

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2503
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
BACKWARDNESS OF NER STATES
Thota Shri Narasimham

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

- (a) whether most of the States of the North-Eastern Region (NER) are backward;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to develop these States at par with other States of the country?

Answer

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (Dr. Jitendra Singh)

(a) & (b) : A close analysis of socio-economic development indicators reveals that while in certain areas the development indicators of some NE States are favourable and comparable with those of other states of the country; in a number of areas, indicators of NE states are not encouraging in general. While acceleration in GSDP rate during the last five year plans is encouraging in North-Eastern States, the inter-state inequality in per capita income and other human development indicators is a cause of concern. The incidence of poverty in the region is high in most of the states. Four out of eight states of the region have a higher Poverty Head Count Ratio(PHCR) than the national average.

There are multiple challenges for development of NER. The biggest constraint has been the poor state of infrastructure, in particular, roads, railways, air services, inland waterways, telecommunications, power, etc which in turn affects investment flow into the region and employment generation. Hilly terrain, long rainy season pose special challenges in creation of social and physical infrastructure affecting the region's developmental outcomes, productivity and capacity of people and institutions.

(c) : Given the regional disparities, an important objective of the development agenda of the Government has been to address the problem of regional imbalances for faster and inclusive growth. There has been a continued focus for development of North Eastern Region (NER) and Government of taken a series of measures across sectors. Government has emphasized expeditious completion of critical ongoing infrastructure projects with adequate funding provision viz. road, rail, telecom, power generation, transmission & distribution, airport & air connectivity, etc. Government has also announced new schemes and projects including an emphasis on skill development which would have a positive impact on the overall development of NER.