

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6714
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2005
PM PACKAGE TO NER
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Prime Minister, while inaugurating the first meeting of the upgraded North Eastern Council (NEC) on April, 2005, outlined the new development initiatives for the NE Region, which forms an integral part of India's 'Look East Policy';
- (b) if so, the details of the new development initiatives; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken in that direction and the allocation made therefor in 2005-06?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : Hon`ble Prime Minister addressed the 1st Meeting of the reconstituted North Eastern Council on 12th April 2005 in New Delhi. He called upon the Council to focus on the twin issues of development and security rather than function as fund-disbursing body, mechanically allocating Plan funds to the North Eastern States. He outlined the need of a holistic Road map covering various sectors, development of Human Resource available in NER, upgradation of skills of the work-force, development of marketing chain, value addition at the primary local level, planning Growth Centres with easy connectivity to market centres, imparting of marketing skills, streamlining procedures, road and air connectivity. He also highlighted IT, Tourism, Mine and Minerals, Gas, Oil, Downstream industries, Education and Health services etc. as Potential Sectors. He desired that the income levels of the rural families be substantially enhanced by harnessing the vast potential of the Region in the fields of agriculture, including horticulture, medicinal and aromatic herbs and bamboo, water resources, wind-power resources and minerals. He also stressed that ASEAN Markets provide big opportunities for NER and NEC must take full advantage of Look East Policy of the Government. He was happy that the NEC Chairman was getting an Action Plan made out for formulating a Vision Document with a 15-year perspective -Vision Document 2020.