

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6429
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR N-E REGION
MONI KUMAR SUBBA

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received a number of requests from Assam and other North Eastern States for grant of additional funds for development projects and for exemptions of the products from the region, both agricultural and industrial from excise duties;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI MOOKHERJEE)

(a) : Yes Sir, Financing of development activities is undertaken through the Annual Plans of the States, which are prepared by the States concerned and finalized by mutual agreement in consultation with the Planning Commission, for all States including Assam and the North Eastern States. Requests for grant of additional funds for development projects are considered on merit and subject to availability of funds within the framework of the State Plans.

A number of specific requests have however been received from Assam and other North Eastern States regarding exemption of the products from the region from excise duties.

(b) : The following requests have been received :

(i) Excise duty exemption for Ashok Paper Mills.

(ii) Restoration of full exemption to Numaligarh Refinery.

(iii) Exemption from additional duty of excise on tea under North East exemption notification.

(c) : Requests for (i) and (ii) in part (b) above were considered and it was not found possible to accept these. As regards (iii), the request is being examined by Government.