

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2128
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NER
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has identified measures which are found to be necessary to be implemented on short-term and on long-term basis respectively with a view to enhance the pace of socio-economic development of the people of the North-Eastern Region (NER);
- (b) If so, the details thereof indicating projected scenario consequent to their implementation;
- (c) The details of the status of their implementation as on 31st January, 2011 indicating respective dates of their commencements, State-wise;
- (d) Whether any review of the implementation has been carried out; and
- (e) If so, the details of its findings?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES(Dr. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (e): The growth process of the North Eastern Region (NER) had been slow for the reasons like difficult terrain, transport and communication bottlenecks, natural calamities, etc. Recognizing the need for special attention for faster growth of the region, the various policy initiatives taken by the government include categorizing the States of NER as Special Category states for liberal plan funding, mandatory earmarking of at least 10% of the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) by the Central Ministries for development programmes in the region, creation of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) out of the unspent balance of 10% budgetary allocation of the Ministries, establishing the North Eastern Council(NEC) for economic and social planning and balanced regional development, creation of a dedicated Ministry for Development of North Eastern Region, etc.

In addition, keeping in view the poor resource base of the States of NER, substantial Central Assistance have been provided during the 11th Plan period in the form of Special Plan Assistance to meet the resources gap, which has enable the states to take care of their priority short term and long term infrastructure requirement.

Apart from the above, the Government of India has also taken up special programmes during the 10th and 11th Plan, particularly in the areas of connectivity like (i) Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North East (SARDPNE), (ii) East-West Corridor (extending upto Silchar),(iii) Trans Arunachal Highway,(iv) Railway gauge conversion and extension of new lines, (v) Upgradation and operationalization of airports and setting up of new green field airports, (vi) helicopter services to the important places in the hill areas, etc.

In the Power sector, in addition to the initiatives taken by the states under their plan for developing small and micro hydel projects, Government of India has taken up major Hydro Power projects like Lower Subansiri Project, Pare Hydroelectric Project, Kameng Hydroelectric project, Dibang Hydroelectric project in the NER.

All the projects taken up under various initiatives are at various stages of implementation and are being monitored by the concerned Ministries, M/o Development of NER and also reviewed at the highest level from time to time for expeditious implementation. Project wise scenario and their status of implementation would be available with the respective ministries concerned.