

has already been released to the State Government of Uttaranchal. The said amount has been transferred to the CPWD, who have since invited tenders for construction of the Project. The Project is likely to be completed in 24 months after the work is awarded.

Development of Infrastructure in NER

1201. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to ensure speedy development of infrastructure in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any specific budgetary allocation for those infrastructure projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) The development of infrastructure in the North Eastern Region (NER) is pursued through the five year plans/annual plans of the State Governments/Union Ministries/North Eastern Council. In addition, the Union Government has constituted a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) out of the unspent balance from 10% of Gross Budgetary Support of Union Ministries/Departments earmarked for the North East. The objective of NLCPR is to fund specific projects for the development of socio-economic infrastructure in the North Eastern Region.

(b) The details of NLCPR are available on website www.northeast.nic.in.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The budget allocation under the scheme of NLCPR for 2003-04 was Rs. 550.00 crores.

Functioning of N.E.C.

1202. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the relation between DONER and N.E.C.;

(b) whether N.E.C. is an independent body or not; and