

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2082  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014  
PRIORITY SECTORS IN NE  
Chaudhury Shri Jitendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has prioritized the sectors for development in the North Eastern States during the 12th Plan Period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the strategy devised for the purpose;
- (c) whether special development packages/programmes have been granted/proposed to be granted for the area and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the sector(s) in which the Government has achieved significant success till date; and
- (e) the measures taken to achieve set targets in all sectors?

**Answer**

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (General (Retd.) V.K. Singh)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the details provided by Planning Commission, the prioritized sectors and strategies devised for development of North Eastern States during the 12th Plan Period are as following :-

1. Faster development of Connectivity (Road, Rail, Air, Inland Waterways)

(i) Roads: Ensuring expeditious completion of ongoing and strategically important major road connectivity projects like: East West Corridor, all stretches of SARDP-NE connecting State Capitals and Districts, Trans Arunachal Highways, major bridges, etc.

(ii) Railways: Broad Gauge (line conversion) like Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Tinsukia, Rangia - Murkongselek Bridge (rail cum road) across Brahmaputra at Bogibeel, Lumding - Silchar and Kumarghat - Agartala - Sabroom and New lines: Agartala - Akhura, Tetelia-Byrnihat-Shillong, Harmuti - Itanagar, Silchar-Jiribam-Imphal(Tupul).

(iii) Airways: Expeditious implementation of Airport Development works at Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Agartala, Shillong, Imphal and Dimapur. In addition development of new airports at - Itanagar, Pakyong.

(iv) Inland Water Transport: Emphasis on development in the Brahmaputra and Barak National Waterway.

2. Special focus on Power Sector: To bring down AT&C losses of State Power Companies/ Corporations, expeditious forest and environment clearance for identified major Hydro- power projects in NER, time bound implementation of transmission line projects for evacuation of generated power like Comprehensive scheme for strengthening of transmission and distribution in NER and Transmission system for evacuation of power from Palatana Gas Based Power Plant etc.

3. Pursuing Look East Policy: Focus on strong relationship with Bangladesh to ensure effective connectivity, connecting North Eastern Region to South East Asia through Tri-lateral highway, focus on development of Land Customs Stations (LCSs) for strengthening border trade and business communication, expeditious implementation of Multi Modal transport using Kaladan River as alternate connectivity to North East.

4. Development of Agriculture / horticulture / allied sector by focusing on increase in productivity, irrigation, farm-based economic activities, post-harvest management, marketing infrastructure etc.

5. Encouraging private investment by creating an enabling environment for investors and rational use of local resources.

6. Special focus on water management / flood moderation to address the recurring flood and erosion problem.

7. Focus on education / skill development / health by improving quality of education, Investment in Teachers' Training, reforms in vocational education, development and operationalization of Public - Private Partnership (PPP) models in education and creating more medical colleges, nursing colleges and other health & technical institutes for professionals.

8. Focus on Asset management like maintenance of roads and bridges and other social infrastructure.

(c) Special development packages/programmes have been granted for the area like Bodoland Territorial Council Package of Rs. 500 crores, Additional BTC Package of Rs. 250 crores, Special Economic Packages for Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAATC) of Rs 350 crores and Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHATC) of Rs. 200 crores, Special Plan Assistance (SPA) for creation of priority infrastructure under States' Annual Plans.

(d) There have been significant achievements in terms of increased connectivity in the Region. Three major Railway projects completed in 2013-14 are (1) Rangiya-Rangapara-Murkongselek (Gauge Conversion), (ii) Harmati – Naharlagun (New Line) and (iii) Dhudnoi – Mehndipathar.

(e) Measures taken to achieve targets are: – (1) Special emphasis on monitoring of the infrastructure projects for time-bound completion, (2) Priority funding for the identified projects have been tied up (3) Fast tracking of environmental and forest clearance.