

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1059  
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2005  
NEC AS INDEPENDENT REGIONAL PLANNING BODY  
Sarua Dr. Arun Kumar

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

- (a) whether North Eastern Council (NEC) is an independent Regional Planning body or an executing agency;
- (b) if, so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the NEC Projects are subjected to clearance from Standing Finance Committee (SFC)/Expenditure Finance Committee (FEC)/Public Investment Board (PIB);
- (d) if so, the reason thereof alongwith the measures taken to get timely clearance from the aforesaid bodies; ` ` ` Ā` ` ` `
- (e) whether the projects of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) are subjected to SFC/FEC/PIB clearance; and
- (f) if not, the reasons for such discrepancy?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R.KYNDIAH)

(a) & (b): It has been provided under the North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act 2002, that the North Eastern Council (NEC) shall function as a regional planning body for the north eastern area. While formulating the regional plan for the north eastern area, the Council shall give priority to schemes and projects which will benefit two or more States. However, in case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State including review of implementation of such projects and schemes. The Council also executes projects/schemes through the State Governments and other agencies.

(c) & (d). Yes, Sir. NEC projects are subjected to clearance from the Standing Finance Committee (SFC)/Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)/Public Investment Board (PIB) in terms of procedures prescribed by the Ministry of Finance. Certain additional financial powers have been delegated to the Secretary, North Eastern Council in the past. The procedure prescribed by the Ministry of Finance is aimed at ensuring that the project/scheme proposals are properly appraised by the competent authorities from both the techno-economic and financial angles. To get timely clearance, the NEC Secretariat has been advised to directly circulate their proposals for consultation with the Line Ministries and the Planning Commission. Detailed `Check Lists` have also been provided to NEC Secretariat for ensuring that their project proposals are complete in all respects before circulation as also before consideration by the Standing Finance Committee/Expenditure Finance Committee. Proposals are also closely monitored and followed-up by both the NEC Secretariat and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

(e) & (f). Projects under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) are not subjected to SFC/EFC/PIB clearance. However, a similar and rigorous procedure for appraisal and consultation with Line Ministries and the Planning Commission is followed. Presently, the NLCPR Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region includes, among others, representatives from the Planning Commission, the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance and the concerned Central Ministry/Department. The Committee assesses projects/schemes proposed by the States of the North East and Sikkim under NLCPR in terms of viability and tangible socio-economic impact.