit Tols, 7 Ad-hoc Law Colleges. Besides, there are 12 nos. of Literacy and voluntary Organisations under the Administrative control of higher Education Department, as detailed below:

- (i) Assam Science Society, (ii) Ananda Ram Baruah Institute of Language Art and Culture, (iii) Assam Sahitya Sabha, (iv) Bodo Sahitya Sabha, (v) Rabha Sahitya Sabha, (vi) Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, (vii) Tai Sahitya Sabha, (viii) Missing Agom Kebang, (ix) Sadou Asom Lekhika Samaroh, (x) Central Tai Academy, (xi) Academy of Mathematics, (xii) Advance Study in Science & Technology.

Technical Education:

20.7.3 The technical education is one of the most crucial of human resources development which contributes to the upliftment of national economy in general and economy of the State of Assam in particular.

The Director of Technical Education is the head of the Organisation and under the Directorate two State Engineering Colleges are functioning and one Regional Engineering College having 50 per cent State share. Besides these, there are 9 Polytechnics and 2 Junior Technical Schools are functioning in the State. The current courses with intake capacity of the above mentioned Institutions are shown below.

| Institution | Intake Capacity | Nature of Course |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Two State Engineering Colleges | 510 | Degree |
| 2. Regional Engineering College, 50% seats for Assam | 105 | Degree |
| 3. Reserved seats in different Regional Engineering Out side Assam | 102 | Degree |
| 4. Nine State Polytechnics | (i) 1170 (ii) 180 | Diploma Post Diploma |

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati:

IIT Guwahati, the sixth member of the IIT fraternity, was established in 1994 and the academic programme of IIT, Guwahati commenced in 1995.

At present the Institute has eleven departments covering all the major engineering and science disciplines, offering B. Tech., B. Des., M. Tech., Ph. D. and M. Sc. Programmes. Within a short period of time, IIT, Guwahati has been able to build up the necessary infrastructure for carrying out advance research and has been equipped with State-of-the art, Scientific and Engineering instruments.

Adult Education:

20.7.4 Adult Education Programme was started on national basis in the year 1978-79 for providing functional literacy to illiterate Adults of the age-group 15-35 years. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) came into being in the year, 1988 with the Strategies of providing functional literacy through Total Literacy Campaign (TLC). The State of Assam has started implementation of TLC from the year 1992 by phasing out the entire based Adult Education Programme.

The Tenth Five Year Plan target is to cover 36 lakh illiterate Adults of the age group 15-35 years. The target is proposed to be covered through the existing TLC/PLC programme and also with the help of NGO working in the field of Adult Education in the State.

