

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Union Government have decided to create a non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the development of all the seven North-Eastern States and Sikkim for taking up specific programmes/projects/schemes in these States.

(b) The modalities of the Pool are to be worked out.

(c) The creation of non-lapsable Central Pool is likely to improve the funding pattern of the developmental activities in the North Eastern States and Sikkim. The extent of additional funding would be known after the Central Government's regular Budget for 1998-99 is finalised.

Economic Package for North-Eastern States

250. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an economic package was announced by the previous Union Government for North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details of that package and how far it has been implemented; and

(c) the present Government's view on the continuation of this package?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda had announced on 27th October, 1996 an

economic package for North East entitled "New initiatives for North Eastern Region". The details of this package and the status of its implementation are given at Annexure [See Appendix 184. Annexure Nos. 3 and 4]. Some additional features to this package were announced by the then Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral in May, 1997. Its details along with the status report of implementation is given at annexure. [See Appendix 784 Annexure No. 5]

(c) Package would be continued.

Budgetary Support for North-Eastern States

251. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently unveiled a plan for North-East development;

(b) if so, the salient features of such plan;

(c) whether PMO has since issued instructions to all Central Ministries/Departments to keep aside 10% of their respective budgets earmarked exclusively for North-eastern Sector, if so, the amount likely to be kept as Central pool for the area during 1998-99; and

(d) whether Government proposed to waive the loan to North-eastern States as done in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab by previous Government, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister met the Chief Ministers of North-Eastern States and Sikkim on 8 May, 1998 to discuss issues relating to accelerated development of these States. The steps to be taken by the Government in this regard included, inter-alia, adoption of project approach for which projects would be identified in