

(Agartala, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Imphal, Lilabari and Shillong) are with Airport Authority of India (AAI) and four are Indian Air Force (IAF) airports (Bagdogra, Jorhat, Silchar and Tezpur) where AAI have civil enclaves. Airport at Lengpui (Mizoram) belongs to the State Government. Out of the twelve operational airports the Guwahati and Imphal airports are international airports while all other airports are domestic airports. For improving air connectivity in North East Region, AAI had taken up a number of infrastructure development works at various airports in the past decade and a number of development works are contemplated for coming years. The objective is to make Guwahati as Inter-Regional Hub and Agartala, Dibrugarh and Imphal as Intra-Regional Hubs. For this, construction of maintenance hangars, extension and strengthening of runway, extension and strengthening of Apron, construction of new terminal buildings/extension and modification of existing terminal buildings, etc. are planned in these airports. In addition to the above, development works are also planned for other airports like extension of runway suitable for A-321 type of aircrafts at Shillong, new terminal buildings at Silchar and Jorhat etc.

IV. Inland Waterways:

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has a mandate to develop National Waterways including National Waterway-2 (River Brahmaputra) from Bangladesh Border (near Dhubri) to Sadiya for the purpose of inland water transport and Development of Barak River from Lakhimpur to Bhanga (121 km) as a National Waterway at an estimated cost of ₹ 141 crore at 2014 price .

Sector prioritised and strategy for development

3849. SHRIMATI JHARNADAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) the years in which the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DONER) was created and what was allocation during inception (first) and last (2013-14) financial year;
- (b) whether the Ministry has prioritised any sector(s) or defined any strategy to ensure the desired goal;
- (c) if so, those prioritised sector(s) or the strategies defined; and
- (d) till date in which sectors the Ministry has achieved the significant successes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION [GENERAL (RETD) V.K. SINGH]: (a) Department of Development of North Eastern Region was upgraded to a Ministry in May, 2004. The budget allocation during first 2004-05 and last year (2013-14) financial year are as under:

Year	Plan	Non-Plan
2004-05	₹ 1,185.00 crore	₹ 9.70 crore
2013-14	₹ 2,006.00 crore	₹ 24.97 crore

(b) to (d) The sectors which have been identified for funding, number of projects undertaken including their value under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) schemes, including special Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) package, since 1998-99 and through North Eastern Council (NEC) during XI and XII Five Year Plans are indicated below:

(i) Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR):

Sectors	Number of projects undertaken	Cost of project (₹ in crore)
Agriculture and Allied	05	23.60
Education	166	1439.20
Flood Control and Irrigation	174	557.54
Health	54	667.32
Miscell.	136	1060.74
Power	228	2492.46
Road and Bridges	629	5800.28
Sports	42	343.61
Tourism and Culture	06	179.01
Water Supply	157	1626.07
TOTAL	1597	14189.83

(ii) North Eastern Council (NEC):

Sectors	Number of projects undertaken	Cost of project (₹ in crore)
Agriculture and Allied	28	111.56
Power	55	420.61
Irrigation, Flood Control and WSM	73	317.47
Industries	22	102.09
Tourism	33	123.29

Sectors	Number of projects undertaken	Cost of project (₹ in crore)
Transport and Communication	26	2000.34
Medical and Health	27	245.85
HRD and Edu. Sector (sports)	81	340.94
Science and Technology	04	11.91
Information and Public Relation	10	46.13
TOTAL	359	3720.19

The strategy of the Ministry is to support those projects that fill the gap in infrastructure development in North Eastern Region.

National Mission to improve the accuracy of monsoon forecasts

3850. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for a National Mission to try and improve the accuracy of monsoon forecasts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the National Monsoon Mission initiative institutions of Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ESSO-IITM), Pune, India Meteorological Department (ESSO-IMD), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (ESSO-INCOIS), Hyderabad and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ESSO-NCMRWF), Noida, have embarked upon to build a state-of-the-art coupled ocean-atmospheric climate model for (a) improved prediction of monsoon rainfall on extended range to seasonal time scale (16 days to one season) and (b) improved prediction of temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events on short to medium range time scale (up to 15 days) so that forecast skill gets quantitatively improved further for operational services of Earth System Science Organisation- India Meteorological Department (ESSO-IMD).

One of the Implementation Agreements - Dynamical Seasonal Prediction of Indian Summer Monsoon Rainfall (Establishment of Monsoon desk) was signed during the visit of President Obama in November, 2010 under which Indian and US scientists are working jointly on seasonal forecast. ESSO-NCMRWF is putting efforts to improve the adopted unified model in collaboration with UK for seamless prediction of monsoon