

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Transportation and other infrastructure play important role in development, particularly in the North Eastern States.

(b) Indian Railways have laid great emphasis on improvement in railway infrastructure in the North Eastern Region. 20 major railway projects consisting of 13 new lines, 2 gauge conversions and 5 doublings having aggregate length of 2624 kms have been taken up.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE). SARDP-NE Phase 'A' covering 4099 kms and Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways covering 2319 kms, is presently under implementation. In addition, improvement of roads in the States of Assam and Meghalaya has been taken up. Construction of Greenfield Airport at Pakyong (PDC-Sept.2017) and operationalising the non-operational airport at Tezu (PDC-Sept.2018) have been taken.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region recently sanctioned the project proposal for protection of Majuli Island from flood and erosion of river Brahmaputra under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources - Central (NLCPR-Central).

Ministry of DoNER is also sanctioning infrastructure projects under its schemes Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources, Social and Infrastructure Development Fund and through the North Eastern Council for bridging gaps in infrastructure.

#### **Upgradation of North Eastern Council**

3199. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to reorient and upgrade the North Eastern Council (NEC); and

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has constituted a nodal group for drafting details and proposals therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his

address to the 65th Plenary of the North Eastern Council held on 27th May, 2016 suggested that the NEC needs to be re-oriented and upgraded as a state-of-the-art resource centre for the North Eastern States with necessary resources, knowledge and skills.

(b) A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, North Eastern Council and Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RGIIM), Shillong was signed on 15th October, 2016 for setting up of 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis in North East' at RGIIM, Shillong to provide strategic policy vision on behalf of NEC on subjects relevant to NER development like livelihood, Act East Policy, biodiversity, organic food basket, bamboo mission and horticulture as part of the efforts to build a virtual network of institutes.

#### **Private Investment in NER**

3200. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects taken up by Government for economic development of North Eastern Region (NER); and

(b) the total amount of private investment in the States of NER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) Union Ministries are implementing schemes in the North Eastern Region for socio-economic development. Some important projects include Special Accelerated Road Development Programme - North East (SARDP-NE) for development of roads, Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan, North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS), North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) and North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) for Inter-State neglected roads. In addition to these projects, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region also provides funds to States of North Eastern Region under its Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme and projects sanctioned under North Eastern Council.

(b) As per information provided by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, an