

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3058

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN STATES

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

- (a) Whether the Union Government has sanctioned packages for the overall development of North Eastern States;
- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the total projects sanctioned during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) The manner in which it is likely to be implemented, project-wise;
- (d) The total funds allocated and utilized by the North Eastern States during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and project-wise
- (e) Whether the Government has formulated any action plan to create opportunities, improve the economy and provide connectivity with rail, road and air services in the said region;
- (f) If so, the details and the current status thereof;
- (g) Whether the Union Government has any special plans for fast-track development of the North Eastern States; and
- (h) If so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER, MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION(SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE)

(a) to (h): The Government has announced a number of special packages/programmes for the socio-economic development of the North East Region with a major emphasis on improving infrastructure, including connectivity. The major programmes include the following:-

**Special Accelerated Road Development Programme:** Its main objective is to upgrade National Highways connecting State capitals to two/four lane and to provide proper connectivity to all District Headquarters of NER. The programme has been divided into three parts viz. Phase-A, Phase-B and Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways and will cover a total length of about 10,141 km of roads. The allocation and expenditure under the programme during last three years and current year is as under:-

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
(Rs. In Crore)	(Rs. In Crore)	
2007-08	700	651
2008-09	1000	637
2009-10	1200	676
2010-11	1500	583 (as on date)

**Extension of rail network:** As announced by the Railway Minister in her budget speech 2011-12 a non-lapsable Fund for railway projects has been created that will boost the progress of projects in the Region. All the state capitals of this region except Sikkim will get connected by rail network in the next seven years.

**BTC Package:** The Government is implementing a special package to develop the socio-economic infrastructure of Bodo Territorial Council areas. Initially under the package, Rs.500 crore were to be released for a period of 5 years (Rs.100 crore per annum). In August 2008, Prime Minister during his visit to Assam announced additional BTC package of Rs.250 crore. So far 52 projects have been sanctioned under the two packages and a total amount of Rs.480.20 crore has been released.

**Socio-economic Infrastructure Development Fund (SIDF):** The Union Finance Minister in his Budget speech for 2008-09 announced a provision of Rs.500 crore under SIDF for the North Eastern Region, especially Arunachal Pradesh and Border Areas. No. of ongoing projects under the Scheme is 7. State-wise details of funds released during two years of its existence are as under:

Under SIDF Scheme (Rs. In crore)

State 2009-10 2010-11

Arunachal Pradesh 10.00 27.98  
Assam - 1.48  
Nagaland - 22.99  
Sikkim 7.42 -  
Total 17.42 62.45

**Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources:** Total number of on-going projects under NLCPR is 651. The fund released and utilized under the NLCPR Scheme of this Ministry during the last three years and the current year are given as under:-

Under NLCPR Scheme (Rs. In crore)  
State 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11  
Arunachal Pradesh 105.28 165.98 152.89 92.99  
Assam 146.09 94.38 107.49 164.96  
Manipur 61.86 84.35 90.09 50.37  
Meghalaya 60.39 94.82 76.72 51.96  
Mizoram 29.82 14.94 19.91 44.14  
Nagaland 71.70 103.81 102.94 77.77  
Sikkim 48.46 62.91 22.91 48.67  
Tripura 112.40 39.19 95.67 61.12  
Total 636.00 660.38 668.62 591.98

#### RELEASES BY NEC:

Besides the above, NEC has also released Rs.600 crore during 2007-08 and Rs.624 crore each during 2008-09 and 2009-10 for implementing its various schemes. It proposes to release Rs.700 crore during the current year.

#### EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AIR CONNECTIVITY BY NEC:

NEC in association with Airports Authority of India has undertaken improvement of 10 airports in NER, viz. Guwahati, Lilabari, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Silchar, Tezpur, Imphal, Agartala and Umrai (Meghalaya) during the 10th Plan. Improvement of 7 airports is completed. Work in Silchar, Dibrugarh and Umroi Airports are in different stages of progress. NEC has also supported a project for improvement of Lengpui Airport in Aizwal (which is owned by the Government of Mizoram) and operationalisation of Tezu Airport in Arunachal Pradesh.

NEC has been supporting viability gap funding to alliance air for operating air services within the North Eastern Region since 2002. This is particularly meant for those airports of the NER that are not well connected by other commercial airlines.

Implementation of above programmes/Schemes lead to generation of employment opportunities and improve economic growth. The Government has also announced NEIIP, 2007 which provides incentives for setting up/expanding industries in North East Region and this also creates employment opportunities.

The Ministry/NEC has evolved an effective monitoring mechanism for ensuring timely completion of projects.