

In case of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the exemption is limited to the programmes of Scheduled Caste Division, where, instead of 10% only 2% is required to be earmarked. In respect of all other programmes, the Ministry is required to earmark stipulated 10% of the Budget for the North East and Sikkim.

Union Ministries/Departments are required to indicate a separate Head in their Demands for Grants for the purpose of making lump-sum provision (10% of Budget) for the North East and Sikkim. The unspent amounts from 10% of Budgets of the Union Ministries/Departments earmarked for the North Eastern States and Sikkim are pooled in a Central Pool of Resources to support development projects in these States. Ministry/Department-wise amounts utilized and transferred to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the last three years are under reconciliation.

Besides, in January, 2000, the Prime Minister announced an Agenda for Socio-economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim. The Agenda covers 28 items relating to development and improvement in security scenario of the Region. The latest position regarding progress of implementation in respect of the items covered in the Agenda is available on the website: pmindia.nic.in.

Economic packages announced by PM for NER

1918. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for development of North Eastern Region under the various economic packages announced by the Prime Minister from time to time; and

(b) the details of funds released, so far, and the demand made by each State of NER?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Efforts have been made in the past few years for boosting the development in the North East. The announcement of the Prime Ministers in this regard are steps in this direction. The then Prime Minister announced 'New Initiatives' for North Eastern Region in October, 1996 at Guwahati. Some additional features

to the New Initiatives were announced by the then Prime Minister in May, 1997. As envisaged in the "New Initiatives", all Union Ministries/ Departments, unless otherwise specifically exempted, are required to spend atleast 10% of their Budget for specific programmes in the North East (and Sikkim). Shortfall(s) in meeting this target are pooled in a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources to support development projects in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim.

In January, 2000 the Prime Minister announced an Agenda for Socio-economic Development of North Eastern States and Sikkim. The Agenda covers 28 items relating to infrastructure development and improvement of security scenario in the Region to be implemented on priority. Details of funds released in respect of the items covered in the Agenda are available on the website: pmindia.nic.in.

Besides, from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources, which became operational during the Financial Year 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 1346.72 crores has been released till date. The State-wise break-up is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

State	Funds Released				
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total
Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	19.65	43.96	74.24	152.85
Assam	28.81	105.86	69.31	89.18	293.16
Manipur	20.34	121.67	23.85	10.56	184.42
Meghalaya	8.79	3.00	32.63	22.39	66.81
Mizoram	9.00	62.15	27.06	69.86	168.07
Nagaland	20.01	44.08	15.91	52.16	132.16
Sikkim	10.00	32.01	23.78	49.71	115.50
Tripura	10.00	22.50	67.08	115.71	215.29
Common to NE	—	9.00	9.46	—	18.46
TOTAL:	121.95	419.92	313.04	491.81	1346.72