

The Budgetary allocations for development schemes of the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region are not made on State-wise basis.

(c) and (d) A Performance Audit of the Scheme, Grants from Central Pool of Resources for North-Eastern Region and Sikkim covering the period 2002-03 to 2007-08 has been conducted. The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General has since been tabled in Parliament. It is under examination of the Public Accounts Committee of Lok Sabha (PAC 2010-11).

The North-Eastern Council [NEC] is undertaking regular monitoring, inspection and impact assessment of projects funded by them, directly and/or through third party inspections and monitoring. Services of various Central/State Government organizations and institutions and empanelled Government organizations are utilized for this purpose. The Sectors covered include Agri & allied sector, Power, Water Development, Transport & Communications and Medical & Health.

Impact assessment of the scheme, Capacity Building & Technical Assistance was conducted by IIM(Lucknow) in April 2008. The report has noted that the target beneficiary of this scheme are basically unemployed youth etc. and although physical achievements of this scheme cannot be measured in quantitative terms it is, however, found to be quite useful for the people of the North-Eastern Region to serve as the platform for enhancement of their capacities and development of entrepreneurship skills.

Environmental clearance to POSCO

2032. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is in disagreement with the decisions of environment panel report regarding the clearance to POSCO for setting up its industry in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has framed up a final say on this controversial issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Committee constituted by the Ministry to investigate into the proposal of POSCO-India Limited for establishment of an Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Port in District Jagatsinghpur in Orissa submitted its two reports, one by Ms. Meena Gupta and another by Dr. T. Urmila Pingle, Dr. Devendra Pandey & Dr. V. Suresh on 18th October, 2010. It was decided in the first instance to place the report of the Committee before the Expert Appraisal Committees for appraisal of projects in the sectors of Industry and CRZ & Infra-structure for their recommendation.

(c) and (d) The recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committees on Industry and CRZ & Infra-structure are awaited.

(e) In view of the reply to part (c) and (d) above, does not arise.

Amendments in Wildlife Protection Act

2033. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to bring any amendments in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to protect wildlife, missing animals and species; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time. Present proposal of amending the Act, *inter-alia* incorporates constitution of the National Elephant Conservation Authority, adoption of provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and enhancing the penalties for violations of the provision of the Act.

Clearance to proposals for dams and inter-linking of rivers

2034. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the floods caused by overflowing rivers during this monsoon could have been tamed to a large extent if Government had cleared proposals for dams and inter-linking of rivers expeditiously; and