

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

(c) if so, the details thereof and the functioning of N.E.C. as well as DONER?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) While DONER is one of the Ministries of Government of India which deals with matters relating to the development of North Eastern Region as provided in the Allocation of Business Rules of Government of India, NEC is a statutory body with the Ministry of DONER.

(c) Being a statutory body, NEC functions in accordance with the North Eastern Council Act, 1971, as amended by NEC (Amendment) Act, 2002. However, Five-Year and Annual Plans of NEC, projects and schemes undertaken by NEC under such plans and allocation of budget and release of funds are approved by the Ministry of DONER and the Planning Commission.

Diversion of funds by CCI

1203. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rupees one crore given by his Ministry to the Cement Corporation of India for voluntary retirement fund has been diverted for making payment to private firms and contractors; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken against those involved in this financial irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. VRS funds released by the Government have been utilized by CCI for the purpose for which these were released by the Government.

(b) In view of reply as above, the question does not arise.

Profits of BHEL

1204. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BHEL has registered an impressive growth in its profits during 2003-04;