

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5680
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2005
PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT TO NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
Ramadass Prof. M

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Common Minimum Programme has committed to strengthen and give adequate professional support to North Eastern Council;
- (b) if so, the details of such professional support provided to North Eastern Council so far; (
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a separate planning organization for the development of North Eastern Region; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYANDIAH)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) to (d): The North Eastern Council Act, 1971 was amended in 2002 thereby making the Council a regional planning body for the north eastern region. Subsequently, a Committee was constituted in October 2003 to suggest measures for revitalizing NEC in the context of its newly assigned role as the regional planning body.

The Committee submitted its report to the Government on 30th July, 2004 and its recommendations included, inter-alia, restructuring of the North Eastern Council, strengthening/restructuring of organizational set up of the NEC Secretariat, setting up of sectoral empowered committees, measures for regional planning for sustainable growth and development, implementation of the regional plan, monitoring and evaluation of development projects, role of NEC in border trade and operationalising NEC's mandate relating to security and public order etc. Government of India has, by and large, accepted the recommendations of the Committee.

Accordingly, Government of India has nominated Minister, Development of North Eastern Region, as Chairman and three Members {including Member (North East), Planning Commission} to the North Eastern Council. For implementation of the other accepted recommendations, Secretary, NEC has been requested to take necessary action.

In view of the newly assigned role of NEC as a Regional Planning Body, there is no proposal to set up a separate planning organization for the development of North Eastern Region.