

communication, manpower development, flood control, tourism, capacity building, etc.

There have been cases of funds not being utilized properly and this has been highlighted by Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In his reports he has pointed out that irregularities like unauthorized expenditure, diversion of funds etc. by State Governments have marred development prospects in the region.

The State Governments have been advised to ensure that programme/ project specific funds are released on time and regular monitoring of projects under implementation is undertaken. To reduce the possibility of non-utilisation/mis'-utilisation of centrally funded schemes, a regime of monitoring and inspections is followed. Only after receipt of utilization certificates, the second and subsequent instalments of projects funds are released. Staff of this Department have commenced field inspections of projects under execution. Five large projects have been identified for the CAG to commence concurrent audit during their execution itself.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development programmes of North Eastern States

4074. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the main thrusts of Government on the Development Programmes of North Eastern States;

(b) whether funds commensurate with the programmes' are provided;

(c) the sources and quantum of funds available for these programmes; and

(d) the duration for which funds will be made available?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN'SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Improvements in the infrastructure and access to basic social services especially education, health, drinking water and basic sanitation, expansion of economic and social opportunities for all, reduction in disparities, greater participation in decision making, provisioning of adequate level of consumption of food and other consumer goods etc., are the main thrust of the Government's development programmes in North Eastern States. These development plans have been formulated in the light of the broad

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objectives of economic growth with enhancement of human well being as laid down in the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan.

North Eastern States are categorized as Special Category States and 90% of the Plan assistance to these States is provided as grants.

In addition, all the Central Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) earmark at least 10% of their budget for sectoral developmental programmes in the North Eastern States. The unspent balance of the earmarked funds of the Central Ministries/ Departments is transferred to the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) which is used to reduce the existing Basic Minimum Services/infrastructure gaps in the North Eastern Region.

The North Eastern Council (NEC), also takes up infrastructure development projects in areas such as power, roads and bridges, health, manpower development, etc.

For 2002-03, a total provision of Rs. 3700 crore has been made by various ministries in the Budget for taking up developmental schemes/projects in the North East. NEC has made a Plan provision of Rs. 450 crore for 2002-03.

Under Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources, since 1988-99; Rs. 1346.72 crore have been released to North Eastern States.

These funding sources and quantum of funds broadly take care of the requirement for development programme of the North Eastern States and are intended to continue till the Region reaches a certain minimum level in terms of infrastructure development.

Non-Implementation of Projects of Harnessing Brahmaputra

4075. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-implementation of projects of harnessing Brahmaputra proposed by Brahmaputra Board when there is a great possibility of power generation, large scale irrigation and big flood control; and

(b) whether considering all these aspects his Ministry would look into it in the greater interest of development in the North Eastern Region and propose to implement it in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Brahmaputra Board had prepared the