

Initiatives taken by NEC

3085. PROF. MRINAL MIRI : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North-Eastern Council (NEC) is allocated the responsibility of making recommendations to the Central Government on any matter of common interest to several States of the region or to the region as a whole in the field of economic and social planning; and

(b) if so, the major initiatives so far taken by the NEC in this regard, and whether these initiatives led to any significant result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) North Eastern Council (NEC) is mandated to function as a Regional Planning Body for the north-eastern areas. While formulating the regional plans for north-eastern areas, the Council accords priority to schemes and projects which would benefit two or more States. In so far as Sikkim is concerned, the Council formulates specific projects and schemes for the State and conducts review of implementation of such projects and schemes.

(b) The major initiatives taken by the NEC as a Regional Planning Body and results thereof are given in Statement.

Statement

*The Major Initiatives taken by NEC as a Regional
Planning Body and Results thereof*

The North-Eastern Council (NEC) is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region. It has been instrumental in setting in motion a new economic endeavour aimed at removing the basic handicaps that stood in the way of development of the region. It has taken several initiatives for the balanced development of the region, that *inter-alia* include the following:

1. North Eastern Region Vision 2020 document prepared by the NEC and released by Prime Minister in July, 2008 continues to be template for promoting development in North Eastern States. Assessment of requirement of infrastructural projects in North Eastern States is continuously evolving process. Planning and policy formulation exercise are envisaged in consultation and participation of State Governments, Union Government and other stakeholders. While taking up NEC projects utmost care has been taken to keep in view the recommendations in the NER Vision 2020.
 2. The NEC has also prepared an "Integrated Master Plan for Tourism in the NER" and taken up a study on "Expansion of North East India's Trade and
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Investment with Bangladesh and Myanmar - An assessment of the opportunities and constraints".

3. The NEC has provided VGF to Alliance Air for enhancing air connectivity in NEER since Tenth Plan period. The arrangement continued till December, 2011. Thereafter, the airports at Shillong, Tezpur and Lilabari became unconnected, as the services to these airports provided by Alliance Air with VGF from the NEC were withdrawn. Recently, at the initiative of Ministry of DoNER and the NEC, the arrangement has been restarted and flights to these airports have been resumed *w.e.f.* 1st August, 2014.

The NEC also funded a Study on Air Connectivity in the Region and the report on the same has since been submitted by Airports Authority of India.

4. A livelihood project called the North Eastern Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (NERCORMP -I) is jointly funded by the NEC and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) with a total allocation of ₹ 159.40 crore and covered 39,161 households in 860 villages in 6 districts, has since been completed. NERCORMP-II - (2010-2016) would cover additional 20,826 households in 466 villages in the same 6 districts namely Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills in Assam, Ukhrul and Senapati in Manipur and West Garo Hills and West Khasi Hills in Meghalaya. An amount of ₹ 200 crore has been earmarked for covering these additional households. Due to the success of this livelihood project it has now been extended to another 4 districts in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur namely Tirap and Changlang in Arunachal Pradesh and Chandel and Churachandpur in Manipur to cover 58,850 households in 1,177 villages with project cost of ₹ 540 crore.
 5. The NEC in collaboration with the PGCIL (50:50) got a plan prepared through PGCIL for strengthening of power transmission and distribution system in NEER. The PGCIL prepared the report and submitted the same to the CEA (Central Electricity Authority). The total estimated cost for implementation of the scheme is about ₹ 11348.50 crore.
 6. Areas identified for Regional Planning:
 - (i) Establishment of Special Economic Zones at the border towns: Towards implementation of LEP.
 - (ii) Establishment of industrial estates/IT parks: Develop local capacities for local consumption/export employment.
 - (iii) Regional Plan for achieving self-sufficiency in selected produces: Targeting eggs, fish and milk.
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- (iv) Inter-State roads - development of last mile connectivity: Strengthening inter-State connectivity.
 - (v) Contain migration of students: Upgrade/ set up educational institutes, provide incentives to faculty.
 - (vi) Regional Plan for skill/ vocational studies: Upgrade/ set up skill institutes in NER.
 - (vii) Improving access to technical and professional courses: Popularise mathematics and science.
 - (viii) Conduct study on the efficacy of at least 10% earmarking for NER by Central Government: Re-looking at policies/ schemes and formulating NE specific schemes attuned to local needs and conditions *e.g.* NE Textile Policy.
 - (ix) Study Land Use Policy and practices in NER for replication: New Land Use Policy of Mizoram.
 - (x) Sports policy for NER: Aims at sportspersons having innate talents with prospects for winning medals.
 - (xi) Drawing up of a long term Master Plan for Telecom/IT Development in NER: Improve telecommunication network, broadband connectivity and services.
 - (xii) Regional Plan for providing and improving secondary and tertiary health care facilities in NER: Treatment within NER and medical tourism.
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IMD forecast at block level

3086. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is providing forecast and advisory services at the Block Level across the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Research efforts are initiated by Earth System Science Organisation- India Meteorological Department (ESSO -IMD) to explore possibility of generating sub district scale Agrometeorological forecast with acceptable level of verification skill in a pilot mode.