

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5106
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
VISION DOCUMENT
Sreeramulu Shri B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has unveiled any vision document for the North- Eastern Region of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features thereto; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to implement the same and the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)and (b) Yes, Sir. The North Eastern Region Vision 2020 Document was unveiled by the Government in July, 2008. The Vision 2020 provides a roadmap to all stakeholders such as concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India, Planning Commission, North Eastern Council and State Governments for formulation of an integrated plan for the development of North Eastern Region from 2008-09 to 2019-20. It laid down goals, identified challenges and suggested implementation strategies for comprehensive development in various sectors to ensure peace and prosperity of the region. Salient objectives for comprehensive development of the Region are as under:-

- (i) Improve indices of development for the region to catch up with rest of the country;
- (ii) Structural transformation of economies of North-Eastern States by effecting significant changes in development strategies to achieve higher growth rates of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to equal to national averages;
- (iii) Poverty eradication based on participatory planning and with private sector participation for growth;
- (iv) Maximizing self-governance by building capacity of people, institutions and traditional / local institutions to enable participation in growth process;
- (v) Harnessing available local resources for development;
- (vi) Substantial strengthening of infrastructure;
- (vii) Expand trade and commerce in the region
- (viii) Effective governance for establishing peace and harmony.

A six-fold strategy has been suggested in the Vision 2020 Document to achieve the development goal:

1. Empowerment of people by maximizing self-governance and participatory development through grass-root planning. Decentralized governance from the village level onward, built with maximum participation of the people will ensure people's role in decision making and help create a responsive system.
2. Creation of development opportunities, expansion of agricultural activity to increase production combined with non-farm economic activities in rural areas to create jobs/ employment opportunities.
3. Developing sectors with comparative advantages so as to utilize the resources of the region productively for the benefit and welfare of the people with focus on agro-processing industries, tourism, hydro-power generation etc.
4. Capacity Building of people and institutions including government and market institutions.
5. Creating a hospitable investment climate with state of art infrastructure to enhance trade and commerce in the region.
6. Ensuring significant investment in both public and private sectors for strengthening physical and social infrastructure.

(c) Seventeen Thematic Groups were constituted by this Ministry to work out specific action plans to operationalize Vision 2020

Document, based on various disciplines/ sectors outlined therein. The sectors include Panchayati Raj & Local Self Government, Poverty Eradication, Human Resource Development, Industry, major road connectivity, inland waterways, air connectivity, railways, rural roads, Tourism, IT enabled services and cyber connectivity, Power, Health, Rural sector, Financial Services, Sports, Art & culture and Look East Policy. These Groups presented their findings for working out detailed action plan for development of North Eastern Region in meeting held in Shillong on 3rd & 4th December, 2008. Action points posed by Thematic Groups were culled out for implementation by Ministries concerned. This Ministry is constantly pursuing with concerned Central Ministries/Departments for taking up required socio-economic programmes and projects in the region. Further, Ministries are invited to spell out their development plans, achievements and ongoing activities in North Eastern Region in the meetings of North Eastern Council and other review meetings. Major infrastructure projects in roads, railways, airways and power have been implemented and telecom connectivity has also improved considerably in North Eastern Region. The 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) Document of Planning Commission has observed that larger plan investment and focus on infrastructure development has resulted in average growth of NE States (of 9.8%)exceeding the national average (of 8%)in the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012) period.