

1	2	3	4
5.	Rangia- Murkongselek with linked fingers (National Project)	510.33	Rangia — Rangpara North Section — Works of formation, bridges etc. in progress. Rangapara North to Murkongselek. Tenders invited. Project completion target — March, 2013.
DOUBLING			
1.	New Guwahati- Digaru	29.81	Earthwork and bridge works taken up and targeted for completion by March, 2010.
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION			
1.	Barauni-Katihar- Guwahati	809	New work included in the Budget 2008-09. Detailed estimate under preparation for sanction.

Infrastructural projects in NE

3205. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development in infrastructural projects in the North Eastern Region is very low, as compared to other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the plans of Government for setting up of important infrastructure projects in the North Eastern Region in sectors like power, petroleum, cement, tea, etc. during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. Comparatively the development of infrastructure in North Eastern Region had been low.

(b) There have been various reasons for this which, *Inter alia*, include remote geographical location, hilly terrain, natural calamities, inadequate technical and professional expertise and weak internal revenue generation capacity for undertaking projects.

(c) To accelerate the pace of infrastructural development in NE Region, Government of India initiated various special measures which will continue for next five years. The North Eastern States, including Sikkim, are covered under the special category State under with their annual plans are funded on 90:10 basis (grant : loan). All the Central Government Ministries, except for those exempted ones, are required to make a provision of and spend at least 10% of their annual plan budget for the North Eastern States, for developmental works including the infrastructure projects. The unspent balance out of this mandatory provision 10% does not lapse

and is credited to notional pool called Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), which is used for creating infrastructure through various socio-economic developmental projects in the NER. Besides, the North Eastern Council (NEC) also fund and implements development projects in the region. The Hon'ble Finance Minister also announced a package of Rs. Rs.500 crore for development of border areas of North Eastern Region especially Arunachal Pradesh in his Budget Speech of 2008-09.

Diversion sums of Madhya Pradesh forests

†3206. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of diversion sums, campa fund from the forests of Madhya Pradesh deposited with the Central Government;

(b) why the said amount has not been given to the Madhya Pradesh Government for development of forests or other works;

(c) by when the said amount would be given and how much; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh has got the largest forest area in entire India and if so, the percentage of the forest area the State has?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has deposited an amount of about Rs.530.48 crores, as on 30.06.2009, with the *Ad-hoc* Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (*Ad-hoc* CAMPA). The *Ad-hoc* CAMPA was not authorised to release money to the States/UTs including Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The Supreme Court of India *vide* its Order dated 10.7.2009 in IA No. 2143 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad *Versus* Union of India and Others has permitted *Ad-hoc* CAMPA to release, for the time being, a sum of Rs.1000 crores per year, for the next 5 years, to State CAMPAs in proportion of 10% of the principal amount pertaining to the respective States/UTs. Accordingly, the State of Madhya Pradesh will receive an amount of about Rs.53.05 crores after the constitution of State CAMPA and other requisite requirements as indicated in Hon'ble Supreme Court of India Order dated 10.07.2009.

(d) Yes, Sir. As per the 'State of Forest Report 2005' published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the recorded forest area of Madhya Pradesh is 94,689 sq. km. which is 30.72% of its geographical area.

Drinking water supply from reservoirs having hotels in Rajasthan

†3207. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.