

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4728  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003  
IDENTIFICATION OF BACKWARD POCKETS IN N-E REGION  
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

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

- (a) whether the Government have identified most backward pockets in North-Eastern Region requiring intensive steps for accelerated development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the identification of such backward pockets?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c): Planning and Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose within a State is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, taking into the account the general economic backwardness prevailing in the entire Region, the North East has been provided with special treatment for socio-economic Development of the Region. All North Eastern States including Sikkim enjoy the status of Special Category States and receive plan assistance in the form of 90% Grant and 10% Loan as against 30% Grant and 70% Loan in the case of Non-Special Category States. Looking into the critical infrastructure gaps in the Region, various supportive measures/initiatives have been announced by the Prime Ministers from time to time during the last six to seven years. The Prime Minister has announced a 28-Point Agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North Eastern Region including Sikkim in January 2000. Details are available on the website: [www.pmindia.nic.in](http://www.pmindia.nic.in)!

All Union Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) are required to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support on the North East. Unspent balances out of this are pooled in a (Non-lapsable) Central Pool of Resources. The benefit of the Central Pool is exclusively available to the North Eastern Region. Project specific assistance is provided from the Pool for meeting infrastructure gaps in the Region. In addition, North Eastern Council (NEC) also sanctions and gets implemented the projects based on specific development requirements of the Region. This is besides, the benefits of various poverty alleviation, employment generating programmes and area development schemes such as Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Border Area Development Programme (BADP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) etc. are also available to the North Eastern States. Through such programmes the Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments in pursuing their development needs.