
31.	Lakshadweep	48,710
32.	Kerala	29,957,159
33.	Tamil Nadu	40,367,163
34.	Puducherry	1,121,470
35.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	160,456

Infrastructure Development in North-Eastern States

2876. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that North-Eastern States in general and Assam in particular have the lowest infrastructure development in the country; and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry proposes any plans for bridging the infrastructure gap and creating more jobs in Assam as per Look India Policy (LEP) and the North- East Vision 2020 document?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA) : (a) and (b) Due to disadvantageous geographical location, hilly terrain, historical reasons etc. development of physical infrastructure (road, rail, power generation, airport etc.) in the NE region of the country, including Assam has been affected. Recognizing this, Planning commission has focused development of physical infrastructure in the region in the five year plans.

For expeditious development in the North Eastern Region the key strategy has been developing the connectivity with the rest of the country, including telecommunication and development of power sector. Recent reviews by concerned ministries show that substantial progress have already been made and number of projects (railways, roads, power) are nearing completion.

Railways would be completing three projects *viz*: 1. Rangia-Rangapara-North

Lakimpur gauge conversion, 2. Harmuti-Naharlagun (New line) and 3. Dudhnoi-Mendipathar (new line) by March, 2014. Lumding - Silchar railway gauge conversion project will be completed by March, 2015. East West Corridor connecting Silchar with 4-lane highway will be completed by December 2014, Jorabat-Barapani 4-lane is going to be completed by March 2014. With completion of 3 hangers at Guwahati Airport by September 2014, Guwahati will be a regional air-hub. Pakyong airport near Gangtok will be completed by December 2014.

Various stretches of roads under the major road programme *i.e.*, SARDP-NE and Trans-Arunachal Highway are progressing well due to constant monitoring by M/o Road Transport and Highways. Other ongoing projects (Power projects, Transmission lines, Airport, Telecom, etc.) have been targeted to complete in a time bound manner.

Establishment of better intra-region and inter-regional connectivity would help in trade and commerce with the neighbouring Myanmar and Bangladesh and other ASEAN countries and ultimately engage with global economy as envisaged under Look East Policy (LEP) and Vision 2020 document of NEC.

Funds allocated to NSDM

2877. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of funds that has been allocated towards the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) up till now;

(b) in what manner Government is bringing about this mission in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the amount of funds that have been allocated towards the State in this regard; and

(d) the status of the target of the mission of skilling 500 million youths by 2022?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA) : (a) As a strategy for the Eleventh Plan (2007-12), it was