

(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 Rs. 141 crore at 2014 price.

Policy for people from North-Eastern States

1683. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people from North-Eastern States are getting alienated from the national mainstream, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the look-east policy of Government has failed to organise a decentralised multilevel developmental strategy aimed at basic infrastructure and all inclusive growth of the region, if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the achievements made during last five years; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to provide opportunities, honour, dignity and equality to people from north-east?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH] : (a) As per the information given by Ministry of Home Affairs, there is no such report.

(b) and (c) 1. **Connectivity between India and Myanmar:** Myanmar shares a long, sensitive and porous land border of over 1600 km with four North-Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. It is the only Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) country adjoining India and, therefore, a gateway to South East Asia.

- (i) Myanmar provides alternative access route to North-East India. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project envisages connectivity between Indian ports on the eastern seaboard and Sittwe Port in Myanmar and thence through riverine transport (on the Kaladan River in Myanmar) upto Paletwa and thereafter by road to Mizoram. The port has been constructed at Sittwe and work on the Water Terminal in Paletwa is also nearing completion, through Indian aid. The road leading from Paletwa to the Indian border in Mizoram is under process. Similarly, road construction from Imphal to the border is being undertaken by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) separately.
- (ii) The India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project aims to provide an access route from North East India to Myanmar and Thailand. The

project involves construction/upgradation of Kalewa-Yagyi road section (approximately 115 km) of the Trilateral Highway in Myanmar and upgradation of 71 bridges along the Tamu-Kalewa Road Section of the India Friendship Road. Survey of the bridges has been completed by BRO and work on the road is in progress.

- (iii) The Rhi-Tiddim-Falam feeder road for trade with Myanmar, to connect with Mizoram State, is to be developed by India. MoU on the project was signed during External Affairs Minister's visit to Myanmar in December, 2012. The selection of consultant for preparation of DPR is under process.

2. Rail Link between Akhaura (Bangladesh) and Agartala (India):

One new rail link between Akhaura (Bangladesh) and Agartala (India) is proposed to be built with Indian financial assistance; the land survey is being undertaken by IRCON. This rail link is being financed by grant-in-aid from India. The MoU for construction was signed in February 16, 2013. The line from Agartala to Gangasagar (Bangladesh) will be 10.4 km (4.7 km in India and 5.7 km in Bangladesh).

3. Look East Policy:

The Look East Policy of Government of India is to develop a framework of agreements for enhanced engagement with the ASEAN and other East Asian countries. Several agreements have been signed and are under implementation. Similarly, the connectivity infrastructure projects are being implemented. These transit corridors will lead to Economic nodes being set up along the way in the North Eastern States. Several agencies of Government of India including Central Public Works Department (CPWD), BRO, and Department of Commerce, State Government concerns are engaged in the task of development of the North Eastern Region.

- (d) The Union Government attaches the highest importance to matters relating to policy for people from North Eastern Region. The Government of India has been advising the State Governments regarding the steps that are needed to be taken to afford greater measure of protection to people from North Eastern Region. Besides, Government of India has issued advisories and guidelines to all States and Central Government Ministries regarding safety, security and dignity of the people from North East.

Checking of environmental pollution level

†1684. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is testing the level of environmental pollution in Delhi and other cities of the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.