

[22 July, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a policy regarding utilization of cash advance funds of PSUs after their disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this policy is expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE):

(a) No, Sir. The existing policy and procedures of disinvestment are quite comprehensive.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds for Development of NER

*114. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation to his Department since its inception, year-wise;

(b) the thrust of the Ministry in the development of the North-Eastern Region;

(c) the criteria, if any for the allocation of fund of each State; and

(d) the mechanism for effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Department of Development of North-Eastern Region (DONER) was created in September, 2001. The first budgetary allocation for the Department was made for Rs. 478.51 crores for the fiscal year 2002-03. A provision of Rs. 500 crores was made in the Demand for Grants relating to the Ministry of Finance in 2001 -2002 towards the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources which is administered by DONER.

(b) Some of the major thrust areas for economic development of North East consist of improving the infrastructure; providing greater access to basic social services like education, health, drinking water and sanitation etc.; expanding economic and social opportunities for all; building capacities aimed at increased efficiency; creating an environment for private

participation conducive to growth; and providing a policy environment to positively influence wide ranging economic activities having employment/income generation potential.

(c) Funds are not allocated State-wise. Instead, project specific assistance is released for sanctioned projects under the Central Pool. The release of funds to the State Government depends on their capacity to formulate sound project proposals, utilize the funds released and the pace of implementation of the projects on the ground.

(d) The projects are monitored by various agencies in the Union Government including through physical verification. Additionally, for each project, Quarterly Progress Report is obtained. Only after receipt of Utilisation Certificates, the second and subsequent instalments of project funds are released. Officers of this department have commenced field inspections of projects under execution. At the request of the department the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has agreed to undertake audit of some projects during their execution itself. The State Governments have also been advised to ensure that developmental projects are regularly monitored.

Renewal of permission to Medical and Dental Colleges

*115. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has recently denied renewal of permission to several Medical and Dental Colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the eligibility criteria in the recognised Medical and Dental Colleges have also been further revised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to curb mushrooming of substandard Medical and Dental Colleges in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) As per provisions of Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Dentists (Amendment)