SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Member is sitting and talking. Is it as per rules and law? Sir, my humble submission is: I do agree that it is a serious matter. It is a sensitive matter. We are ascertaining the full facts. I am trying to submit to the House the position concerning the charges against some MPs, and secondly, it has happened in the premises of a particular State Government Bhavan. So, we have to find out the full details and then only we can respond. Otherwise, you know, Members of Parliament also, if you take their names and if you go on discussing, then they will also have their own this thing. So, what I am suggesting is that we have a listed Business today. Let us complete that Business. I assure you that by tomorrow, we will come back and...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is good enough. Question 241. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, 24 hours have passed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the question be answered. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, Yechuryji ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Please, through you, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the position is now clear.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I think the position is same. An assurance was given yesterday, "We will come back to you tomorrow." Now, today, you are saying, "Tomorrow". Tomorrow of tomorrow will remain tomorrow of tomorrow. It will remain the same. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, Yechuryji.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: We request that you give us an assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yechuryji, enough has been said. Now, Question 241.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Time taken to release funds for DoNER

*241. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons of taking more time in getting sanction and fund release for various schemes under Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER); and

(b) the total budget of last financial year 2013-14, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) The main reasons for taking more time in getting sanction and fund releases are as follows:

(i) Shortcomings in Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by the State Government.

(ii) Delay in techno-economic clearance/vetting of DPRs by the Line Ministries/Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(iii) Non-submission of timely/complete/requisite documents like Utilization Certificate, Quarterly Progress Report, Inspection Report, Work Plan, copy of work order, site photographs by the State Government.

(iv) Delay in tendering process or part-tendering by the State implementing agencies.

(v) Inadequate budgetary allocation for ongoing and new projects.

(b) No State-wise budget allocation is made by the Ministry. However, State-wise utilization of funds during 2013-14 under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) Scheme & Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC) are given in Statement-I.

Statement-I

Details of State-wise utilisation of funds during 2013-14 *under NLCPR Scheme and Schemes of NEC*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)	North Eastern Council (NEC)	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	116.87	82.17	199.04
2.	Assam	237.14	69.78	306.92

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Manipur	86.77	85.89	172.66
4.	Meghalaya	90.70	52.26	142.96
5.	Mizoram	76.67	55.34	132.01
6.	Nagaland	87.90	119.61	207.51
7.	Sikkim	76.14	53.89	130.03
8.	Tripura	77.81	84.37	162.18
9.	Other Agencies	-	94.74	94.74
	TOTAL	850.00	698.05	1548.05

श्री बिश्वजीत दैमारी : सर, जो डोनर मंत्रालय है, इसको हमारे प्रधान मंत्री श्री वाजपेयी जी के समय नार्थ-ईस्ट के विकास के लिए खोला गया था, लेकिन जिस तरह से नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के सारे लोगों को इससे उम्मीद थी, वह वास्तव में नहीं हो पाया। इस मंत्रालय के जरिए जितनी भी परियोजनाएं ली जाती हैं, उनको सैंक्शन देने में या फंड रिलीज करने में बहुत ही विलम्ब हो जाता है। अगर इस साल कोई परियोजना भेजी जाती है, तो दो-तीन साल के बाद वह प्रोजेक्ट सैंक्शन किया जाता है। अगर इसी तरह होता रहेगा, तो इस मंत्रालय के जरिए नॉर्थ-ईस्ट का विकास करने के लिए जो योजना ली गई थी, वह कभी सफल नहीं हो पाएगी। मेरे प्रश्न के उत्तर में कुछ कारण बताए गए हैं। इनमें यह है कि संबंधित मंत्रालय को भेजना पड़ता है, वहां पर तकनीकी क्लीयरेंस होना चाहिए, फंड का भी क्लीयरेंस होना चाहिए और वहां पर सब कुछ एग्जामिन भी होना चाहिए।

सर, मैं आपके जरिए मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूं कि डोनर मंत्रालय खुद अपने मंत्रालय में ही इन सारी चीजों का क्लीयरेंस करने के लिए ऐसा कोई सेक्शन या कोई ब्रांच क्यों नहीं खोल सकता है, जिससे दूसरे मंत्रालयों पर इन सारी चीजें के लिए निर्भर करने की जरूरत न हो? प्रोजेक्ट्स में जितनी भी कमियां आती हैं, शॉर्टकमिग्स आती हैं, वह हमारे नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के सारे राज्यों के टेक्निकल परसन को लेकर बात करे और एडवाइस दे, ताकि इसमें करेक्शन करने के लिए एक भी डी.पी.आर. वापस न जाए।

जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) वी.के. सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं सदस्य की चिन्ता से पूर्णतया सहमत हूं। मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को बताना चाहूंगा कि इस बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है कि हम किस प्रकार इस प्रणाली को और सुव्यवस्थित कर सकें। इसके बारे में गहरा सोच-विचार चल रहा है, क्योंकि हम भी जानते हैं कि जो कुछ हमने अभी इनहेरिट किया है, उसके अन्दर कुछ कमियां हैं, जिनको ठीक किया जा रहा है और मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि समय आने पर इसके अन्दर तेजी लायी जाएगी।

श्री सभापति : दूसरा प्रश्न। **...(व्यवधान)...**

श्री बिश्वजीत दैमारी : सर, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि इसमें बताया गया है कि वहां के लिए पर्याप्त बजट आवंटन नहीं है, यानी वहां के लिए एडिक्वेट फंड एलॉकेशन नहीं मिलता है, इसलिए वहां पर इसे टाइम पर इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं किया जा रहा है। लेकिन, जहां तक मैं जानता हूं, सारे मंत्रालयों से 10 परसेंट फंड नॉन लैप्सेबल रूप में नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए दिया जाता है, तो 10 परसेंट वाला यह सारा फंड किस मंत्रालय के जरिए दिया जाता है? अगर DoNER की स्थापना की गई है, तो उसके माध्यम से यह क्यों नहीं दिया जा रहा है, सारा फंड कहां जा रहा है? इस बजट में भी यह मेंशन किया गया है कि नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के लिए आवंटन 53,706 करोड़ रुपये है। अगर DoNER के पास पैसा नहीं है, तो यह सारा पैसा किस लाइन से खर्च किया जाता है?

जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) वी.के. सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, कुछ मंत्रालय एग्जेम्प्ट किए गए हैं और जो 10 परसेंट का नॉन लैप्सेबल फंड है, उसके अंदर उनका पैसा नहीं लिया जाता, बल्कि यह पैसा मंत्रालय खुद अपने कार्यों के द्वारा नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के अंदर लगाने का प्रयास करता है और इसके ऊपर हमारे मंत्रालय का कोई कंट्रोल नहीं है। मैं आपके द्वारा सदन को बताना चाहूंगा कि इस प्रणाली को सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए हम लोग इस बात पर सोच-विचार कर रहे हैं कि फिलहाल नेशनल अमाउंट को किस तरीके से असलियत में बदला जाए।

श्री तरुण विजय : सभापति महोदय, पूर्वांचल क्षेत्र से लाखों बच्चे जब बंगलुरू, देहरादून और दिल्ली पढ़ने के लिए आते हैं तो वे पहली बार रेलगाड़ी देखते हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि उत्तर-पूर्वांचल क्षेत्र में क्या एक भी ओलम्पिक स्टैंडर्ड का खेल स्टेडियम बना है? क्या गुवाहाटी के अलावा उत्तर-पूर्वांचल के किसी भी प्रदेश की राजधानी का दिल्ली से सीधा वायुयान से संबंध जोड़ा गया है? वहां के बच्चों को आर्चरी का प्रशिक्षण देने के लिए क्या कोई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र या ऐसा कोई ट्रेनिंग सेंटर खुला है, यह मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं।

जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) वी.के. सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, हालांकि यह इस प्रश्न से ताल्लुक नहीं रखता है, फिर भी मैं माननीय सांसद को यह बताना चाहूंगा कि फिलहाल इम्फाल और दिल्ली के बीच एयर का डायरेक्ट लिंक है और हमारे अब के बजट में मणिपुर के अंदर स्पोर्ट्स यूनिवर्सिटी खोलने प्रावधान किया गया है, जो अबकी बार बनेगी। स्पोर्ट्स को उन प्रदेशों में काफी गम्भीरता के साथ लिया जा रहा है, जहां से अच्छे खिलाड़ी आते हैं।

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, as a former Minister of DoNER, I seek your permission to place the following question before the hon. Minister of DoNER. My question, Sir, is this: Do you not believe that we could make the release of funds much quicker and far more efficient, if you were to revive the 17 Working Groups that were established after the then Prime Minister of India released the document titled, "North-Eastern Region: Vision 2020" as also fulfil the legal obligation that the Minister of DoNER has to convert the North Eastern Council in Shillong into a Regional Planning Body for all of the North-East?

GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Member has been a Minister of DoNER earlier. I appreciate what he has said. But, Sir, in the last ten years, we have not seen this happening. As I said, we are at it to improve things, and, I am quite sure, after taking into account all possible suggestions that are coming, we will be able to put in place a mechanism which will make things better.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am afraid, the expression '10 years' is completely misplaced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The North-Eastern Region Vision Document came out less than ten years ago, the Working Group was set up less than ten years ago, and...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The work on making the NEC a regional body also started less than ten years ago. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Yechury. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: This kind of careless attitude... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Yechury. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Mani, please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I would like to say to the hon. Minister that it is very easy for each one of us to say, "In the last ten years, nothing has happened, and, therefore, what can I do; I inherited something bad." The point at issue is that you are the Government today and we are a country and both are in continuum. So, whatever is the continuum right now, what are we and how are we going to proceed? You have given, Sir, in your answer — my supplementary relates to this — 'figures which talk in terms of the utilization of the Non-Lapsable Funds'. Fine, you have given these figures State-wise. But unless you know what has been the allocation, how does utilization help us? You have not given us what has been the allocation out of which, what has been the percentage of utilization. Many of the questions that hon. Members have raised cannot be understood unless you give us the allocations State-wise. You are right when you say that these are decided by different Ministries because 10 per cent of the Ministry's development thing goes in there. In DoNER, all of us have had the experience in various parliamentary Standing Committees dealing with them, you can easily compile State-wise, Department-wise and Ministry-wise, how much is the fund that has been allocated

for the development of the North-East and how much of that has been utilized. Then it makes better sense. I think that this question has been half answered. So, my submission is to please fill in that gap.

GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH: Hon. Chairman, Sir, the point is well taken. I would like to inform the House, through you, that these figures are available. The question was, the reason why it is delayed. I have given out the reasons in the description of the question as to why the delay is taking place. What is needed is, how do we make this better; how do we ensure that North-East gets the attention that it deserves. And I would like to draw your attention to the fact that our Prime Minister has said that North-East requires to be integrated in a much better manner than what it has been done. Accordingly, we are working at it. If the figures are required, separately I can provide to the hon. Member.

Water pricing system in urban areas

*242. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplates to bring in water pricing system in urban areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government took the view of all stakeholders in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Though water pricing in urban areas is within the mandate of State Governments/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), the Government of India have issued Manuals and Advisories advocating the levying of appropriate user charges and to guide States to improve water supply and sanitation services including recovery of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) charges.

(c) Appropriate water pricing system in urban areas and levying of user charges to recover O&M cost has been the part of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). JNNURM was approved after due stakeholders' consultations. During the implementation period of JNNURM (2005-2014) continuous consultations with the stakeholders was done. Based on the continuous consultation and feedback an advisory was issued by the Ministry of Urban Development on tariff structure for urban water supply and sewerage services in July, 2013.