

quired. Environmental impact study will be initiated after completing land acquisition formalities.

(b) A capital subsidy of Rs. 377 crores has been sanctioned for the project. A concessional gas price of Rs. 600/thousand cu.mtrs. has been fixed for a period of fifteen years.

### Economic Package

\*20. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister has announced an economic package for the North Eastern States during his recent visit to the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether the declared amount is in addition to the annual plan allocation for the concerned States;

(d) if not, whether the policy of deduction at source by the Union Government for various dues of the State Governments while releasing fund shall be relaxed for the North Eastern States to implement the 'package'; and

(e) the details of other announcements made by the Prime Minister during his above visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e). The statement of the Prime Minister issued in 27th October, 1996 at Guwahati containing the details of various initiatives for development of the North Eastern Region including important projects for different North Eastern States which Government have decided to take up, is given in the enclosed Statement. Different parts of the package would be implemented by suitable allocations from Central Ministries as well as provisions under State Plan and additional allocations as found necessary. It is also envisaged to set up a High Level Commission to examine the gaps in important sectors whose recommendations would be considered by the Planning Commission to formulate specific programmes and funding arrangements for development of North Eastern Region.

### STATEMENT

My first visit to the seven States of the North East has come to an end. To me, this has been a very moving experience. The warmth of the people here will bring me back. I came to the area to know the people, their aspirations, their problems, how they feel and what they think. I came with an open mind. I am going back

with pleasant memories and with a firm resolve to work with the people to mark a new beginning in the development of this region. Wherever I went, the people from different sections of the society came and met me in large numbers. They were friendly and frank in expressing their views, their desires, their apprehensions and their hopes. The warmth which they extend throughout my visit has really overwhelmed me.

I am fully convinced that the problems can be resolved if all of us work together and look ahead jointly towards a better future. I am thankful to the people for showing so much love and affection for me during the visit.

I have also met at each Capital, a cross-section, of people, like leaders of political parties, chiefs of Autonomous District Councils, representatives of Non-Governmental organisations, students unions, women's associations, church leaders and the press; in addition to Ministers, State Government officials of Security forces, to get a first hand account of the conditions in these States.

The north-eastern region is endowed with abundant natural resources. In fact, Assam was in the forefront of the economic development of the country 100-150 years ago. It was a pioneering State and enterprising entrepreneurs invested in the development of tea plantations, oil, coal mining, forestry, Railways, and inland waterways. However, in the recent years investors have shunned these areas, because some of these States turned inward-looking, while others have been afflicted by militancy and terrorism. This has set in a vicious circle of terrorism, discouraging investments and economic development, leading to growing unemployment, which in turn provided recruits to militancy. Today, there are no major industries or other economic activities, which can absorb the educated unemployed. The only avenue for employment in almost all these States is Government service. However, Government service cannot absorb too many people. Also, too many people in Government service only breed inefficiency. The only way out of unemployment or militancy is massive all round economic development, leading to prosperity.

One of the important factors impinging on the identity of the people of the north eastern States is the question of foreigners. I have reviewed this issue in some details during my discussions with All Assam Student's Union and also several others. It was represented that the laws existing for the detection of foreigners such as IMDT (Act), 1983 as amended have not proved to be effective. We would take steps to repeal the ineffective laws, and strengthen the legal and administrative measures for dealing with foreigners in consultation with the States. Further, the policing of the border including fencing at appropriate places would be strengthened.

The other important factors which led to militancy, and is leading to unrest in some of the States, is the feeling of loss of identity by various ethnic groups, and the feeling that the Centre has been giving step-motherly treatment to this region. These feelings may or may not be entirely justified. But the feeling is certainly there. It would be our endeavour to remove this feeling and to see that the basic infrastructure in this region is developed to reach the standards in the rest of the country, in a specific time-frame. I believe that India as a whole cannot progress unless every State, including the seven States of the N.E. Region keep in step with the rest of the country.

For too long senseless violence has prevailed in some of the States of North-East. For too long certain misguided elements have been killing their brothers and fellow citizens, and resorting to extortion, kidnapping etc. Violence cannot achieve any political objective. I would like to appeal to all those who have taken to the gun, to see the path of reason. I believe that all problems can be solved by mutual discussions. I am giving an open invitation to any group of individuals, including militants and without any pre-condition to meet me to discuss their legitimate grievances. I genuinely wish to understand their point of view and what exactly is troubling them. At the same time, I would like to clearly state that violence would not be tolerated, and would be put down with a firm hand. We also want friendly relations with all our neighbours, and we would expect them not to encourage or allow cross-border terrorism, or support militant groups from India.

Tackling unemployment would require productive investments in the area. With this view, as a first step, my Government would take the following measures :

**(a) Commission to Determine Gaps in Infrastructure and Backlog in Basic Minimum Services**

A High-Level Commission will be appointed within 30 days to critically examine the gaps in important sectors, specially in power, communication, railways, roads, education, agriculture etc. The Commission will also critically examine the backlog in the Basic Minimum Services in the seven NE states. The Commission, after assessing these requirements, will suggest policies, programmes and fund requirements to bridge the gaps in the infrastructural sectors and the backlog in Basic Minimum Services in the seven NE States. The Commission will submit its report within three months, and the Planning Commission will take the recommendations of the Commission into consideration and formulate specific programmes and funding arrangements for the development of the NE States in the Ninth Five Year Plan. Additional adequate funds will be provided on an annual basis over and above the annual Plan allocations in the Ninth Five Year Plan to achieve these objectives.

**(b) Priority for Creation of Employment Opportunities to the Educated Unemployed**

A High-Level Expert Committee will be appointed within one month to examine all aspects of the problem pertaining to the educated unemployed in the NE region and urgently suggest specific steps to promote employment among the educated unemployment in the NE States. Relevant infrastructure, extensive training and schemes for productive employment generation, specific for each of the NE States, will be established in each NE State. The High-Level Committee will submit its report within three months and recommend a blueprint for time-bound implementation. The recommendation will be implemented by the State Government and the relevant National Level Institutions/Central Ministries straight away. We will also give high priority for employment generation in the NE in the Ninth Plan.

Exports from the North Eastern Region would be associated with both these Committees on infrastructure and employment.

**(c) North-East Sub-Plan in All Central Ministries/Departments**

All Central Ministries/Departments will earmark at least 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the NE States. They will also ensure that the programmes are speedily implemented.

**(d) Visits and Intensive Monitoring by Central Ministers/Secretaries**

Ministers and Secretaries in charge of the Central Ministries/Departments, specially those in charge of the Social Sectors, Petroleum, Surface Transport, Railways, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Water Resources etc. would tour all NE States, at least once in a quarter and pursue the implementation of their plans and programmes.

**(e) Full Funding of the Ongoing Projects**

A number of important projects in the NE region concerning highways, railways, power, etc. are not progressing satisfactorily for want of adequate funds. Full funding will be assured for all on-going Central Projects, including Numaligarh refinery. The Home Ministry, the Planning Commission and the Cabinet Secretariat will regularly monitor these projects on a quarterly basis to ensure that these are completed as per schedule.

**(f) Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control Measures**

Control of floods and water management are extremely important to the economy of this region. I have recently appointed a High-Level Commission for suggesting urgent measures for comprehensive water management in our country. This Commission would examine and make recommendations on flood control

and comprehensive water management aspects in North-East also. The Brahmaputra Board will be immediately activated to prepare a list of projects relevant for flood control, power generation and water management. Dredging operations will be launched to make inland waterways more efficient in the discharge of water and for transport. All Brahmaputra flood control project works henceforth will receive 100% grant from the Centre.

**(g) Full Coverage through Employment Assurance Scheme**

Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) will be extended to all Blocks in the NE States by 31.3.1997.

**(h) Extension of Border Roads/BADP Programme**

The Border Area Development Programme as well as Border Roads Programme will be extended to some more areas in the Indo-Myanmar border also, as represented by some States.

**(i) Full Coverage of North East Through Telecommunication and Electronic Media**

Telecommunication/TV/AIR coverage will be accelerated so as to cover 100% of the population from Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh by the end of Ninth Plan. At least Rs. 50 crores will be separately earmarked for this purpose.

**(j) Improved Credit flow to the North East**

A special cell will be set up in the Reserve Bank of India under a Deputy Governor to ensure that more credit is made available to industry, agriculture and for self employment schemes.

**(k) New Industrial Policy**

A new Industrial Policy, specific to the North Eastern Region and its requirements will be considered and announced by 31.3.1997 to promote private investment, both domestic and foreign.

**(l) Decentralisation**

In this region, there is a need for greater decentralisation at the District and Sub-district levels so that people are involved in the decision making process. The Government of India will actively promote such decentralisation.

**(m) Development of Tourism**

An Integrated Tourism Development Plan for the entire North East as a whole is under formulation. This will develop some tourist covering several States.

**(n) Strengthening of Central Agencies**

The presence in the N.E. region of certain central agencies concerned with the promotion of agriculture,

trade and industry-like NABARD, various commodity Boards etc. will be strengthened.

**(o) Export Policy**

Commerce Ministry will work out an export policy including border trade for NE region aimed at promoting trade with South East Asia.

**(p) Measures for Control of Narcotics and AIDS**

Centre would take immediate measures to strengthen the institutional arrangements and programmes in some of the North Eastern States for control of AIDS, narco-trafficking, and drug addiction and provide adequate funding for all these purposes.

**(q) Improvement in Railway Services**

The performance, punctuality and service by Railways in the region will be improved. On-going Railway projects, such as new lines, gauge conversion etc. will be completed soon with adequate funding. The new Railway lines proposed by the States without rail-head or very limited access would be included on priority.

I intend to visit North Eastern region at least two times in a year to satisfy myself that the plans and programmes for development in these states are implemented properly.

Finally as already stated by me, the Prime Minister's Office will ensure that all these commitments and the Package of programmes and schemes being launched forthwith are implemented according to the time schedules announced and regular monitoring is done of progress in implementation.

There are, of course, several other items raised during my visit. On returning to Delhi, I shall hold consultations with the Planning Commission and other Central Ministers and take decisions on these issues also within the next one month. The Chief Ministers will be further consulted on these issues, before final decisions are taken.

In the above endeavour, I solicit the whole-hearted cooperation of all the Chief Ministers, political parties, students unions, media and the people at large in these States. We should all work together to launch a drive for peace and harmony, in the troubled States. It is necessary to create a suitable atmosphere of confidence and optimism for this. Abiding peace must replace the current conflict, harmony must replace hatred, mutual trust must replace suspicion. We are all sons and daughters of the same country. We are all one family. Our future and prosperity are common to all of us. We must share our concerns and prosperity. I would also request the State Governments to improve the performance of their bureaucracy, take steps to eliminate corruption and to fine tune the Government machinery for better delivery of services. I am sure I will have the full cooperation of all people of the North East, judging

from the tremendous enthusiasm and response the people gave me during my visit.

The State Governments proposed during discussions with me, various projects which will need to be taken up for implementation. We have examined all the proposals. A list of important projects, State-wise which Government have decided to take up is attached.

#### Mizoram

1. Sanction for Tuirial Hydro Electric Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 425 crores will be accorded this year.
2. Sanction for one State Referral Hospital with selected specialities and 200 beds at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crores; land to be provided free-of-cost by State Government and Central Government will jointly prepare the project by 31st December, 1996 for sanction before 31.3.1997.
3. Sanction for Phase-II of the Aizawl Urban Drinking Water Supply Scheme including sewage at an estimated cost of Rs. 130 crores. Centre will provide 75% of the funds and the balance 25% by the State Government. The work to be completed within three years.
4. Border Roads/BADP with outlay of Rs. 30 crores will be sanctioned for implementation for 1997-98 onwards.
5. One Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores will be sanctioned this year.

#### Tripura

1. Kumarghat-Agartala Railway Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 525 crores. Adequate funds will be provided in each year of 9th Five Year Plan to complete the same within 5 years.
2. Two India Reserve Battalions will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores)
3. Rs. 34 crores will be provided for upgradation of facilities at Agartala Airport.
4. One LPG Bottling Plant will be established (Rs. 15 crores).
5. One Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores.
6. Upgradation of State Highway from Agartala to Sabroom at a cost of Rs. 60 crores in the 9th Five Year Plan.

#### Manipur

1. Upgradation/widening of NH-53 by Border Roads Organisation at estimated cost of Rs.

130 crores will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997 and work commenced in 1997-98.

2. Rs. 17.10 crores will be sanctioned for the infrastructural facilities for National Games 1997 in Imphal.
3. An Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores will be sanctioned this year.
4. An LPG Bottling Plant for Manipur will be sanctioned - (Rs. 15 crores.)
5. Phase-II of Project for upgradation of RIMS, Imphal at an estimated cost of Rs. 90 crores will be sanctioned by 31.3.1997.
6. Loktak Down Stream HEP will be sanctioned this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 426 crores.
7. Construction of border road linking Maram (NH-39) to Phaibung (59 Kms.) at estimated cost of Rs. 15 crores will be sanctioned this year.

#### Arunachal Pradesh

1. Sanction for water supply schemes for Itanagar and Naharlagun (estimated cost of Rs. 36 crores) would be sanctioned, as soon as the project report is received from the State Government.
2. An Institute of Bio-diversity studies will be set up in Arunachal Pradesh (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).
3. Construction of new airport at Itanagar to be taken up during 9th Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores. Land to be provided free of cost by the State Government.
4. The GOI will actively promote investment in Arunachal Pradesh, especially in the fields of Hydel power generation, tourism and agro-processing.
5. Improvements of Leelabari Airport including of runway etc. at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.50 crores will be sanctioned before 31.3.1997.
6. The proposal for extending NH-52A from Itanagar to Gohpur would be considered and sanctioned in the 9th Five Year Plan.
7. Two India Reserve Battalions would be sanctioned to Arunachal Pradesh by 31.3.1997 (estimated cost Rs. 10 crores).
8. The Central Government will provide 75% grant for construction of new Assembly Hall at Itanagar for which Foundation Stone was laid 10 years back by Late Rajiv Gandhi.

#### Nagaland

1. Additional funds required for the completion of Doyang HEP (Rs. 127.80 crores over two years) will be provided.

2. Helicopter services would be provided between Guwahati to Dimapur & Kohima with 75% Central Subsidy (Rs. 15 crores/annum).
3. Four laning of 17 km. of NH 39 will be sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 38 crores.
4. Development of Dimapur Airport (extension of runway and installation of ILS) (Rs. 15 crores).
5. Rs. 10 crores for additional infrastructure for University of Nagaland.
6. Upgradation of District Hospital for referral facilities at Kohima (Rs. 25 crores).
7. Setting up Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores.
8. Gauge conversion works of Dibrugarh to Dimapur section would be sanctioned.
9. Additional allotment of Rs. 10 crores for housing to Village Development Boards under IAY.
10. Rajdhani Express to Delhi from Dimapur via Guwahati will be introduced.
11. Indian Airlines will operate from Dimapur to Delhi via Guwahati thrice a week.

#### Assam

1. Additional funds of Rs. 55 crores would be provided in 1996-97 to complete Rail-cum-Road at Jogighopa. Rs. 120 crores for 1997-98 to fully complete the project.
2. Proposal for Road-cum-Rail Bridge at Bogibheel. Rs. 1000 crores will be sanctioned this year and the work commenced next year and completed within the 9th Five Year Plan.
3. Upgrading Guwahati airport as hub centre for the NE and develop it as an international airport (Rs. 128 crores).
4. Three Industrial Growth Centres will be set up with Central Subsidy of Rs. 10 crore each (Total 30 crores).
5. Centre would take up flood control works on Brahmaputra as Central Sector Project and provide Rs. 500 crores in 9th Five Year Plan as Central Grant.
6. An LPG Bottling Plant will be set up at a cost of Rs. 24 crore.
7. GOI would finalise the 'on account' royalty rates for the three year period 1996-1999 by the end of November '96 and payments at these rates would be made to Government of Assam by 31.12.96, including the arrears from 1.4.96.
8. Upgradation of Guwahati Medical College will be considered

#### Meghalaya

1. Indira Gandhi Health Institute for which foundation was laid in 1986 would be taken up for full completion in a time-bound manner.
2. Shillong Bypass Road would be provided Rs. 50 crores and the implementation expedited in 9th Plan.
3. Railhead within Meghalaya at Burnihat from Guwahati would be provided and work on this would commence as soon as the required land is made available by the State Government.
4. The Umroi Airport would be extended and upgraded during the Ninth Plan Period and work would commence as soon as land is made available.
5. New Satellite Township near Shillong would be established during the Ninth Plan Period by obtaining funds from external financial sources.
6. A Regional Biological Products Unit will be established in Meghalaya as recommended by State Government at a total cost of about Rs. 3.5 crores.
7. Sanction for widening of NH-51 near Tura will be accorded.
8. An Industrial Growth Centre with Central subsidy of Rs. 10 crores would be sanctioned.
9. An Institute of Hotel Management at Shillong would be set up.
10. Construction of Dowki Bridge connecting Meghalaya and Bangladesh would be taken up urgently with assistance from Government of India.

#### Prices of Petroleum Products

1. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee was constituted to go into the price structure of gas and to recommend changes required in the principle of fixing gas prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, by which time the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e). A Committee was constituted in January, 1995 under the Chairmanship of Shri T.L. Sankar, Principal, Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad to recommend changes in gas prices. The report of the Committee is yet to be submitted to the Government.