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Title: Regarding status of implementation of the recommendations in 110th Report of Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH):
I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House.

I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in 110th report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs pertaining to Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region in pursuance of the Direction 73A of the Directions by hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part – II dated the 1st September, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Home Affairs (dealing with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region) examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2004-05 and presented their 110th report in this regard on 23.08.04 in the Lok Sabha. Major recommendations of the Committee are as under :

The Ministry to pursue with Ministry of Finance/Planning Commission for enhancement of budget allocation under NLCPR at RE stage (2004-05) and to pursue with the Planning Commission for relaxation of norms regarding shortfall in 10% expenditure of GBS by various Ministries for the NER. The Committee directed the Ministry to take up with the concerned State Governments for proper and timely implementation of projects and to evolve a mechanism for reviewing the impact of these projects. The Committee recommended initiation of new development programmes by the Ministry of its own particularly for improving the connectivity of the Region. The Committee recommended the revitalization of NEC and for providing technical/financial assistance to the artists/artisans of the region to improve their capability and to help them in procuring remunerative prices for their products.

* Also placed in Library. See No. LT 2316/2005

As recommended by the Committee, the Ministry had taken up with the Planning Commission/Ministry of Finance for allocation of additional Rs. 200 crore at RE stage (2004-05) and Rs. 1020 crore for 2005-06. Due to financial constraints faced by the Government, this could not be agreed to. However, I am pleased to inform the House that as a result of constant follow up with concerned Ministry for allocation of 10% of their GBS for the North East Region, the percentage of expenditure on NE States has improved significantly. From the level of 6.88 per cent during 2001-02, it has risen to more than 8.5 per cent in 2004-05.

The Ministry is already having an effective mechanism for monitoring the implementation of projects undertaken by the State Governments. IIM, Lucknow was engaged to prepare an Impact Study on NLCPR funded projects.

Further, my Ministry has taken various steps for revitalization of North East Council as per the recommendations made by the Committee constituted for the purpose. The Minister, DoNER has been made Chairman of the NEC and three members have been nominated. The NEC has been directed to formulate a Vision Document 2020 with a 15-year perspective plan for the Region.

For improving the connectivity of the Region, besides allocating funds, under NLCPR for various projects for the construction of roads, the Ministry has been pursuing with other concerned Ministries to speed up their projects to improve road and air connectivity. For improving the capability of artists/artisans and to help them to market their products at remunerative prices, the Ministry has also taken various initiatives by sponsoring International and National Trade Fair and Expositions. It also provides training to them to improve their technical/managerial skill.

Thus, my Ministry has taken various steps as per the recommendations of the Committee and shall continue to pursue these with concerned State Governments/Ministries more vigorously.
