

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:400
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2011
MAJOR INITIATIVES BY NORTH-EASTERN COUNCIL
Rai Shri Prem Das

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

- (a) the details of the major initiatives taken by the North-Eastern Council (NEC) in the recent past for the overall development of North-Eastern Region, including maintaining of regional balances;
- (b) the functional and hierarchical relationship between his Ministry and the NEC;
- (c) whether overlapping in the functions of the two bodies had affected implementation of programmes, policies and had also raised issues of accountability;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by the Union Government to ensure the smooth functioning of the NEC?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR)

(a)to(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 400 RAISED BY SHRI PREM DAS RAI, M.P. FOR THE 30th AUGUST, 2011, REGARDING "MAJOR INITIATIVES BY NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL".

(a) The North Eastern Council (NEC) is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region. Over the last forty years, NEC has been instrumental in setting in motion a new economic endeavour aimed at removing the basic handicaps that stood in the way of development of the region. NEC has taken several initiatives for the balanced development of the Region, that inter-alia includes the following:

(i) Since inception, NEC has sanctioned construction/ improvement/upgradation of 157 roads with a length of more than 11000 km. Out of this construction/improvement/upgradation of about 9000 km has been completed so far. In the 11th Plan, NEC has sanctioned 16 roads of regional and economic importance, which have a combined length of 979 km.

(ii) 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 Umroi (Meghalaya) during the 9th and 10th Plan. Improvement of seven airports is completed. Works in Silchar, Dibrugarh and Umroi airports are in different stages of progress. NEC has also supported a project for improvement of Lengpui Airport in Aizawl (which is owned by the Govt. of Mizoram) and operationalization 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.

(iii) Since inception, NEC has contributed a 694.50 MW of capacity addition (630 hydro & 64.50 thermal) to the installed capacity in the NE Region. It has also supported important transmission / distribution lines of a length of 1285.50 Circuit Kilometers, over forty system improvement schemes, comprising of 28 sub-stations and 12 transmission lines projects spread over the region. NEC has partnered Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. for preparation of Detailed Project Report for 'Strengthening of Transmission & Sub-transmission of Power Systems in the NE Region including Sikkim'. NEC is also supporting viability gap funding to Renewable Resources of Energy schemes which include micro/ mini hydel projects, solar hybrid and wind energy projects, etc.

(iv) NEC has undertaken preparation of a comprehensive Tourism Master Plan for the NER through a consultant and also assists tourism projects in the States including those of human resource development and tourism.

(v) NEC was instrumental in the preparation of North Eastern Region Vision 2020 that provides the road-map, outlines the goals, identifies the challenges and suggests implementation strategies for various sectors for peace, prosperity and development of the North Eastern Region. It helps in formulation of an integrated plan for the development of the North Eastern Region.

(b) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) is mandated with matters relating to the development of North

Eastern Region as provided in the Allocation of Business Rules of Government of India, which includes, inter-alia, the administration of Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources. The Ministry of DONER coordinates with the Central Ministries / Line Ministries in respect of various projects and plan schemes, which are directed towards the development of NE States. It advocates policy/ changes therein to address the special needs of the North Eastern States with Central Ministries/ Departments. It also acts as the Ministry to anchor NEC. NEC is a statutory body under the Ministry of DONER and functions in accordance with the North Eastern Council Act, 1971, as amended by NEC (Amendment) Act, 2002. The major functions of NEC include regional planning, monitoring and executing projects/schemes through the State Governments and other agencies as per their priorities and needs.

(c)&(d)No Sir.

(e) The effective steps taken by the Union Government to ensure the smooth functioning of the NEC, inter-alia, includes:

(i) The NEC Act was amended in 2002. The amended NEC Act provides that NEC will function as the Regional Planning Body for the North East and will formulate specific projects and schemes, which will benefit two or more States. Ministry of DONER assists by coordinating with the Central Ministries / Line Ministries in respect of various projects and plan schemes, which are directed towards the development of NE States.

(ii) The Ministry of DONER conducts the appraisal and approval of the NEC Projects as per the extant delegation of Guidelines for Formulation, Appraisal and Approval of Government Schemes/ Projects of Ministry of Finance.

(iii) In order to ensure smooth and effective functioning of the Council, the Minister, DONER is the ex-officio Chairperson of NEC.

(iv) The budgetary requirements of the Council are reflected under Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.