

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:588
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN STATES
A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the economic and overall development of North-Eastern States have become worst in the last few years;
- (b) if so, the factors responsible for such a situation;
- (c) whether insurgency in those States have increased and the assistance given by the Union Government to counter the insurgency and overall development is inadequate;
- (d) if so, whether the Government have received representations from the leaders of the political parties in this regard;
- (e) if so, the action taken thereon;
- (f) whether any physical verification has been done by the Government regarding the developmental works of North-Eastern States;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (h) the amount spent on the development of North-Eastern region during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER, DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 588 RAISED BY SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI ANI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN STATES DUE FOR ANSWER ON 7.5.2002.

(a) to (h): According to the estimate on the growth performance of the States made by the Planning Commission, the compound annual growth rate (in per cent) of the North Eastern States during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000 were as below:

States Compound annual growth rate

Arunachal pradesh	4.10%
Assam	2.49%
Manipur	6.01%
Meghalaya	6.00%
Mizoram	3.79%
Nagaland	4.55%
Sikkim	7.54%
Tripura	7.25%
All India	6.68%

The figures indicate that while Sikkim and Tripura had the growth rate more than the national average and Manipur and Meghalaya had a growth rate only marginally lower than the national average. Assam, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland on the other hand had lower growth rate than the national average during the same period. The economic and overall development of North Eastern States has not matched its potential. Lack of infrastructure and human resources as well as militancy, ethnic conflicts and atmosphere of fear in certain pockets are some of the factors hindering the actualization of developmental potential in North Eastern Region. This has further affected the inflow of private capital and business in this region.

According to available information militant/terrorist activities have registered a decline in the year 2001 as compared to the year 2000. Steps have been taken to control militancy in the North Eastern States viz. Deployment of para-military forces and Army in the State; coordinated action by Army, para-military forces and state police for counter insurgency operations; sanctioning of 20 India Reserve Battalions to North East so far; declaration of major insurgent groups as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; declaration of insurgency affected State/areas as 'disturbed' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958; reimbursement of security related expenditure to the State Governments; modernization/upgradation of State Police Forces; peace talks; border fencing; formulation of a surrender and rehabilitation policy and taking diplomatic initiatives with neighbouring countries. Representations received in this regard from the leaders of the political parties have, where appropriate, been forwarded to the concerned North Eastern States Governments for necessary action.

Adequate funds are provided for countering militancy and overall development of the North Eastern Region from various sources. Besides the developments programmes taken up by the respective states, all Central Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) earmark at least 10% of their budget for sectoral developmental programmes in the North Eastern States. The unspent balance of the earmarked funds is transferred to the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for projects/programmes in the region. Under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources an amount of Rs. 1346.72 crores has been released since 1998-99. The North Eastern Council also takes up infrastructure development projects in various sectors. The Government of India has accorded special category status to these States by virtue of which they receive 90% of Plan assistance as grant and only 10% as loan. During the period 1997-2001 an expenditure of Rs. 1474 crores was incurred by NEC for taking up developmental works in the region.

The State Governments have been advised to ensure that developmental projects implemented with the assistance of central funds are regularly monitored. After receipt of Utilisation Certificates the second and subsequent instalments of project funds are released. Regular monitoring is also done by the concerned ministries/departments of the central government through physical verification.

Officers of this department have commenced field inspections of projects under execution. Some of the projects which have been inspected during the last few months are:

- (a) Ranganadi Hydro electric project, Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Ram Krishna Mission Hospital, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Itanagar Water Supply Scheme, Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Doyang Hydro Electric Project, Nagaland
- (e) Naga Hospital, Kohima, Nagaland
- (f) Baramura Gas Power Project, Tripura
- (g) Construction of new capital complex, Tripura
- (h) Development of Tripura University, Tripura
- (i) Gas based power Project, Rokhia, Tripura
- (j) Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Manipur
- (k) Leimakhong power Project, Manipur

At the request of the Department, the CAG has agreed to commence concurrent audit of some projects during their execution itself. The following five projects have been identified for this purpose:

- (1) Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project, Arunachal Pradesh
- (2) Zamaung-Hripen-Durlaveberra Road, Mizoram and Assam
- (3) Flood Control Schemes at different locations of Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys (25nos.), Assam

- (4) Laimakhong HFO based Power Project, Manipur
- (5) Great Shillong Water Supply Scheme, Meghalaya