

## CHAPTER III : PLANNING

### 3.1 District Planning Process

The Government of India (GOI) envisages an inclusive and participative district development planning process. The 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments to the constitution mandating the establishment of Panchayats at the district, intermediate and village levels clearly envisaged decentralized approach to district planning. The 74<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment mandated the establishment of a District Planning Committees (DPC) for consolidating the plans prepared by the Panchayats and municipalities in the District into an integrated District Plan. The Eleventh Five Year Plan stressed that it is absolutely critical for the inclusiveness of growth process that the large number of elected local government representatives are fully involved in planning, implementation and supervision of the delivery of essential public services. In Meghalaya, the Panchayati Raj Institutions are not established. As a result, widespread consultations for finalization of the district plan as envisaged under the constitution was not taking place in the State.

The District Planning and Development Council (DPDC) in the District was constituted by the Governor in 1986 with a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of the District as Chairman, the DC as the Vice Chairman, the DPO as the Member Secretary and all MLAs of the District and some representatives from non-government organisations (NGO) as members. The DPDC was entrusted with the functions such as to formulate district development plans, co-ordinate implementation of the plans and programmes to be executed in the District and to monitor and review the progress of implementation of these plans and programmes.

The Governor re-constituted the DPDC in June 2008 with a Parliamentary Secretary as its Chairman and all MLAs of the District, Member of Parliament of the Tura Parliamentary Constituency, Chief Executive Member of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, all district heads of development departments and Project Director of DRDA as its members. In August 2009 by an order of the Governor, the chairmanship of the DPDC again reverted from Parliamentary Secretary to MLA.

### 3.2 Audit Findings

The District Annual Plan (DAP) was prepared by the DPO each year during the period 2006-11. Except for the year 2007-08, these plans were considered and approved by the DPDC on the dates indicated in the following table:

**Table 3.1**

<b>Year of DAP</b>	<b>Date of meeting of DPDC</b>
2006-07	23 September 2005
2008-09	04 December 2007
2009-10	01 October 2008
2010-11	05 October 2009

No meeting other than four meetings held to approve the DAP as indicated in the preceding table, was held during five year period 2006-11. As such, monitoring the implementation of DAPs as required under the charter of functions prescribed for the DPDC was not carried out and much needed direction for proper implementation of the DAP was missing, resulting in delays in execution of works, wasteful/unfruitful expenditure as discussed in the subsequent chapters.

### **3.3 Recommendation**

- **The Government should take steps to ensure that the DPDC effectively discharges its prescribed responsibilities and obligations.**