

- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken any short and long term measures to achieve these targets; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Vision 2020 document provides an overarching framework for the development of the North Eastern Region under which different Ministries including Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region have undertaken various initiatives.

(b) The focus areas, *inter alia*, include agriculture and allied activities, tourism and improvement of infrastructure particularly for connectivity. The outlays by Central Ministries on these sectors have increased substantially.

(c) Mandatory earmarking of at least 10% of GBS of Central Ministries/Departments for North Eastern Region and creation of Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) has augmented resource flow to the region. The earmarked outlay of Central Ministries for expenditure in North Eastern Region has increased from ₹ 27359.17 crore (RE) in 2014-15 to ₹ 29669.22 crore (RE) in 2015-16 and further to ₹ 33097.02 crore (BE) in 2016-17.

(d) Steps have been taken by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to bridge infrastructure gaps under its Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme. Of the total number of 1576 projects that has been sanctioned so far, 602 projects pertain to Roads and Bridges, 231 projects pertain to Power sector, 157 projects pertain to water supply sector and 174 projects pertain to Irrigation and Flood Control sector.

In addition, 134 projects in the agriculture and allied sector, 54 projects in Power sector, 87 projects in Irrigation and Flood Control sector, 74 projects in Transport and Communications sector are under implementation by the North Eastern Council.

Self Help Groups and NGOs financed by NEDFi

804. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Self Help Groups and NGOs financed by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) since 2014, State-wise; and

(b) the number of local entrepreneurship consultancy services provided by NEDFi during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Number of Self Help Groups (SHG) and NGOs financed by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) since 2014, State-wise is as under:—

State	Financial Year 2014-15		Financial Year 2015-16		Financial Year 2016-17 (Till 31.12.2016)	
	SHG	NGO	SHG	NGO	SHG	NGO
Arunachal Pradesh	807	0	293	0	244	0
Assam	7984	8	6760	9	5937	6
Manipur	1799	7	1275	7	1924	6
Meghalaya	2144	0	477	0	506	0
Mizoram	713	0	478	0	266	0
Nagaland	250	1	133	1	188	0
Sikkim	232	0	272	0	743	0
Tripura	574	1	456	1	618	1

(b) Number of local entrepreneurship consultancy services provided by NEDFi during 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17, State-wise is as under:—

States	Financial Year 2014-15	Financial Year 2015-16	Financial Year 2016-17 (Till 31.12.2016)
1	2	3	4
Arunachal Pradesh	41	77	27
Assam	58	67	51
Manipur	80	79	77

1	2	3	4
Meghalaya	30	45	33
Mizoram	46	96	47
Nagaland	45	28	38
Sikkim	97	135	71
Tripura	129	95	76

Earthquake prediction system

805. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's earthquake prediction system is capable enough to predict earthquakes of any magnitudes;

(b) if so, the accuracy at which it could be predicted and warn us to save human lives; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY): (a) To date, there is no proven scientific technique available, anywhere in the world, to predict the occurrence of earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy with regard to space, time and magnitude.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Restriction for H1-B visa

806. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state how the Ministry is planning to deal with Mr. Trump's statement that all IT jobs in US would be given to locals and there would be strict approach towards H1-B Visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: Government of India has been engaging with the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress at senior levels in regard to movement of skilled