

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1517  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001  
CONFERENCE OF CHIEF MINISTERS OF NORTH EASTERN STATES  
RAMANAND SINGH

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

- (a) the name of demands made during North-Eastern Chief Ministers conference in Shilong and accepted by the Government; I
- (b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the North-Eastern States into main stream of the country?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1517 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 27.11.2001 TABLET SHRI RAMANAND SINGH REGARDING CONFERENCE OF CHIEF MINISTERS OF NORTH EASTERN STATES AT SHILLONG ON 19.10.2001.

(a)&(b): The following main demands were raised by Chief Ministers of North Eastern States:

- (i) To make Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as the ex-officio Chairman of the Council, as part of the restructuring of the North Eastern Council.
- (ii) Excise incentives for industrial units should be extended uniformly through out the region and not restricted to only notified areas.
- (iii) To assist State Governments in formulating schemes as per the Supreme Court's order regarding timber regulations.
- (iv) To review the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission and allocate more resources.
- (v) To help State Governments in improving financial conditions arising out of the huge borrowings.

The North Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998 has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs by Rajya Sabha for examination and report on 9th August 2001. The Committee has held several meetings and has examined officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs, North Eastern Council, Planning Commission and Chief Secretaries of North Eastern States. The Committee has also examined some members of the North Eastern MPs Forum.

. It was reiterated that excise incentives would be applicable only to notified areas in order to attract new industries.

Regarding the Supreme Court's judgement, Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the North Eastern States have been informed that the judgement does not prohibit the wood based industries from functioning.

They have to be located in the approved industrial estates and have to use legally timber felled under approved working plans. State Governments have been requested to prepare working plans/schemes and submit them to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for approval. Rs.5 crores have been allocated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests specifically for preparing Working Plans and Schemes.

Regarding Eleventh Finance Commission awards, it is too late to review these awards as they have already been finalized.

To help the State Governments restructure their borrowed capital, loans given at higher rates of interest could be replaced by loans at the current lower rates, to reduce debt burden. In case of NP A accounts of State Governments/State PSUs/State guaranteed loans, if the interest is paid the balance can be rescheduled. The state PSUs thereby would become eligible for borrowings. It was also decided that Credit-Deposit ratio in the North East would be increased to bring it at par with national average in next 3 years.

(c): The Prime Minister had in 2000 announced an Agenda for Socio-Economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim. Various programmes and schemes under the Agenda are under implementation. The projects/schemes under the Agenda relate to infrastructural development in the sectors of Power, Roads, Airports, Health and other schemes of employment generation etc. On completion of these schemes/ programmes, the North Eastern States will have better infrastructure, greater connectivity and increase

in employment opportunities, which would help in bringing the States into mainstream of the country.

. The status of implementation of programmes and schemes of Prime Minister`s Agenda for Socio-economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim, announced at Shillong on 22nd January, 2000 can also be seen at website [pmindia.nic.in](http://pmindia.nic.in).