

Environment Protection Act that covers other energy generation plants, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the details of the mega N-Power plants finalized without paying due consideration to environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) No, Sir. All nuclear power plants are subject to the Environmental Protection Act.

(b) Does not arise

Infrastructure Development of North-Eastern States

2805. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

(a) the major achievements in infrastructure development in all eight NE States in the region of laying new railway lines, highways, bridges, village connecting road, sports stadiums, etc; and

(b) how many student from various North Eastern States are studying in other parts of the country, State- wise details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) Major achievements in infrastructure development in eight North East States *inter-alia* include augmentation of railway network, augmentation of road connectivity under SARDP-NE and PMGSY, improvements of airports and enhancement of air connectivity.

To augment railway network, 14 new lines, 4 gauge conversion and 2 doubling projects have been taken up in North Eastern Region. During Tenth Plan, 21 km new line, 732.57 km gauge conversion have been completed. During Eleventh Plan Period, 5 new lines and 1 doubling projects have been sanctioned and 285.17 km new line, 797.26 km gauge conversion and 31 km doubling have been completed. During 2012-13, 61 km new line and 196 km gauge conversion totalling 257 km have been completed in North Eastern Region.

For augmenting road connectivity, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE), for upgradation of 10141 km road stretches of National Highways and State Roads. Out of 10141 km of roads included under SARDP-NE, 6418 km has been approved by the Government for implementation under Phase 'A' and the Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways and balance 3723 km has been approved for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) under Phase 'B' of SARDP-NE. Sanction has been accorded for 3847 km and 1359 km of roads has been completed under the programme.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 2719.76 kms. of roads have been completed in the North Eastern States upto December, 2013 and 1573 habitations stand connected.

There are twelve operational Airports in the North East Region including Bagdogra of West Bengal. For improving the air connectivity in North East Region, Airport Authority of India had taken up a number of infrastructure development works at various airports in the past decade and number of development works are under progress. The objective is to make Guwahati as inter-regional Hub and Agartala, Dibrugarh and Imphal as Intra-Regional Hubs by construction of Maintenance Hangers, Extension and strengthening of Runway, Extension and strengthening of Apron, Construction of New Terminal Buildings/Extension and Modification of Existing Terminal Buildings, etc. In addition to the above, development works are planned for other airports also like extension of runway suitable for A-321 type of aircrafts at Shillong, New Terminal Buildings at Silchar and Jorhat etc. Three Greenfield airports are also considered or taken up at NE Region viz. Pakyong (Sikkim), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Cheithu (Nagaland).

(b) Varying number of students from the north-eastern states are studying in various metropolitan cities and other urban areas of the country. However, such data is not maintained.

Evaluation of Vision-2020 for development of NER

2806. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any evaluation has been undertaken of the extent of