

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

compliance with the North East Region Vision-2020 document released by the Prime Minister on 2 July 2007, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether such an independent academic evaluation could now be undertaken by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (which drafted the document) in collaboration with the North East Hill University, Shillong and the North East Council headquartered in Shillong?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) North Eastern Region Vision 2020 document was released by Prime Minister in 2008. The Vision 2020 provides a roadmap to all stakeholders such as concerned Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, Planning Commission, North Eastern Council and State Governments for formulation of an integrated plan for the development of North Eastern Region from 2008-09 to 2019-20. No evaluation has been taken up. National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (which drafted the document) has been recently requested by the North Eastern Council to consider taking up an independent academic evaluation study for assessing the extent of compliance with the NER Vision 2020.

Process for disposing the medical waste

†2807.DR. VIJAYLAXMI SADHO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantum of medical waste generated in the country;
- (b) the process adopted for disposing the medical wastes being generated by the hospitals related to the medical colleges of the Government, non-Government sector, private hospitals, small and big hospitals and clinics;
- (c) whether there are such wastes which cannot be destroyed in any way; and
- (d) the plan of Government to destroy such wastes and the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.