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**ASSAM HOME MINISTER SEEKS HIS MEGHALAYA COUNTERPART'S COOPERATION FOR
SECURITY IN THE INTER STATE BORDER**

Shillong, December 5, 2003: In view of the recent tension along the Inter-State border of Assam-Meghalaya in the Block I area, the Assam Minister of State for Home, Mr Rockybul Hussain has informed the Meghalaya Home Minister, Mr R G Lyngdoh , that the Assam Government has taken various steps to settle the matter amicably with the Meghalaya Government.

In a letter sent to Mr Lyngdoh recently, Mr. Hussain also informed that necessary instructions have already been issued to the Assam Police to conduct patrolling and operations in the Assam territory to maintain law and order. He urged upon Mr Lyngdoh to also instruct the Meghalaya Police to conduct similar operations and patrolling on their of the border.

Mr Hussain assured that the Assam Police will take all possible steps to ensure security and law and order within Assam.



MEG COLD STORAGE AT GAROBADHA INAUGURATED

Shillong, December 5, 2003: Meghalaya Chief Minister, Mr D D Lapang today unveiled the plaque to mark the commissioning of the 'Meg Cold Storage' in the Garobadha Regulated Market Complex, Garobadha, West Garo Hills. The inaugural function was presided by the Meghalaya Minister for Horticulture, Mr H D R Lyngdoh.

It may be mentioned that the 1000 Metric tonnes capacity Cold storage is being commissioned with an objective to provide storage facility to the farmers who bring their perishable products to the market for sale. It will enable them to sell their produce directly to the consumers or suppliers at their own rate of interest. The presence of the regulated market is intended to do away with middlemen who exploit the farmers are always left at the mercy of the middlemen.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Lapang said that the State Government is committed to uplift the economic conditions of the people in the rural areas by giving top priority to Agriculture. The commissioning of the Cold Storage is a boon to the farmers of West Garo Hills and he hope that the farmers will derive maximum benefit from the storage facility, he added. He said that the Government is actively considering to prepare a master plan to uplift and provide sufficient facilities to the 3 focal centres of marketing in Garo Hills which are Ampati, Garobadha and Chibinang which he hope will boost the rural economy in general and benefit the farmers in particular.

While appealing for peace and tranquility in the State as a whole, Mr Lapang said that development cannot take place if the peaceful atmosphere is disturbed. He said that the people should open avenues to attract investors to the State by creating a peaceful atmosphere. "Let the fear of the people go away" he said while appealing to the militants outfits to come forward for negotiations with the Government.