



Proceedings
of the
68th Plenary
of the
North Eastern Council

held on the
8th & 9th September, 2019

At

**Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati
Assam**

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PART-I

68th Plenary Meeting of North Eastern Council

Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati, Assam

1. Minute -to-Minute Programme

8th September 2019 (Sunday): Day - 1	
1000-1230 hrs	Registration
1230 hrs – Inaugural Session - Main Hall	
1230-1400 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting of traditional Lamp and felicitation of dignitaries• Welcome address: Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble MoS (IC) M/o DoNER and Vice Chairman NEC• Inaugural Address: Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Home Minister & Chairman NEC• Confirmation of the Proceedings and Tabling of the Action Taken Report of the 67th Plenary meeting held in July 2018.• Address by members : Hon'ble Governors
1400-1430 hrs	Lunch break
1430-1545 hrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address by members : Hon'ble Chief Ministers and full-time non-official Member• Presentation by Secretary, MDoNER• Presentation by Secretary NEC• Vote of thanks by Secretary NEC
1545-1630 hrs	Discussion with Chief Secretaries and DGPs of NER - Hall B
1630-1730 hrs	Meeting with Hon'ble Chief Ministers – Hall B
1730-1800 hrs	Reserve
1930- 2015 hrs	Cultural Programme
2015 hrs	Dinner
9th September 2019 (Monday): Day-2	
1030-1130 hrs	Presentations by Chief Secretaries
1130-1300 hrs	Presentations by Secretaries of selected Central Ministries*/Interventions by other central Secretaries
1300-1330 hrs	Discussion and Closing session
1330-1430 hrs	Lunch
1430 hrs	Departure

**Ministry/Department of (i) Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, (ii) Civil Aviation, (iii) Expenditure, (iv) External Affairs (V) Food Processing Industries (vi) Health & Family welfare (vii) Power (viii) Railways, (ix) Road Transport & Highways, (x) School Education & Literacy (xi) Telecommunications (xii) Tourism, (xiii) Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.*

PART-I

2. Extract of Speech of Hon'ble Home Minister and Chairman, NEC

The Hon'ble Home Minister and Chairman, NEC welcomed all the Members of the NEC and the officers of the State Governments and Central Government. He paid rich tributes to Dr Bhupen Hazarika on his Birth Anniversary and described him as one of those who brought closer the link between the North East and the rest of the world and was conferred Bharat Ratna for his contribution.

He referred to the fact that when India will celebrate 75 years of freedom, NEC will celebrate 50 years of its existence and hence there is a need for the North East to envision itself of the targets that it want to achieve in its developmental works. NE India should contribute to the overall development of the country and should be the new engine of growth. In view of the relatively small population vis-à-vis the land areas, there is huge potential for development. He stated that NE has a diverse population group with around 270 tribes / groups and preservation of the culture of these groups should be kept in mind during developmental process.

He recalled the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision if the western region of the country could make progress, then there is no plausible reason why the North Eastern Region cannot progress. There has been much progress made in the last 5 years in the North East. He also referred to the NE as Ashtalakshmi that can take India to new heights. He then indicated that as per the Hon'ble Prime Minister's advice during the 65th Plenary on 27th May, 2016, the NEC is being repositioned and reoriented to become a state of the art resource centre for all NE States.

He also clarified that the Government would not make any changes or amendments to the Special Provision of Article 371 for the NE which is a permanent provision of Constitution. He also stressed on the need to solve inter-state border issues for the overall development of the Region.

While suggesting a road-map for 2022, he stressed on improving the condition of segments of society in the region which have historically been neglected and deprived, especially sub-tribes and people groups with small population and endangered languages. The Chairman, NEC announced earmarking of thirty percent of the NEC's allocation on new projects under the existing Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC) for focussed development of deprived areas; deprived/neglected

sections of society and emerging priority sectors in the North eastern states which was endorsed by all the members of NEC. NEC would undertake various programmes /projects in these areas in consultation with concerned line Ministries/State Governments/other stakeholders.

He also mentioned about the Indo-Bangladesh land boundary agreement and opined that this will open trade for the North East and contribute to exports and the GDP of the country. He also requested all the States of NE to develop the bamboo sector for the benefit of the NE and India as a whole as apart from boosting the income of farmers it would also save valuable foreign exchange if processed as paper/Biofuel.

The salient features of Hon'ble Home Minister speech are as under:

- i. 30% of NEC's budget allocation will be spent on new projects under the existing "Schemes of North Eastern Council" for development of backward and deprived areas; deprived/neglected sections of society and emerging priority sectors. NEC will undertake various programs/projects in the region with the consultation of the concerned ministers/state governments/other stakeholders of the region.
- ii. 14 aspirations districts have been identified in NER that have been left undeveloped. There are still some areas and villages in each state which have not been developed. Such backward and deprived areas have to be identified. Such areas also needs to be identified where there is lack of electricity, toilets, gas, and proper roads in villages and these have to be fully developed.
- iii. Electricity, water, roads, toilets, gas etc in undeveloped areas shall be provided out of above mentioned 30% allocation.
- iv. NEC should make a roadmap of development of North-east for the target year 2022 i.e. 75 year of Independence.
- v. To fix the targets for the year 2022 with respect to promotion of culture, literature, language, dialects etc. of NER.

- vi. To determine targets for the year 2022 regarding the law and order in North-east.
- vii. To focus on the security of North-east in the programs of the Council.
- viii. To solve border related conflicts among North-eastern states.
- ix. The Government of India has a zero-tolerance policy against those who revolt with arms. All eight states should follow the same.
- x. To make North-east the growth engine of India.
- xi. The government respects Article 371 and 371 A to J of the Constitution of India.
- xii. To complete works related to Bharatmala Project.
- xiii. All eight states of North-east will be on air and railway map by the year 2022.
- xiv. Each state should make Bamboo Mission a priority sector. To become less import-dependent by using the Bamboo Mission and paper making capacity of North-east.

The Chairman NEC also held separate discussions with the Chief Ministers of the States on matters of inter-state importance.

3. Extract of Speech of Hon'ble MoS (IC), MDoNER and Vice Chairman, NEC

The Hon'ble Minister (Independent Charge) MDoNER and Vice Chairman in his Opening Remarks stated after his taking over the charge of the MDoNER in the first tenure of the present Government, an initiative was taken to bring the rest of India to North East. Hence, "DoNER at Door Step" started not only to understand the issues of the people of the Region but also for strengthening the ties between mainland India and North East. He also mentioned that at the initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, every fortnight a Central Minister is deputed to visit the North East who would not only review the programmes of the concerned Ministry but also understand the developmental requirements of the States and developing closer ties

with the people. In addition to this, as a part of the personal outreach of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, he has been a frequent visitor of the NER personally. He also recollected that after 40 years, the Prime Minister inaugurated the 65th NEC Plenary in 2016 at Shillong. The initiative of the Government had brought peace NER and the law & order is now under control. The Government has started construction of railway infrastructure in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and the Arunachal Express has started its service.

He also mentioned about the 'orphans roads' referring to roads which lies between the two states at the borders and none of the States are willing to develop such roads resulting in hardship to the common man. The Government then initiated the North East Roads Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) to take up the development of such roads. Another important infrastructure project is the construction of airport like the Pakyong Airport in Sikkim and similar projects are being taken up in Itanagar and Kohima while Guwahati Airport is already an international airport.

Regarding the budget allocation for the NEC, he mentioned that when he took over the charge of MDoNER, the budget of NEC was around Rs. 700 crore per annum which has subsequently been increased to Rs. 900 crore and now it is more than Rs. 1400 crore. The Government, in order to promote Arunachal Pradesh as a destination for film making, had sanctioned the setting up of a Film Studio along with the second Film and Television Institute of India for which the work is going on. Arun Prabha channel has been started.

He also mentioned that with the initiatives undertaken, approximately Rs. 726 crore of pending utilization certificates were received from the States in 2019 and this has greatly helped in speeding the expenditure for such projects.

He also referred to the initiative of the Government to establish a special forum for the North East called the NITI-NER Forum, the first meeting of which was held on the 10th April, 2018.

He also mentioned that other countries have also started investing in the North East like the Citrus Fruit Park by Israel in Mizoram and Japan is investing in development projects in Manipur.

Under the initiative of the NEC, the construction of hostel for students of North East like the Girls' Hostel at the Bangalore University, were completed. Other students' hostel at JNU, Delhi is under construction and in Rohini, Delhi a location was identified for setting up another hostel. In Dwarka, Delhi, the North Eastern Council Convention Centre would be set up on the lines of the India Convention Centre. The NEC has also initiated to start the setting up of the Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Centre for Research & Analysis at IIM Shillong. In the Guwahati University, the Brahmaputra Study Centre was set up for taking up various studies relating to the river Brahmaputra.

A target of completing/sanctioning/starting/operationalising of projects worth Rs 30 crore per day for the first 100 days of the present Government has been achieved. In the 14 Aspirational Districts, the NEC has released Rs. 1 crore each and is taking up the project for providing smart virtual classrooms in these Aspirational Districts. Venture funds under the Government's Start-up, Stand-up programme has been started with an initial capital of Rs 100 crore for the entrepreneurs of the North East.

The Proceedings and the Action Taken Note (ATN) of the 67th Plenary meeting were tabled on the floor of the House and the same were confirmed by the House.

4. Extract of Speeches of Hon'ble Governors

Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Brig. (Dr.) B.D Mishra (Retd.):

The Honb'le Governor of Arunachal Pradesh while referring to the educational infrastructure in the State mentioned that in many areas the infrastructure especially at the primary, secondary and higher secondary schools are very old and would need new infrastructure for the benefit of the students. He requested the Government of India and NEC to support such infrastructure. He welcomed the establishment of the National Institute of Technology in the State and in order that the State Government should have a stake in the NIT, he proposed that the Act should be amended to include the State Minister i/c Education and Principal Secretary, i/c Education in the Board of Management of NIT.

He referred to the foundation stone laid by the Honb'le Prime Minister for the establishment of an airport in Holangi. He urged that the work should start at the earliest so that it will bring benefit to the State in the form of investment, tourism etc.

Referring to segment of land along the Indo-Myanmar border in Arunachal Pradesh at Vijaynagar where 14 villages are located with around 5000 population, he was of the opinion that there is a need for development of road infrastructure to help in tiding the very high price of various commodities for the common people. He requested assistance from the Central Government and NEC.

Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Shri Jagdish Mukhi:

The Honb'le Governor stated that the NE Region has the characteristic of being landlocked with maximum international borders and a small land corridor connecting the Region with the rest of the country. But this Region also has enormous opportunities for development. He stressed on taking up projects by the NEC which have regional character and to continue financial assistance to projects beyond March 2020. NEC should assist in infrastructure development for connectivity through land and air. Closer ties with regards to trade with countries of South East Asian countries need to be developed along with cultural and tourism and environmental issues.

The Hon'ble Governor urged upon the NEC to take massive initiative in the area of organic farming in the NE alongwith development of the animal husbandry sector. He also identified the bamboo sector as another sector with wide potentiality for development. He urge upon the NEC to carry out research in the field of skill development and capacity building so that the youth can upscale the employability in various sectors.

He also urge that since floods is a perennial problem for Assam, projects for flood control and soil erosion should be supported by the NEC. Tourism inflow has been increasing in Assam and has urged the NEC to continue the extension of financial support for projects under the sector. Handloom and handcrafts is another area which requires support from the NEC especially in the rural areas.

He also pointed the need to raise the budget of the NEC for the overall development of Assam and the NER as a whole.

Hon'ble Governor of Manipur, Dr. Najma Heptulla:

The Hon'ble Governor while referring to the NEC Guidelines pointed out that some sectors like power, irrigation, flood control, water supply , sports have been removed from the thrust areas of the NEC. She urged that all these sectors should be restored back as part of the mandate of the NEC for the benefit of the NE States. She made special emphasis on the need for continuation of financial support for the sports and flood control and anti-erosion projects for Manipur.

On the normative allocation of the NEC funds amongst the States, she urge that some other criteria like development index or infrastructure index may be adopted so that it will benefit the smaller states.

Looking at the backwardness of the NE States, she urge for a greater allocation of funds for the Region for speedier development. She thanked the Minister i/c MDoNER for taking up the air dispensary project but she emphasized that there is a need for further action. She also raised the issue of drug menace in the Region with drugs coming from across the border and some areas in the NER are also under poppy and ganja cultivation.

Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Tathagata Roy:

The Honb'le Governor referred to the change of the NEC guidelines which had affected the flow of funds to some of the critical infrastructure sectors in the State. Agriculture and allied sectors have been a focus area for the State Government. He mentioned that most of the NE States faced shortage in meeting the demands of meat, eggs, fish which need to be looked into. For the State of Meghalaya, development of the piggery sector should be encouraged to meet the increasing demand of pork within the State. Management of water resources is another crucial area which can be catered to with development of small reservoirs for the use of water.

Tourism sector has been a source of employment for the State should be supported with adequate infrastructure especially the upgradation and expansion of sole functional airport in the State. He mentioned that the location of the State of Meghalaya is such that it provides a land route for movements to States of Mizoram

and Tripura and hence he proposed that an alternate route through the southern part of the State can be considered. The Baljek Airport in the Garo Hills should be made used of as a lot of investment has been made for this airport.

Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram, Shri Jagdish Mukhi:

The Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram while referring to the NEC Guidelines pointed out that some sectors like power, irrigation, flood control, water supply, sports have been removed from the thrust areas of the NEC. He requested that the Guidelines should be revisited and also at the same time to increase the sanctioning power of the Secretary NEC alongwith increase budgetary allocation. He also stressed on the need to have a unified infrastructure plan for the NE Region. He also opined that the NEC should act as a think tank for the North East and formulate the road map for implementation of various projects.

On the aspect of monitoring of projects, the Hon'ble Governor suggested to involve industry experts to strengthen the monitoring process. The geo strategic location of the NER offers potential for increasing trade and investment with countries of the South East Asian countries. For this there is a need to improve the infrastructure, market infrastructure at the border areas so that the economic potential of the Region can be exploited.

He also stated that Mizoram can be developed as a major hub of trade and commerce as it is located between Bangladesh and Myanmar. He suggested that the upgradation of the Lengpui Airport into an international airport with night landing facility can go a long way in improving the connectivity in the State and provide connectivity with the neighbouring countries. He also suggested to examine the possibility of having another airport in the southern part of the State.

Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland, Shri R. N. Ravi:

The Honb'le Governor of Nagaland pointed out the three key difficulties faced by the the State of Nagaland. These are digital connectivity, surface connectivity and air connectivity. He stated that Dimapur airport at present is not connected with any of the airports in the NE as was the case earlier. In respect, of digital connectivity especially in the Aspirational District of Kiphre, the common service facilities are not

being able to be delivered because of inadequate digital connectivity. Even in a Central University in the State, there is no internet connectivity and hence there is hardship being faced by teachers and students alike. The demand of power in the State is increasing but there is no adequate power generation. The State has huge hydel power capacity for which the NEC should extend support.

He also mentioned that agriculture and horticulture are the main sources of livelihood for the people of the State and passion fruit and kiwi fruit has a large demand from South East Asian countries.

Regarding the functioning of the NEC, he opined that the NEC has diverted from its mandate. He mentioned that the NEC was created for creating shared infrastructure and institution and shared interest for which various institutions were set up. However, now the NEC is becoming only a source of additional fund allocation to the States. There is a need for the NEC to focus on regional planning for which the NEC should be reconstituted and empowered accordingly.

On the law and order situation, the NEC can play a coordinating role as its mandate is pan-North East.

Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Shri Ganga Prasad:

The Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim highlighted some importance issues of the State like tourism and he noted that Pakyong airport has been an important infrastructure for the increasing the inflow of tourists. However, due to some problems relating to infrastructure, he mentioned that SpiceJet has stopped its service since June, 2019. He requested the Ministry of Civil Aviation to look into the matter and resolve it so that it will help in the development of the State.

He also urged the Railways Ministry to look into the railway infrastructure development which has not seen much progress in the State. The Government has initiated the Gangtok Multi-Specialty Hospital and funding for the project has been requested from MDoNER. He requested early sanction of the project as the State Government is planning to have a medical college in the same hospital. For North Sikkim at Mangan, he requested funding for establishment of a new civil hospital in place of the old civil hospital.

He also pointed out the need for investments in infrastructure for improving broadband connectivity, road and air infrastructure from the NEC.

Hon'ble Governor of Tripura, Shri Ramesh Bais:

The Honb'le Governor of Tripura referred to the importance of the Act East Policy and the North East is the gateway for increasing trade with the South East Asian countries. He referred to the bamboo sector as an important sector for many products are using bamboo as raw material. NEC can play an important role in facilitating the development and promotion of this sector. He mentioned that issues pertaining to land acquisition, forest clearance and delay in releasing of funds have led to delayed in the completion of many projects. He also urged more funds under the Externally Aided Projects and to simplify the procedures for availing such funds.

He also suggested for discussion to reorganize and revitalize the NEC so that it can fulfil its mandate for regional development. While referring to the potential of tourism in the State, he suggested for development of tourist circuits for the entire NE so that it will increase the inflow of tourist and generate more employment for the people. Rural tourism and eco-tourism should also be promoted in the North East. He requested the MDoNER to consider the establishment of a Central University for promoting tourism and hospitality sector. He also informed that in November, 2018, the State had organized the first tourism mart and there was a good response from the stakeholders.

He also suggested that natural gas and rubber based industries need to be developed for employment generation. He also requested for more funding to increase fish production in the State and reduce dependence on imports.

5. Extract of Speeches of Hon'ble Chief Ministers

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu:

The Honb'le Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh pointed out that difficulty of having common criteria / guidelines of the various Central Government schemes had posed some difficulties for the States to qualify for funding and have requested the Government of India to have a relook on the matter. Regarding relief or grant for natural disaster like floods, he mentioned that the amount is very small and has

requested for enhancing the amount so as to meet the needs of the States of the NE.

On infrastructure, he highlighted the requirement of an airport at Tawang to meet the infrastructure need of both the civilians and security forces. He also requested regular flights from Delhi-Guwahati-Lilibari to meet the demands till such the completion of the construction of the airport at Holangi. He also stressed on the need for funding for road infrastructure development under NERSDS or under Bharatmala to connect many of the unconnected villages as the State is unable to meet the criteria laid down under PMGSY.

The fact that the State of Arunachal Pradesh is not able to get external aided funding of projects was also pointed out by the Honb'le Chief Minister. This issue needs to be addressed so that the State does not suffer. He also requested to provide funds to develop more sports infrastructure in the NE to ensure the continuation in the promotion of sports activities. He also requested regularisation of trade at the Changlang border areas with Myanmar to benefit the State and the Region as a whole.

Regarding the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, he requested the Hon'ble Home Minister and Minister i/c DoNER to give a push for favourable recommendations to benefit the States of NE.

On the issue of a common cadre of the AIS officers (IAS/IPS/IFS) as AGMUT cadre, the Honble Chief Minister requested the Minister i/c MDoNER who is also in-charge of DoPT to look into the issue to have separate cadre for the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal:

The Honb'le Chief Minister of Assam stated that the NEC has an important role in taking forward the Act East Policy in areas of trade, investments and building relations with the SE Asian countries. In the area of strengthening of the air link with the South East Asian countries and BBIN countries, there is a need to launch direct flights with the capitals of these countries with Guwahati. The State Government has committed a funding of Rs. 100 crore in the form of viability gap- funding under the UDDAN scheme.

In order to create awareness and promote the cultural ties with the SE Asian countries, he suggested that NEC may initiate the conduct of the North East Festival in each of the ASEAN countries. Youth exchange programme with focus on sports and culture should be promoted with these countries. He suggested that the NEC may consider having a language academy to promote the language of NE and for interaction with the ASEAN countries and the State Government has committed to provide land for the purpose.

He also suggested that the NEC should facilitate the process to open consulates of ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries in the Guwahati to facilitate tourism and trade. He also requested the Government to modify and revise the North East Industrial and Investment Policy to meet the objectives to promote trade under the Act East Policy.

In order to promote organic farming in the NER, he mentioned that a DPR for the establishment of a North East Organic University was submitted to the NEC. The State Government would provide land for setting up the University.

To provide the needed relief in times of flood, he requested for a change in policy to include funding and financial assistance from NDRF and SDRF programmes.

While referring to the proposed NEWMA, he suggested the setting up of the disaster mitigation fund for the North East to enable the State Governments to take preventive steps. He also suggested the development of expressways on both sides/banks of the Brahmaputra river which will not only provide the much needed road infrastructure but will also help in containing the erosion of the river banks. NEC may consider taking up this as a flagship project.

As part of the initiative to have more medical colleges in the country, he suggested that MDoNER and NEC to support the establishment of medical colleges in the Region. In order to protect the forest wealth, he suggested that NEC may initiate steps for the region as a whole. He also suggested that the North East may be considered as one of the official Presidential Retreats.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur, Shri N. Biren:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur pointed out to the drought problem being faced by Manipur and has requested assistance from MDoNER. In order to promote production of horticulture products, he requested for affordable cargo facilities in the NER.

He also requested that projects of NEC which were kept on hold may be allowed to continue and that anti erosion and sports should be included as the focus areas of NEC.

In order to strengthen the check on illegal transport of drugs and arms, he suggested for a need to construct a ring road along the international border and has requested the MHA to look into the matter.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K Sangma:

The Honb'le Chief Minister of Meghalaya referred to the vision of the Honb'le Prime Minister to make India a 5\$ trillion economy and as part of the initiative he suggested increasing exports from the NER and this would require some policy changes. For instance, he stated that there is a need to allow export of all commodities through the border haats instead of restricting the exports of some items through the land customs stations (LCSs) or Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) only. Alongwith this, there is a need to have a re-look at the telecom policy at the border areas where signals from India service providers are restricted.

He also proposed two iconic infrastructure projects, which could be game-changers for the entire region. The first project is the 8-laning of Guwahati- Shillong-Dawki-Sylhet-Chitagong Highway. This project involves upgradation of the existing roads and will enable transportation and export of materials and minerals from the North Eastern States to the south East Asian countries through Chittagong. It will have a transformative impact on the region's economy. The second critical project is the Silchar – Mahendraganj - Hili road which also includes a bridge across the river Brahmaputra. This road will dramatically reduce the travel time between North Eastern States and the rest of the country, lower the landing costs of materials and make the products, especially the high value perishable agri-horticulture, of the North East competitive in the rest of the country.

In order to promote entrepreneurship among the youth, he suggested that the NEC should initiate an entrepreneurship programme for the NE States. He also mentioned that since Meghalaya will host the National Games in 2022 and requested the assistance of the Government of the India.

With respect to the NEC Guidelines, he has requested for simplifying the process of sanction and that the projects which were kept on whole may be allowed to continue so that the development process can be speeded up. He also requested for increasing the budget allocation for the NEC to at least Rs. 2000 crores per year for a meaningful impact on development of the NER.

He also recollected the suggestion given by him last year for taking up a tour of all the Chief Ministers and Governors of the NE States to Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar to increase friendship with these countries. He also suggested that NEC should also play a coordination role among the States which have been the role of the NEC in the earlier years.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram, Pu Zoramthanga:

The Honb'le Chief Minister of Mizoram pointed out that under the GBS instead of 10% only 2.7% is being released for programmes in the NER. Even the funds under NLCPR and NEC, he opined that the funds have been dwindling. On the external aided projects, he pointed out that the procedure is cumbersome and hence need to be simplified as it takes a long period to sanction and has suggested a single window system for project clearance.

He also referred to the high cost of material for infrastructure projects in the NER and hence there is a need to review the cost norm factors under various programmes of the Central Government.

On the issue of a common cadre of the AIS officers (IAS/IPS/IFS), the Honble Chief Minister requested the Minister i/c DoNER who is also in-charge of DoPT to look into the issue so that the States like Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram can have a separate cadre for proper and effective administration.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri Neiphiu Rio:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland mentioned that some sectors like sports and other sectors that have been taken out of the mandate of the NEC may be restored back to the NEC. He also requested shortening and simplifying of the NEC Guidelines to speed up the sanctioning of projects.

He also pointed out that some projects sanctioned in 2017-18 were kept on hold. Nagaland has a total of 51 such projects. Out of these, 21 projects have been approved for continuation. He requested that the remaining projects may be reviewed for concurrence as there has been no budgetary provision for new projects since 2018-19.

He referred to the unstable soil and heavy rainfall during the monsoons and hence maintenance of existing roads is always a challenge. The State with limited resources looks upon the NEC for provision of funds for maintenance and restoration of existing roads which are the lifeline of the State. He also suggested that there is also need for adequate funds for providing good connectivity to Myanmar as a part of India's Act East Policy.

He stated that Nagaland has proposed the Trans-Nagaland Highway to connect 6 (Six) districts of Nagaland at the foothills to facilitate smooth movement of people and goods and has requested for early sanction of the project. He also referred to the proposal for a Greenfield Airport and had identified a suitable site at Ciethu, Chiechama but the project is still pending for locating funds of approximately Rs. 6314 crore. He also pointed that the Dimapur Airport urgently needs improvement in terms of infrastructure development for passenger handling including cargo and amenities for passengers. The runway and apron gets inundated during monsoon which needs to be addressed on urgency basis.

On the proposed railway line from, Dimapur to Tizit (257.19 km) which was included in the Railway Budget 2013-14 and figured in the Railways Pink Book of 2014-15 at a cost of Rs. 4273.95 crores, he requested for early sanction.

He suggested for NEC's intervention in providing infrastructure for high speed internet connectivity up to the village level in the entire region to implement Direct Benefits Transfer schemes and extend much needed banking coverage in the unbanked Blocks.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri P.S. Golay:

The Honb'le Chief Minister of Sikkim pointed out the more funds are required for the development of the NER which should include externally aided funds. The landlocked State of Sikkim has only one road linking with the rest of the country and he observed that in order to resolve the management issues, the management should be handed over to NIHDCL.

To promote tourism, there is a need for an integrated regional vision and planning for the region as a whole.

Referring to the NEC Guidelines, he requested the restoration of the sectors which were now taken out from its mandate to realize the full potential of the NEC in intervening in these sectors. He also requested for increase in the allocation of the budget for the NEC and also identified areas like institution building, projects that bring benefits to the NE States under the Act East Policy, capacity building, entrepreneurship, health education, trade, water management, environmental conservation, agriculture, skilling & capacity building and governance.

He also referred to the two health infrastructure project proposals of the State and has requested for early sanction. He also requested to sanction an inter-state bus terminal depot for the State at the earliest.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb:

The Honb'le Chief Minister of Tripura referred to the normative allocation of the NEC and stated that fund released as per the allocation is very small for the State of Tripura. He also suggested that NEC should promote organic farming and marketing in a larger scale. For monitoring purpose, he suggested that the officials of NEC should visit the State frequently and interacted with the State officials. He also opined that there is also a need for restructuring of the NEC in view of the new scenario prevailing in the Region.

6. SECTORWISE IMPORTANT POINTS BASED ON THE WRITTEN SPEECHES OF THE HONB'LE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL DURING THE 68th NEC PLENARY

Sector: Agriculture & Allied

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh	Aggregation of Agro-Horticulture produce and providing adequate backward and forward linkages in the Agriculture Sector still remain a daunting task.
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam	Assam is strategically located and there has been considerable growth in Agriculture & Allied Sector. Mechanization, assured irrigation, rise in fertilizer consumption, use of HYV (High Yielding Variety) seeds and soil treatment are the priority areas of our state. There is need to lay emphasis on Agricultural growth and acceleration in Horticulture, Floriculture, Spices and Organic Farming along with creation of adequate non-farm activities. Our focus must be on environment friendly mechanisms in agriculture and also on organic cultivation. NEC may take the opportunity by investment in making North East an organic hub of Asia.
	We are yet to focus clear attention in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary sector. Food habits of liberalized India are changing. So also the global demand for animal products especially meat, milk and eggs. The potential for the development of animal husbandry is quite vast in the region with our low land man ratio, especially in the hills. Assam can emerge as a major player in India for meat production and its processing. This aspect deserves to be seriously considered.
	Bamboo is found abundantly in the state and with the new technology and markets emerging for the new bamboo products, it can be commercially exploited with great success.

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	Tea gardens in Assam cover thousand acres of land. The tea industry in Assam also plays an important role in the state economy as well in the national economy. This will create employment opportunities for the unemployed youths.
Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur	I would like to draw the attention of the Chairman that North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCORM) has been implementing livelihood projects successfully in hill areas of Manipur. I understand that Ministry of DoNER is taking up phase-IV projects in the NER. My State has submitted proposal for expansion of NERCORM project to Imphal East, Jiribam, Tamenglong and Kamjong District. I would like to request for extension of NERCORM project till the end of XV Finance Commission period and also to include these four districts in the NERCORM-IV expansion.
Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland	Nagaland is an agrarian state. The future of the state lies in exploiting the opportunities in agriculture and allied activities. Commercial crops like coffee and rubber needs to give a big push. Horticulture is another area where the state has immense potential. Crops like orange, kiwi, passion fruit, cucumbers and pineapples are suited for the soil and climatic conditions of the state. Spices like ginger and turmeric including the world renowned "Naga King chilly" are grown in abundance. The need of the hour is to provide marketing linkages for these products. Value addition has to be created and organic certification is necessary to fetch good prices.
Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya	Further, 76.5 % of the State's area is under forest cover which can be tapped for promoting high value eco-tourism and forestry related livelihoods and enterprises.
Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura	There is a huge demand of fish in Tripura. Fish from Andhra Pradesh and Bangladesh are imported here on a large scale. Combined efforts of State and Central Government are required to

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	facilitate the increase in fish production in Tripura.
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh is perhaps the only state in north East which has been deprived of the externally aided projects from the World Bank, ADB and JICA due to opposition from China. This not only deprives us of financial benefits but also of technical knowledge that comes with Externally Aided Projects besides being a big deterrent in our developmental activities. I would request the NEC to make suitable recommendations for making alternative arrangements in this regard and through the use of this high office facilitate external aid for my state which will not only bring development but also enhance our capacity to handle similar projects in the future.
	Our State Government has accorded top priority to climate resilient Agri-allied sector activities, in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations, not only to achieve food and nutritional security but also to sustain livelihood and ensure remunerative return of the toil of farmer and also to create employment opportunities in rural areas to decelerate urban migration of young workforce. This year's budget envisages coverage of 90,000 farmers by 2022 under various farmer centric schemes with special emphasis on improvements in Mission mode programmes for Piggery, Dairy and Fishery development, Improvement of Jhum productivity through fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (MAP), area expansion by land terracing, Crop diversification with high value crops like Tea, Rubber, oil palm, various fruits crops like Kiwi, Mandarin Orange, pome and stone fruits in tune with emerging market demand. I request NEC to increase Normative Allocation under Livelihood Sector for Arunachal Pradesh considering its physical vastness, remoteness, difficult terrain and unique topography.

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>I seek guidance and support from NEC and other Northeast States to fulfill the dream of our prime Minister to double the farmer's income by 2022. I am sure that all the states in the North east have similar problems and share similar challenges and opportunities with each other and I hope that my counterparts shall flag more issues apart from necessity of modified guidelines of Centrally sponsored schemes to suit the specific needs of the hilly states considering various hurdles in effective implementation of the farmer-oriented Agri-based developmental schemes. The various challenges include Lack of areas under assured irrigation in foot hills, poor connectivity of farm areas and markets, non-existence of value addition enterprises, inadequate rural and high cost of transportation of both inputs and marketable surplus produce. There needs to be detailed research and adequate technical wherewithal to overcome these issues for effective implementation of Agri based Developmental Schemes.</p>
	<p>In view the above, I call for establishment of Regional Agricultural Institute in Arunachal Pradesh which focuses on agri-potential on varied agro-climatic zones in the North-Eastern region. I would also urge DoNER Ministry to expand the outreach of NERCOMP in all border blocks across Indo-China region in Arunachal Pradesh.</p>
	<p>The challenges of during addiction have to be addressed though a dual strategy. One is to wean away the farmers from growing opium by providing them alternative crops like cardamom, ginger, high yielding variety of horticulture and agriculture seeds etc. The other is to strengthen the drug rehabilitation system in the state. NERCOMP has made appreciable impact in the three insurgency-affected and drug infested districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding. The same may be extended to other backward areas of the State.</p>

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>Arunachal Pradesh faces a unique challenge on account of unfounded and baseless claims by China on our territory. The state does not receive any funds for externally aided projects through ADB/WB and other agencies. There is a substantial deprivation of developmental loans/ aid to the state which needs to be compensated through an alternative arrangement, preferably under NEC.</p>
<p>Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam</p>	<p>Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji envisions the entire Northeast to be hub of organic farming. Accordingly, we have committed ourselves to promote organic farming in a big way. In this regard, I am happy to inform you that from last year farmers of Assam have successfully exported fruits and vegetables from Guwahati to Dubai, London, Hong Kong and other international destinations. Meanwhile, a proposal with DPR to set up an Organic University has been submitted to the NEC. The NEC may provide necessary support to Assam Government for setting up North East Organic Agriculture University. Government of Assam is ready to provide land for this University.</p>
	<p>You are also aware that forests in the North East provide a very important ecosystem to the entire country. However, the forest dwellers in the North East are finding it difficult to protect these forests due to their isolation, poverty and lack of development. A special scheme should be initiated by the NEC to protect the forest wealth of the North East.</p>
<p>Shri N Biren Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur</p>	<p>Sir, North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society implemented in Ukhrul, Senapati under NERCORMP-II have done well and NERCORMP-III implemented in Churachandpur and Chandel are doing well in improving livelihoods for people of Manipur. The project has transformed the lives of the rural women of villages covered under this project. Based on the success of this project, I understand that</p>

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>NERCORMP-IV project will be launched by Ministry of DoNER in near future. I appeal for clearance of this project early and seek handholding support extended by NEC to NERCORMP-III, till NERCORMP-IV is launched so that the human resource available are given fair chance under NERCORMP-IV and they are not left stranded. I also request for expansion of the project to Tamenglong, Imphal East, Jiribam and Kamjong district for upliftment of the poor and weaker section of our Society under Phase-IV.</p>
<p>Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya</p>	<p>The large agro-biodiversity of Meghalaya can help promote agriculture and livestock based economic development.</p>
<p>Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram</p>	<p>I would like to submit the importance of streamlining of approval process of External Aided Project (EAP) for the NE States. As you are aware, EAP is an important source for financing development projects. However, availing financing of projects/programmes through EAP is a very long process for NE States. Apart from the general requirement of clearances from Ministry of Finance (DEA), NITI Aayog and concerned line Ministry, project proposals from the North-Eastern Region requires additional clearances from various Ministries including Ministry of DONER, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of External Affairs. In view of this additional requirement, it is an extremely long procedure and is very difficult for the NE States to avail the financing of Projects from EAP. All the concerned Ministries of the Government of India, before clearance of the Projects, have their own systems of examining the Projects, and normally take a long period in issuing clearance. This has to be streamlined and all necessary clearances could easily be completed through a Steering Committee constituted in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to</p>

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>approve the projects for EAP. The Steering Committee, in the case of NER, may consist of the representatives of the concerned Ministries indicated to obtain their inputs in the Committee itself, and separate clearances should no longer be required to be obtained separately. This will ease the constant problem of processing of Project Proposals for EAP from the States in the North-Eastern Region, and the NER may be able to avail more funding through EAP, and will bring about resource inflow, and more importantly, the 'Transfer of Knowledge and Expertise' through implementation of projects under EAP. I request Hon'ble Chairman to kindly intervene and have the process streamlined and simplified with the help of Ministry of Finance.</p>
<p>Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief of Minister of Nagaland</p>	<p>The Nagaland Vision 2030 envisages transforming agriculture, which is the mainstay of the State's economy. The document envisages a cluster approach for integrated development of selected commercial crops including fruits and vegetables. We hope to achieve this by converging the activities of all agri and allied departments to provide a basket of services and inputs to the farmers which will result in higher productivity and better economies of scale. Piggery is another activity that will be a thrust area for the State given the high demand within the State itself. Nagaland is perhaps one of the highest pork-consuming States in the country and there is vast scope for piggery. By tradition, backyard pig rearing is practised in almost all Naga households. This can be promoted commercially on a large-scale with modern techniques through adequate funding from the NEC or the Government of India.</p>
	<p>Nagaland had missed out on the 'white revolution' which the country witnessed. It shall be the endeavour of my Government to usher in a 'white revolution' in the State. The agricultural products of our State are organic by default and therefore, have the</p>

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>potential of catering to the demands of the niche market and fetch premium prices. To make these possible, there is need for facilities to provide organic certification. I also request NEC to come forward in developing the necessary linkages in areas of food processing, storage, packaging and marketing and handhold local entrepreneurs in these crucial sectors.</p>
<p>Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim</p>	<p>Though our state is in an infant stage of organic revolution, it has opened numerous possibilities in horticulture, floriculture, agriculture and allied sectors. We are now exploring wider interventions to diversify the organic produces, doubly enhance the productivity of farmers and access national and global market. Our vision is to realize the goal to be the 'green capital' of India. Both the august institutions like Ministry of DoNER and NEC could be the partners in this process.</p>

Sector: Power

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland</p>	<p>Power is critical for industrialisation and technological advancements. Therefore the power needs of the North East States should be seriously examined and fulfilled. Nagaland is facing serious power deficit; the State generates only 26.7 MW against the peak requirement of 165 MW. The region has immense potential for hydel power generation. Other renewable sources of energy like solar power should also be explored. It is expected that NEC will come forward to fund such projects.</p>
<p>Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>To remove the critical gaps in Physical and Social infrastructure needs to strengthen the economic conditions of the people living in the remote border blocks and to arrest the stress migration from the border areas towards the plains, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has submitted a composite development proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking special assistance for providing Rural Connectivity, development of educational, health & power infrastructures and providing water supply and sanitation in Border Areas. I would request NEC to take up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs, government of India to sanction the project at the earliest.</p>
	<p>HYDROPOWER: Our state has huge potential for Hydropower sectore as compared to other Northeastern States. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister approved the expenditure on pre-investment activities and various clearances for expenditure on pre-investment activities and various clearances for Dilbang Multipurpose Project (2880 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh for an amount of Rs. 28080 crores. The project will be completed within 9 years. On completion, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh will get</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	12% free power from the project which will enrich state's coffers by about Rs. 26785 crores over the project life of forty years besides other externalities like industrial and commercial activities. Our government will involve all stakeholders and allay any fears of dislocation of people and environmental degradation before construction of the project starts. We invite NEC and Ministry of DoNER for partnership.
Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim	A recent study done by Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Jakarta showed how North East region could become a major power pool in the electricity interconnection and trading involving BBIN and South East Asian countries. This goes very well with the Cross Border Energy Trading policy issued by the Ministry of Power in December 2018. This will bring a new dynamism in this eastern sub-region and India's Act East Policy.
Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura	NEC liabilities for the ongoing projects of Tripura is perhaps the lowest among the North Eastern States. I would, therefore, request Ministry of DoNER to sanction some new projects, particularly, "Regional Nursing College at Hapania" for an estimated cost of Rs. 65.14 crore, " Construction of 132 KV D/C Transmission line from Surjamaninagar Sub-station to Udaipur Sub-station (40 KM) including 2 (two) feeders bay at Udaipur, Bandurar " at an estimated cost of Rs. 38.77 crore and "Improvement and up-gradation of road from Hmunpui (NH-44A) to Damcherra (Tripura-Mizoram Border) via Monchuang in the State of Tripura" at an estimated cost of Rs. 82.47 crore under the scheme North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS).
	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India has launched the Grid connected solar roof top scheme Phase-II and the Central grant has been reduced to

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>40% for upto 3 KW and beyond 3 KW it is 20%. The actual price discovered through tender in Tripura is much higher than bench mark cost due to high transportation cost, etc. The actual Central Financial Assistance (CFA) may translate to 30% instead of 40% and balance burden has to be borne by beneficiary. Due to very high burden on the part of the beneficiary, the solar roof top scheme and solar pumps and solarisation of existing pumps for farmers would not be attractive and viable. Therefore, 90% grant and 10% beneficiary share of the project cost is required for successful implementation of the project.</p>

Sector: Irrigation, Flood Control & Watershed Management

A. Flood Control:

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam	I may mention that flood and erosion problems faced by Assam in each and every year need to be tackled seriously. Projects under Water Resource sector may be continued and taken up for funding.
Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya	Devastation of forests in the catchment areas of the rivers and streams has caused heavy erosion of the top soil and floods virtually every year in most of the States of the region, bringing untold misery through loss of lives, property and standing crops. In many cases, while the catchment area is located in one State, the river flows through the other States. I would, therefore, suggest that the NEC should deal with this problem at the regional level by taking up massive afforestation programme to protect the catchment areas.
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	IFC & WS: One of the biggest challenges which we face in the state is the annual devastation caused by relentless monsoons . There is massive destructive of roads and other infrastructures. The current norms of disaster relief under SDRF/NDRF guidelines are too meager to restore the infrastructure. The State Government has been unable to restore the rain damages in the State that has been accumulating over the years. The State is left with a mammoth task of restoring damages, which the State is unable to carry out due to its meager resources. I would request NEC to provide funds for repair and maintenance of important infrastructure projects which are damaged every year during monsoon season.
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of	Respected Chairman Sir, flood, erosion and landslide is an issue which has also assumed alarming proportion not only in Assam but in the entire north eastern region. Amongst the north eastern

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Assam</p>	<p>states, Assam is the worst sufferer of this natural scourge. It needs to be mentioned that river bank erosion is a major problem in Assam caused by river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries. On an average, approximately eight thousand hectares land is eroded every year and the State has lost 4.27 lakh hectares of agricultural homestead to erosion since 1950s affecting over 1.25 lakh farm families. Erosion is systematically destroying the chain of embankments, which provide relief from annual floods.</p> <p>Unfortunately, in the SDRF guidelines, 'river erosion' has not been included as a natural calamity. In the interest of taking timely action on erosion, river erosion should be considered as eligible calamity for consideration of assistance under NDRF and SDRF.</p>
	<p>Since Assam is a lower riparian State, unless there is proper and holistic intervention in the entire basin, the problem of flood and erosion cannot be properly attended. We are thankful to Hon'ble Prime Minister for setting up a high level committee for proper management of water resources in northeast region under the chairmanship of Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog. The Committee has suggested for establishment of Northeast Water Management Authority. The Northeast Water Management Authority may put into place at the earliest a permanent solution to the problem of flood and erosion in Assam and the North East.</p> <p>In this regard, I would like to request Hon'ble Chairman Sir to take necessary steps to consider the entire North East as a disaster hotspot and to have a dedicated Disaster Mitigation Fund exclusively for the North East to enable the state governments to take preventive measures against the endemic problem of riverbank erosion, landslides, earthquakes and floods.</p>

B. Water Resources & Supply:

Points raised by	Important Points
[2]	[3]
<p>Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>To remove the critical gaps in Physical and Social infrastructure needs to strengthen the economic conditions of the people living in the remote border blocks and to arrest the stress migration from the border areas towards the plains, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has submitted a composite development proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking special assistance for providing Rural Connectivity, development of educational, health & power infrastructures and providing water supply and sanitation in Border Areas. I would request NEC to take up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs, government of India to sanction the project at the earliest.</p>
	<p>NORTH EAST WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY: Water scarcity is a national problem. Fast change in land use due to population and other biotic pressures are directly impacting water scarcity in the country including Arunachal Pradesh. Now the indications are there that water sources are depleting gradually. Thus about 97% of the water received from the rainfall is lost as runoff water into the Brahmaputra river. To tap the water resources of the North Eastern Region for optimum utilization, there is a need for holistic and integrated planning. Initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister for creation of North East Water Management Authority which is in the process of finalization by NITI Aayog will go a long way in fulfilling the objective of optimization of water resources in the North Eastern Region. Since, Arunachal Pradesh constitutes about 46% of water shed area of Brahmaputra basin and about 70% of its discharge, I once again request to set up the one branch offices of North East Water Management Authority at Itanagar.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
[2]	[3]
<p>Shri N Biren Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur</p>	<p>Sir, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has transferred watershed projects implemented under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaiyee Yojana (PMKSY) projects to the States. The project is implemented on 90:10 funding pattern between the centre and the state with funding of manpower from the project fund. The North East States have no resource to complete these projects on their own. In view of the importance of watershed management and catchment area treatment to harvest maximum rainwater and looming water scarcity due to climate change, I appeal to this August House to take up with the Ministry for continuation of these programmes till 2022.</p>
<p>Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya</p>	<p>An important area which needs immediate attention is the management of our water resources. Despite being a rainfall abundant State, Meghalaya still faces scarcity of water especially in the dry season. A large part of the 1200 cm of annual rainfall received by the State is washed off into the plains of Assam on the northern and eastern sides and to Bangladesh on the southern side. To address this issue, we are planning to construct a large number of Small and Multipurpose Reservoirs (SMRs) to contain the runoff and to store the water. At a cost of approximately Rs.50 lakh per SMR, the State Government will require about Rs.2500 crore for building 5000 SMRs. The Ministry of DoNER and the NEC are requested to help the State in this endeavour.</p>
<p>Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya</p>	<p>Another path breaking initiative of my government is the Meghalaya Water Policy. We have become the first state in the country to formulate a State Water Policy. This policy will enable us to better manage our water resources and ensure long term water security and equity. One of the goals is to harness the 3000 mm of average annual rainfall that the State receives. Currently, most of this abundant resource is washed off. To remedy this scenario, we plan to create a large network of decentralized water storage</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
[2]	[3]
	<p>infrastructure across the state in the form of 5000 small multipurpose reservoirs (SMRs) of varying capacities. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi <i>ji</i> has appreciated our State for taking this initiative in his recent <i>mann ki baat</i> program.</p>
<p>Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram</p>	<p>Financial gaps in Water Supply requirement have been enormous. Out of 720 rural habitations there are still 520 rural habitations that need to be provided with sufficient drinking water supply of 55 litre per capita per day as per norms fixed by Government of India. While the fund requirement for providing 55 lpcd norms to all rural areas works out to be Rs 1194.21 crores, provisional fund allocation for the State of Mizoram under Jal Jeevan Mission 2019-20 is only Rs 33.22 crores. Moreover, past five years fund allocation indicated that only around Rs 29.74 crores have been received annually. The State would require to enhance the annual fund allocation to at least Rs 238.84 crores during the coming five years (2020-2025) to achieve the goal of providing functional household tap connection to every household by 2024. Similarly, urban water supply would need additional investment of about Rs 951.78 crores for the next five years to provide 70 lpcd norms by 2024. I am made to understand that other States of the NER also require much higher level of investments in infrastructure for water supplies to achieve norms set by the Government of India.</p>

Sector: Banking, Industries & Tourism

A. Banking

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh	Industrial sector in the State has not picked up as yet which is a major source of employment in any developing State. Due to the poor credit profile of the State, people are not able to start new business ventures. The Credit Deposit Ratio of banks in the state is less than 30 against a norm of 60, which shows that the outreach of the banking sector and financial inclusion in the state is grossly inadequate.

B. Tourism, Industries, Act East Policy:

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura	North East is the store house of bamboo of the country. This "Green Gold" is considered an important part of the region's culture, lifestyle of people and their livelihood. People here have good knowledge of bamboo production, its changes and its use. Traditional knowledge and skills relating to bamboo exists here which can be used in making new products and other applications with complete reliability. Handlooms products like houses made of bamboo, mats, baskets, hats, flutes, umbrella, fishing rods, musical instruments, toys and dolls etc. made of bamboo may help the states of this region in earning good income at various levels and can increase their GSDP. National and international marketing is required for these products and NEC can play a crucial role in popularizing the bamboo of this region by organizing seminars, trade fairs, marts, etc.
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief	BAMBOO: Bamboo has a huge scope of development in the entire North eastern region. The region has not been able to

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	<p>effectively harness this resource on a commercial scale. NEC must provide support in value addition of this resource through an integrated value chain which links the farmers with the bamboo processing facilities. This will be a crucial source of livelihood for our people.</p>
Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland	<p>Bamboo is another natural resource which the State has in abundance. This fast regenerating plant has great economic potential with appropriate technology intervention. I am happy that NEC has included bamboo as one of its thrust areas, and I look forward to appropriate interventions by the NEC to develop this rich resource for development of the region.</p>
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam	<p>I would like to call upon the Ministry to develop trade and economic links since there are close historical and cultural ties between the people of the North East and those of the nations of South East Asia in terms of culture, language, history, commerce and environment. These needs to be strengthened by ending the economic isolation of the region through opening of the border trade which will enable development of markets for primary commodities, industrial products and surplus agricultural produce and to facilitate cultural and tourism related interactions with its international neighbors. The "Look East Policy" which is an integral part of the NER Vision,2020 lays emphasis to improve trade ties with Bangladesh along with the countries in the east such as Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia.</p>
	<p>Now a day's tourism plays an important role in states development scenario. In view of the gradual increase in tourist flow to Assam, assistance from NEC in this sector is highly essential to fulfill the goal towards expansion of trade activities and full utilisation of the tourism potential in Assam.</p>
	<p>The future of North East India lies in its potential for economic integration with South East Asia. The geostrategic location of the</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>Region with its immense natural resources accords the possibility of becoming a powerhouse of trade and investment. Trade at the border needs to be officially operationalised, taking advantage of its strategic location. Flow of trade is determined by connectivity, sophisticated market infrastructure, policy co-ordination, and mutual interdependence. But in a landlocked region with neither proper road infrastructure nor links with regional and local markets, economic integration through trade is a challenge. Keeping in view the development interest, I request to shift the focus on the possibilities and potential of commercial gains from a robust border trade with neighboring countries and the ASEAN. Creation of physical and market infrastructure, Trade Policy with special focus on the socio-economic vulnerability of the region, accompanied by Annual Action Plan for each State, will be most imperative. Promotion of trade is a pre requisite for exploiting the comparative geographical as well as natural advantage in uplifting the region from economic backwardness.</p>
<p>Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura</p>	<p>There is a huge opportunities for the tourism sector in Tripura State through which employment generation is possible.</p>
	<p>Since Tripura lacked industries on a large scale, hence, tourism can play an important role in the social & economic development of the state. But as we all know that it is difficult for the tourists from main parts of India and other nations to reach the North East and its small – small states. For this, a tourist circuit named 8 sisters can be developed in the North East India so that a tourist can get a complete tour package for the whole North East. For this, rural tourism and eco-tourism needs to be developed. Seeing the possibility of development and employment, there is a huge requirement in increase of resource allocation in the field of tourism. I would request Ministry of DoNER for establishment of a</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	Central University for tourism and service industry which will cover the aspects related to Tourism and Service industry like hotel management, Civil Aviation, Tourism Management, etc.
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh has a huge tourism potential. Looking at the pristine beauty of tourist sites and diverse culture of our state, we have the potential to make a name on global tourism platform. In the Tourism sector, the State has won several awards like Best Tourism Initiative in North East, National Leadership Award, best Decorated Stand at IITM Kochi and Most Promising new destination at OTM Mumbai etc. We aim to introduce a Pan Arunachal Festival showcasing our diverse culture as well as natural beauty which can become the hallmark of our state's tourism potential. We will welcome NEC to partner with us for developing the concept design of this festival.
	We envisage developing Arunachal Haat in Itanagar on the lines of Delhi Haat where tourists can enjoy traditional food, purchase traditional and local handicrafts and also have a glimpse of local culture. NEC can engage top consultants in tourism Sector and help North-Eastern States in preparing a comprehensive plan for executing such kind of projects.
	Pangsau Pass marks the international border with Myanmar and is located in the Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh. The state government has already constructed necessary infrastructure at Pangsau Pass for facilitation of border trade. The Land Customs station proposed here need to be made operational with immediate effect.
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam	Respected Chairman Sir, with path-breaking 'Act East Policy', Hon'ble Prime Minister Modiji has re-positioned the North Eastern region as country's expressway to the ASEAN. North East Council has an important role to play in rolling out of Act East Policy particularly on issues relating to trade, investment, tourism,

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	dependable connectivity and building relations with Southeast Asian countries in close coordination with various ministries of the Government of India.
	In order to promote awareness about North East in ASEAN region, NEC may start hosting a festival of North East in each of the ASEAN countries to project the rich heritage, culture, handloom & handicrafts, industrial and tourist potential of all the North Eastern States. NEC should also plan youth exchange programmes between North East and ASEAN countries with focus on sports and culture.
	Moreover, NEC can also become the flag bearer of Act East Policy by providing special assistance to the North Eastern States to realize their export potential to the ASEAN and other countries. NEC should also facilitate the opening of consulates of ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries in Guwahati to ease travel to and from these countries to the North East.
	Hon'ble Chairman Sir, we are working hard to make Assam the industrial hub, from which we can service around 80 crore population of BBIN and ASEAN countries. In this context, I would like to request you to consider a more investment friendly industrial policy by suitably modifying the existing North East Industrial Development Scheme 2017 for the region.
Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya	<p>Another priority area for my Government is the tourism sector. Despite the phenomenal potential of Meghalaya as a tourist destination, the contribution of this sector to the State GDP is less than 5 percent. We want to promote Meghalaya as a sustainable high-value tourist destination and to create a unique experience for national and international Tourists. We are in talks with international brands like Airbnb for promoting the State in that direction. The ultimate goal of Meghalaya Tourism is to generate better incomes for our entrepreneurs and local communities.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>Village eco-tourism is an area that holds enormous promise for the State. We are developing projects to sustainably market the cultural and bio-diversity richness of the rural areas.</p>
	<p>Meghalaya lies in a fragile eco-system and livelihoods of people are dependent on environment. We are therefore making serious efforts towards protecting our ecology, rejuvenating our springs and water sources, protecting and enhancing our green cover. A lot of investments are being made through externally aided projects. In addition, the State has its own programmes to promote sustainability through community participation. We launched the Meghalaya One Citizen One Tree initiative and encouraged every citizen of the state to plant and take care of at least one tree. On this year's World Environment Day, the 5th of June, the citizens of the State planted a total of 1.2 million trees.</p>
<p>Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram</p>	<p>We have repeatedly discussed in this forum that although the Look /Act East policy has been in existence for more than two decades, nothing much has happened. There are several issues and challenges such as trade and investment complementarities, connectivity, security, and strategic partnership with East Asian countries which need to be put in place in order to reap significant benefits from such a policy. NEC has to be a key instrument in the Act East Policy. The Policy gave hope to the people of North East particularly for trade-led growth of the N.E. Region and its economic integration with one of the fastest growing economies i.e. South East Asia. We initially considered that the North Eastern Region had for the first time, become an important component of India's foreign policy, bringing a new paradigm of development in the North East perspective. As such, the Act East Policy of the Government of India was an important land mark in the history of North Eastern Region. However, even after almost two decades of its policy announcement, it has had no impact on</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>the region's economy. The fact that India's North East states are the gateway to India's relation with its neighbouring countries has been ignored for quite a long time. Perhaps, we may need to act "North East" before acting "East". If Act East Policy is to be made into reality, State Governments of the North East should be sufficiently involved both at the level of policy formulation and implementation. Mizoram has a long international boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh. The people of the State have trade relationship with the people across the border in formal and informal forms in some border trade points. These practices need to be institutionalized for socioeconomic upliftment of the local population, State, Region and Country as a whole.</p>
<p>Shri Neiphiu Riol Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland</p>	<p>I am happy that the revised NEC guidelines have included sectors such as tourism and bamboo. Tourism is one of the thrust areas of NEC. Like the rest of the region, Nagaland, with its vibrant culture and heritage, panoramic landscapes and natural beauty, rich exotic flora, fauna and biodiversity offers unique experiences for tourists unlike anywhere else. The Hornbill Festival has gained popularity and has placed Nagaland on the tourist map of the world. We have gone further and are now organizing Mini-Hornbills in the 11 districts of the State coinciding with the local festivals. There is a pressing need to augment tourist infrastructure by setting up guest houses, hotels and homestays in remote locations to promote rural tourism. I request NEC to come forward to finance entrepreneurs for setting up homestays and for eco and rural tourism projects.</p>
<p>Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim</p>	<p>Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been appealing the people of the country to visit the North Eastern Region for tourism and leisure. With the varieties of tourist attractions ranging from pilgrimage to rivers, mountains to sports and tea, wildlife to agriculture heritage, ethnicity to war</p>

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	<p>cemeteries, borderlands to autonomous councils and silk to slow food, the North East Region must have been the most sought after global tourism destination. However, tourism had remained largely nascent and inconsequential. It could be because of lack of integrated planning and strategy, absence of regional leadership, low priority by institutions and of course a falsely constructed image of North East region as a venue of conflict, violence and instability. We firmly believe that lack of regional vision, integrated planning, management, skills, institutions and infrastructure have made the laggardness more complex.</p>
	<p>Young boys and girls from the North East region now have the privilege of being the most versatile actors in hospitality sector in the country. How to build confidence among the tourists and visitors from within our country and abroad is another issue we shall have to delve into. We can make globally acclaimed sports persons like Mary Kom, Bhaichung Bhutia, Dipa Karmaker, Hima Das, Anshu Jamsenpa, Tarundeep Rai, Rautfeli, Sanjita Chanu, Shiva Thapa and others as our brand ambassadors. The NEC as a Regional Planning Body has to unfurl the road map of regional and sustainable tourism strategy upfront in the line of North East Vision Document 2008. In Sikkim and adjoining Darjeeling we have developed a distinct brand name in the tourism. We can share our experience in this regard.</p>
<p>Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura</p>	<p>The public sector companies in India may be permitted to spend 10% of their CSR funds in the NE States. This will pave way for early implementation of 'HIRA' the grand initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister, which will boost not only tourism sector but also many other sector in the state.</p>
<p>Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam</p>	<p>Handloom is an important sector for upliftment of the status of women entrepreneur of our state. So NEC may come forward with the schemes related to Handloom sector especially in rural areas.</p>

C. Sector: Transport & Communication

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<p>Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>In last thirty years, since Arunachal Pradesh became a State, developmental issues have been receiving attention of the Government of the day. However, it is important to note that despite all that, in almost all the sectors, there are areas of concern which have to be addressed now for solution in the years to come. The biggest problem which the State faces now is that of the lack of robust Land, Air, Internet and Mobile Network Connectivity. This derogates from the developmental needs as well as security parameters of the State.</p>
	<p>Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji laid the foundation stone of Hollongi Airport in February 2019. This has given hope to our long cherished dream of connectivity of our State Capital with the rest of the Country. Its early construction will help the State to have reliable air connectivity and fully utilize its potential in the fields of investment, tourism, export-import and quick sale of perishable goods like flowers and orchids etc. I therefore, request the North Eastern Council to take up this matter with Airport Authority of India and expedite the completion of this airport without slippage well within 3 years.</p>
	<p>Our State shares and International Boundary of 460 kms with Myanmar. In the central part of this West to East stretch, there is a dragger-like undulated 750 Sq.km area, which has a tapering length of 60 kms and the area ends in Myanmar with a width of 6 kms. In the far end of this area, there lies a small place named Vijoynagar. It has 15 Bastis and a population of nearly 5000 people. This place though has an old track alignment, is not connected by any motorable road till date. Miao-Vijoynagar road has now been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). However, due to difficult terrain and high construction cost, the road construction has not been under</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>taken so far. This road passes through Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve. Robust road connectivity is required not only for bringing inclusive development in Vijoynagar but also for checking poaching of tigers and for conservation and protection of flora and fauna of this area. Our Government has now embarked upon the restoration of this road. We have since coordinated with the Border Road Organization, who also are constructing a Class 9 Road to Vijoynagar. It is planned to merge the two parallel roads into one and construct the road as early as possible. I seek support of the NEC and all Central Government ministries for making this dream project a success.</p>
<p>Prof.Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam</p>	<p>NEC should lay stress on developing connectivity of the region through airways and waterways.</p>
<p>Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya</p>	<p>The Baljek airport in West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya is yet to be made operational even though the airport was inaugurated by the then President of India, Smt Pratibha Patil on the 22nd October, 2008. The airport with 3300 ft. runway is fit for landing of 20-seater class of Dornier aircrafts. In this regard, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Airport Authority of India and DoNER are requested to provide necessary assistance and support at the earliest for making the airport functional.</p>
<p>Prof.Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram</p>	<p>Connectivity is another major hurdle of development. Poor rail, road and air connectivity has impeded growth for a long time, as goods and services cannot be moved to and fro from the region to other parts of the country and vice versa. Mizoram, bordering the two countries of Myanmar and Bangladesh, if properly connected, can be created as a major hub for trade and investment. Air connectivity, especially in Mizoram will propel tourism sector and result in greater flow of investment while enhancing trade and commerce.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>Both the Regional and International connectivity need to be improved. The number of flights serving North East airports is extremely limited. There are only four flights which connect the North East airports (except Guwahati) at present. Moreover, most of the flights from Delhi to North East airports are stop-over flights at Bagdogra, Guwahati or Kolkata. The only Airport in Mizoram is also the only State-owned and State-run Airport in the country. The State's own fund is not sufficient to fully develop the Airport. Upgradation of Lengpui Airport into an international airport, and installation of night landing facility are the need of the hour, in order to be the Gateway to South East Asian countries. Construction of at least one operational airport in the southern border area is strategically required.</p>
<p>Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland</p>	<p>Nagaland suffers huge connectivity deficit. The poor surface, air and digital connectivity and resultant relative isolation of the State inhibits its economic and emotional integration with rest of the country. NEC may help Nagaland with special assistance to overcome its connectivity deficit.</p>
<p>Shri Ganga Prasad, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim</p>	<p>(3) Construction of Interstate Bus Terminus for Rs. 14.24 cr. In the year 2017-18 the State Govt. had proposed a project viz. construction of the Interstate Bus Terminus at Gangtok. The Government of Sikkim was asked to prepare the DPR after which it was sent to the NEC for consideration and sanction. However, this project was kept on hold due to lack of sufficient funds in the financial year 2017-18. The DPR has since been modified/corrected as per directions of the NEC and is in cold storage. The Government of Sikkim requests that the ISBT for the state may also be considered and sanctioned as most of the other NE States have built the ISBT through the support of NEC and Sikkim is the only State who do not have this facility.</p>
<p>Shri Ganga Prasad,</p>	<p>Like the rest of the North East, connectivity is of crucial</p>

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<p>Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim</p>	<p>importance to Sikkim, which is landlocked and bounded by 3 international borders with Nepal, Bhutan and China. The National Highway 10 is the only lifeline and is of great importance to the State. The NH 10 connects Sikkim with the rest of the country. Due to the lack of other means of connectivity roads play an important role in the State and State Highways connecting Gangtok with District Headquarters and Sub-Divisions require constant upgradation and improvement. This task requires mobilization of capital for land compensation as well as to maintain quality construction work. Due to the onslaught of monsoon every year the roads are invariably damaged and the riding quality deteriorates. Hence, the support of Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MORTH), Ministry of DoNER and NEC is sought to maintain the roads in the State. It is heartening to note that the MORTH through the National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) has proposed major road projects including an alternate highway in Sikkim. I would urge all agencies working in the State to expedite their given task.</p>
	<p>The Greenfield Airport in Pakyong was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24th September 2018. The State of Sikkim had great hopes that with the inauguration of the Air connectivity with the rest of the country would usher in a new era of economic development. However, the air services have since been suspended due to technical reasons. The Government of Sikkim requests the Airport Authority of India to address the technical issues and make this an All-Weather Airport and also made operational during the low visibility period. Then only this can help boost tourism and other economic spinoffs.</p>
	<p>With regards to the railway connectivity, some progress in the work on the proposed 44.98 km Sevoke-Rangpo New BG Rail</p>

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	Line is visible. However, a major part of the work is still held up due to lack of forest clearances and other formalities on the West-Bengal side, through which it runs. This requires the urgent attention of the Government of India.
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	A well-knit and coordinated system of communication plays an important role in the sustained economic growth of the state. The communication is one of the most difficult challenges for the State and the stumbling block in its developmental progress. It is important to note that my state has one of the most difficult terrains and topography of the country, all along the Himalayas marking the sensitive international border with Bhutan, Myanmar and China. Although infrastructure development has been accorded top priority in the strategy of the State's economic development over the four decades of planning, Arunachal is lagging behind the national average in most of the components of infrastructure. The vastness of the territory and rugged, difficult and inaccessible terrain has negated the benefits to the rural masses who are in the interior parts of the State.
	To remove the critical gaps in Physical and Social infrastructure needs to strengthen the economic conditions of the people living in the remote border blocks and to arrest the stress migration from the border areas towards the plains, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has submitted a composite development proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking special assistance for providing Rural Connectivity, development of educational, health & power infrastructures and providing water supply and sanitation in Border Areas. I would request NEC to take up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs, government of India to sanction the project at the earliest.
	Strategically 3 (three) important road projects are coming up in the state; 1500 kms Trans-Arunachal Highway, Arunachal

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	<p>Frontier Highway and East West Corridor which will connect all the District headquarters and important towns running through the different parts of the State from East to West. These projects are pending at different stages. I appeal NEC and Ministry of DoNER to pursue the matter with the concerned ministry at appropriate level so that people of my state can reap the fruits of development.</p>
	<p>RAILWAYS CONNECTIVITY: Arunachal Pradesh had been historically left behind as far as rail infrastructure is concerned. I am of the opinion that Railways will certainly provide a low-cost medium of transportation for not only people of the state but also of goods which will give a fillip to the local economy of the state. Further, Rail connectivity will give a major boost to Tourism sector of my state. Out of the 8 railways line projects in our state, preliminary survey for the three railway lines Bhalukpong-Tenga-Tawang, North Lakhimpur—Bame-Aalo-Silapatahr and Pasighat-Roing-Tezu-Parashram Kund-Rupa has already been completed. The next time-bound challenge is to ensure that all land acquisition issues and clearances are granted well in time. These rail lines will facilitate in promoting regional tourism and pilgrimages to religious places like Pasrasuramkund, Tawang Monastery, Malinithan, etc. I again, appeal to NEC and Ministry of DoNER to take up the matter with the Ministry of Railways for early start of the construction works.</p>
	<p>AIR CONNECTIVITY: Due to the mountainous terrain of Arunachal Pradesh, during times of natural calamities and emergencies, air connectivity remains the only reliable communications option and therefore assumes a lot of priority in our scheme of things. Our decades'-old dream of having our own "Hollongi Airport" in the State Capital has been realized as Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji laid the</p>

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	<p>foundation stone for “Construction of Hollongi Airport”. This project was stuck for past 12 years and got cleared very recently by the efforts of the State government. Land for the same has been acquired and handed over to the Airport Authority of India. We will put all our efforts to facilitate State of the Art Airport in Itanagar which will fly both national and international flights. I want to draw the attention of Hon’ble Chairman, NEC and Vice-Chairman, NEC that this Greenfield Airport may be upgraded to International Airport, as it is close to the International border. In addition, I request NEC support for funds for construction of Airports at various strategic locations on the lines of Tezu Airport.</p>
	<p>At present there are around 700/800 rural habitations that are unconnected by road because they do not qualify for funding under PMGSY. However the fact remains that there are people residing in these habitations and hence the funding for these roads could be taken up under NERSDS or Bharatmala. Alternatively the eligibility criteria under PMGSY could be revised for states like Arunachal Pradesh.</p>
	<p>Tawang is a strategic district of Arunachal Pradesh that shares international border with China (Tibet). It is important that an airport should be developed at Tawang both for tourism and security reasons. The State Government will make requisite land available for development of this airport. The funding for the same could be taken up under NEC/ DoNER funds.</p>
	<p>The Hon Prime Minister has recently laid the foundation stone for the development of an International Airport in Arunachal Pradesh. This Airport is expected to become operational by 2022. In the meanwhile it is important to improve air connectivity of the state capital with the national capital. Lilabari Airport in North Lakhimpur district of Assam is the nearest airport to Itanagar. As an interim measure a daily flight from Delhi to</p>

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	Lilabari via Guwahati may be commenced at the earliest.
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam	<p>In order to establish air links with ASEAN & BBIN countries, there is a need to launch direct flights between the capitals of ASEAN and BBIN countries and Guwahati. Assam has already committed Rs. 100 crore Viability Gap Fund under UDAN International and as a result of this, flight has started between Guwahati and Dhaka. Soon another flight will start between Guwahati and Bangkok. We have requested Ministry of Civil Aviation to bid out more destinations in ASEAN countries.</p>
	<p>Moreover, there is an urgent need to tap the waterways potential of Assam in particular and the North East in general to realize the untapped potential of the region.</p>
	<p>Expressways on both banks of Brahmaputra will benefit all North Eastern states in promoting safer and faster transport as well as in maintaining navigability of Brahmaputra. It will also provide protection against erosion of river banks. NEC may consider taking up this as a flagship project.</p>
Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya	<p>Over the years, the Government of India and the State Governments of the North eastern states have taken up various infrastructure projects that alleviated the geographic disadvantage to some extent. Improvement of road, rail and air connectivity in the region is a case in point. I like to propose to this forum two iconic infrastructure projects, which could be game- changers for the entire region. The first project is the 8-laning of Guwahati- Shillong- Dawki-Sylhet-Chitagong Highway. This project involves upgradation of the existing roads and will enable transportation and export of materials and minerals from the Northeastern States to the south East Asian countries through Chittagong. It will have a transformative impact on the region's economy. The second critical project is the Silchar – Mahendraganj - Hili road which also includes a bridge across the</p>

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	<p>river Brahmaputra. This road will dramatically reduce the travel time between North Eastern States and the rest of the country, lower the landing costs of materials and make the products, especially the high value perishable agri-horticulture, of the North East competitive in the rest of the country. I am confident that these two iconic projects will, to some extent, ease the challenges faced by the region. Taking up of these bold, large-scale projects which are both strategically and economically important for the country is only possible under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji and our Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji. I have already apprised the Hon'ble Prime Minister about these projects and I want to use this forum to reiterate the criticality of these projects for the region.</p>
	<p>The project for construction of the Rongjeng-Mangsang-Adokgre road is of particular importance.</p>
<p>Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram</p>	<p>Importance of infrastructure development in economic growth cannot be overemphasized. Infrastructure is the lifeline of an economy and the fate of the economy is intricately linked to the development of its infrastructure. Infrastructure financing in the North Eastern Region has been primarily met by the Government. North Eastern Council would need to continue to play an active role in infrastructure development. Poor air, rail, road and internet connectivity within the North Eastern Region and with other region remains a critical issue for economic development in the region.</p>
	<p>As for Mizoram, road transport is the biggest transport infrastructure. The State is connected by air with only one airport at Lengpui. The State does not have waterways, and railway connectivity is under construction. Road transport has played a very important role in the development of the State. However,</p>

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	<p>due to hilly terrain and heavy rains through the year, costs of construction and maintenance of roads are significantly higher than other parts of the country. The total length of roads in the state is 7632 kms with road density of 36.19 km/ 100 sq km only, which is way below the national average of 166 km / 100 sq. km. A much higher investment would be required to catch up with national average of 166 km / 100 sq. km.</p>
<p>Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland</p>	<p>At the last plenary held at Shillong I had also highlighted the importance of infrastructure and connectivity for economic development. A land locked State like Nagaland, with limited rail and air connectivity totally depends on road connectivity as the main mode of transport. Apart from the need for new roads, with unstable soil and heavy rainfall during the monsoons, maintenance of existing roads is always a challenge. During the past one year, large stretches of roads were washed away cutting off some districts of the State for months. The State with limited resources looks upon the NEC for provision of funds for maintenance and restoration of existing roads which are the lifeline of the State. There is also need for adequate funds for providing good connectivity to Myanmar as a part of India's Act East Policy.</p>
	<p>Nagaland is in need of a Trans-Nagaland Highway to connect 6 (Six) districts of Nagaland at the foothills to facilitate smooth movement of people and goods. It would provide connectivity from Kanubari (Arunachal Pradesh) in the north to Amguri (Assam) to Dimapur (Nagaland) to Khelma (Peren District of Nagaland bordering Assam) to Kalachand, Haflong (Assam) in the south. This proposed Trans-Nagaland Highway measures 430 km in length from North to South. Besides providing good connectivity, it will provide a big boost to economic activity in the State. We have also submitted a proposal for declaration of the</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>Trans Nagaland Highway from Tizit (NH 702) to NH 29 (Dimapur By-pass) to Khelma in Peren District bordering Assam as a National Highway. The highway will also pass through six Districts of Nagaland along the foothills. This will bring much economic benefit to the State, and I am hopeful the Central Government will consider our requests for improving road infrastructure favourably. The tribal hohos have already given No Objection Certificate and land is being donated free of cost.</p>
	<p>Kohima is the only State capital in the country which does not have an airport. Feasibility studies and surveys have been done by AAI in 2006-07 and 2018, DPRs prepared but the project is still pending for locating funds of approximately Rs. 6314 crores. In the last survey conducted by a team of officials from the AAI, DGCA and MoEFCC on 7th and 8th August 2018, the team found the site feasible for an airport with 4.4 km runway which will be compatible for Airbus 320. Villagers of the area have agreed to provide additional lands as required for which the State Government has given its consent to bear the cost for the same. As such, the Government is in the process of acquiring another 368 acres which will make the total land available at more than a thousand acres. The proposed site at Chiechama, Kohima has a feasibility of a 4400 meters airstrip with scope for further expansion in future.</p> <p>While the cost of the project may be higher due to the difficult terrain, it may be appreciated that this will go a long way in providing direct physical connectivity with the rest of the country which is an important pre-requisite for economic development such as promotion of tourism, export of organic products and handicrafts, besides fostering emotional</p>

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	<p>integration between the region and the mainland. It is therefore requested that sanction for the airport be given in order to connect the State capital with the rest of the country. I express my sincere appreciation to NEC for writing to the Airports Authority of India to submit a proposal for construction of an airstrip at Ciethu during November 2018, to be funded under MH: 4552.</p>
	<p>I once again thank Dr. Jitendra Singh ji for recently assuring me that the DoNER Ministry had submitted a proposal for sanction of Rs. 1,000 crore towards the proposed Greenfield Airport at Ciethu, Chiechama, Kohima District. During my recent meeting with Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Union Minister for State of Civil Aviation in New Delhi in the presence of officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the proposed airport was envisaged to be a four-season operational airport for which I request the Government of India to take this project up centrally keeping in mind the cost factor and importance of such an airport. I take the opportunity of this august platform to express our gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for according high priority towards all the eight Northeastern States, particularly the far-flung States like Nagaland. In addition to this, it would be incomplete to mention that the existing Dimapur Airport urgently needs improvement in terms of infrastructure development for passenger handling including Cargo and amenities for passengers. The runway and Apron get inundated during monsoon which needs to be addressed on urgency. We are also grateful for the soon to be introduced flights to Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Imphal from Dimapur under Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik – Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN-RCS) which is to be</p>

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	operational from October onwards.
	<p>Dimapur Railway Station is an intermediate Station on the Guwahati-Dibrugarh Sector. For the expansion of railways within the State of Nagaland, two projects were proposed. The Dimapur-Zubza Railway Line was sanctioned in 2007-08 and the latest estimated cost is Rs. 2950 crores. Works have been taken up in the acquired land and the project is hoped to be completed by December 2020. Another railway line, Dimapur to Tizit (257.19 km) was included in the Railway Budget 2013-14 and figured in the Railways Pink Book of 2014-15 at a cost of ` 4273.95 crores. The Final Location Survey (FLS) was sanctioned in 2016. While the works are in progress, I would appeal to the NEC and the Government of India to accord high priority to connectivity in the State of Nagaland which has harsh terrain and intense climatic conditions. Alternative modes of transport are a must as this will not only provide alternative means but also immensely boost development infrastructure, commercial activities and also uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people.</p>
<p>Shri Prem Singh Tamang Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sikkim</p>	<p>Our landlocked status makes us totally dependent on the single and only National Highway 10 which connects the State with the rest of the country. The Sevoke-Rangpo stretch of this highway is now maintained by PWD West Bengal and the remaining Rangpo-Gangtok stretch by NHIDCL. There are serious problems of coordination, quality and technicality. We therefore, request for a single agency management of the entire stretch preferably by NHIDCL.</p>
	<p>Unlike other states, despite massive increase in passenger traffic, tourists arrival and security requirements, Sikkim does not have an Interstate Bus Terminus. We have already prepared and revised the detailed project report amounting to Rs. 14.24 crore.</p>

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	We are awaiting its formal sanction at the earliest possible.
Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura	<p>NEC liabilities for the ongoing projects of Tripura is perhaps the lowest among the North Eastern States. I would, therefore, request Ministry of DoNER to sanction some new projects, particularly, "Regional Nursing College at Hapania" for an estimated cost of Rs. 65.14 crore, "Construction of 132 KV D/C Transmission line from Surjamaninagar Sub-station to Udaipur Sub-station (40 KM) including 2 (two) feeders bay at Udaipur, Bandurar" at an estimated cost of Rs. 38.77 crore and "Improvement and up-gradation of road from Hmunpui (NH-44A) to Damcherra (Tripura-Mizoram Border) via Monchuang in the State of Tripura" at an estimated cost of Rs. 82.47 crore under the scheme North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS).</p>
	<p>Ministry of Road Transport and Highways may arrange notification of all the National Highways declared In-principle declared in the State at the earliest. For renovation, repair and maintenance of existing National highways, Ministry may provide adequate support to the State Government.</p>
	<p>River based transport from Bangladesh to India and vice-versa will help the goods movement from Chittagong Port to Tripura and other North-Eastern States like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, etc., thus making Tripura to become a gateway to North East. This project may be expedited and grounded at the earliest by declaration of River Gumti as Indo-Bangladesh protocol route, etc. urgently.</p>

Sector: Medical & Health

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Shri Ganga Prasad, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim</p>	<p>Sikkim had submitted 18Nos of priority projects for funding in the year 2017-18 out of which only 4 projects were sanctioned. Out of which 3 are under implementation and 1 is complete. In 2018-19 no priority list was drawn by Sikkim as the concept of Project Identification Committee was started. One such PIC meeting was conducted for Sikkim through Video Conferencing on 20/09/2018. This meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary DoNER, Secretary, NEC, Chief Secretary, Sikkim and Addl. Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner Sikkim. Besides the discussions held for the projects sanctioned for 2017-18, 2 new projects under the health sector were also discussed and considered viz:</p> <p>(1) Medical equipment and furniture for the Multi-Specialty Hospital at Sochyagang, Gangtok;</p> <p>This project has been proposed at various level since 2017-18. Ministry of DoNER has agreed to provide Rs. 160.00 cr. after which NEC recommended the project for Rs. 118.00 cr.</p> <p>The PIC held on 20.09.2018 had recommended a reduced amount of Rs. 25.00 cr only. The sanction and release of which is still pending even after several requests and lapse of several years. The M/DoNER and NEC arerequested to sanction the project at the earliest.</p>
	<p>(2) Construction of 70 bedded District Hospital @ Rs. 14.14 cr.;</p> <p>The Government of Sikkim has projected the total cost @ Rs. 20.00 cr. The NEC retained the project at a cost of Rs. 14.14 cr during the year 2017-18. Therefore, post retention and District Hospital at Mangan which demolished, which was badly damaged by the massive earthquake of 18th September, 2011. So far, the State Government has spent Rs. 3.50 cr as part of the State Share. Due to sudden change in the guidelines and work allocation divided between M/DoNER and NEC the project has been kept in limbo and the North District headquarter of Mangan North Sikkim is without Hospital building as of now. We urge</p>

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	the M/DoNER to sanction this project at the earliest.
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	<p>Health facilities is another important area requiring immediate attention. Apart from Tertiary Health care (Medical education) and Telemedicine, I would request Chairman, NEC and Vice-Chairman, NEC to revisit new guidelines and allow the North Eastern Council to sanction projects for setting up Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres especially in remote areas of the state so as to provide the basic right of access to healthcare services to the people at their doorsteps.</p>
	<p>I would like to re-emphasize on the fact that incidents of cancer cases is higher in Papum-Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from this, out of pocket expenses on health in Arunachal Pradesh are twice that of national average. I would request NEC to explore the possibility of opening critical care unit in TRIHMS hospital by providing additional funds.</p>
	<p>This time, once again, I request NEC to provide fund for establishment of Medicity at Pachin Colony, Naharlagun without curtailing the normative allocation for the State. Unfortunately, the standards of health facilities in the State is in miserable state in comparison with other NE States. Hence, special dispensation would be given to our State.</p>
	<p>To remove the critical gaps in Physical and Social infrastructure needs to strengthen the economic conditions of the people living in the remote border blocks and to arrest the stress migration from the border areas towards the plains, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has submitted a composite development proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking special assistance for providing Rural Connectivity, development of educational, health& power infrastructures and providing water supply and sanitation in Border Areas. I would request NEC to take up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs, government of India to sanction the project at the earliest.</p>

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam	<p>Sir, we welcome the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of doubling medical colleges in the country under which 75 new medical colleges are proposed to be established. Considering the remoteness and backwardness of the region, NEC and DoNER should help us in having more medical college in the North East.</p>
Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya	<p>In the Health Sector, we are making all out efforts to improve our Maternal and Child Health indicators. Our Infant Mortality Rate is 39 deaths per 1000 live births and our Maternal Mortality rate is 197 deaths per 100,000 live births. My goal is to reduce these numbers dramatically in the next 2-3 years. To achieve this, we have successfully piloted a new initiative that uses real time data on the pregnant women to monitor their health status on a continuous basis. Under this data driven model, primary data on pregnant women is collected by the Medical Officers and Health functionaries through a mobile app. This data is updated regularly and can be seen in Shillong by me and other health officials. Each pregnant woman can be tracked and on any given day, the number of women due for delivery can be seen on the Chief Minister's Dash Board. In South West Garo Hills District, where this initiative was piloted, institutional deliveries improved by 30 percent in just 3 months. Now we are expanding this project to all the districts of the State and to cover not only health and institutional deliveries, but also the sectors of Nutrition, Education and Rural Development. I have named this initiative Meghalaya's Outcomes oriented Transformation in Health, nutrition, Education and Rural development Program or the MOTHER program.</p>
Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim	<p>In the Project Identification Committee (PIC) meeting of September 2018 our State's two crucial projects were considered. First was the Medical equipment and furniture for the Multi-Specialty Hospital at Sochyagang, Gangtok for which Ministry of DoNER had agreed to provide Rs. 160.00 crore. Against this the NEC recommended for Rs. 118 crore. The PIC however, recommended a drastically reduced</p>

Points Raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	amount of Rs. 25 crore only. This also has not been sanctioned as of today. The delay has been very costly both in terms of cost escalation and the hardships felt by the people at large.
	Secondly, the construction of 70 bedded District Hospital at Mangan which was severely damaged by the earthquake in September 2011. The NEC retained the project at a cost of Rs. 14.14 crore during the year 2017-18. The State Government has already spent Rs. 3.50 crore as part of its share. However due to sudden change in the guidelines the work allocation between Ministry of DoNER and NEC the project has been kept in limbo. North District being such a national security sensitive region is today without a proper hospital. We urge the Ministry of DoNER to sanction this project at the earliest.
Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura	NEC liabilities for the ongoing projects of Tripura is perhaps the lowest among the North Eastern States. I would, therefore, request Ministry of DoNER to sanction some new projects, particularly, “Regional Nursing College at Hapania” for an estimated cost of Rs. 65.14 crore , “Construction of 132 KV D/C Transmission line from Surjamaninagar Sub-station to Udaipur Sub-station (40 KM) including 2 (two) feeders bay at Udaipur, Bandurar” at an estimated cost of Rs. 38.77 crore and “Improvement and up-gradation of road from Hmunpui (NH-44A) to Damcherra (Tripura-Mizoram Border) via Monchuang in the State of Tripura” at an estimated cost of Rs. 82.47 crore under the scheme North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS).

Sector: Human Resource Development & Employment

A. Education :

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>Skill Development, infrastructure and Entrepreneurship Development Facilities are in primitive stage. Educational and health care infrastructure developments in Arunachal Pradesh need extensive effort. Government job seeking mindset still looms large amongst our parents and youth. There is absence of Quality and specialised medical service facilities in remote and distant areas of the State.</p>
	<p>Majority of the educational infrastructure and schools in the State were constructed, decades ago, during NEFA days. These are in dilapidated condition. Though the upgradation work of these infrastructure is in hand but the task is huge and extensive. Our State, owing to difficult terrain, far-flung habitats, vast territory and limited resources, needs substantial fund support from the Central Governments to improve the situation. I would, therefore, request NEC to make appropriation provisions for upgradation of educational infrastructure like schools etc., which have long outlived their structural cohesiveness. This will solve our long pending problem of the very basic educational amenity for the students in the State.</p>
	<p>Each State in our country has been given NIT to fulfil the quality education need in the field of engineering, science and technology. We have one NIT in our State. As of now, Board of Governors (BoG) of NITs consists of two nominated members from the State, one each from the field of Science and Business. There is no representation of any administrative or legislative member from the State in the BoM. In last two years, my experience has been that even from basic amenities like approach roads, electricity, water, security issues. NITs have not route to approach the State</p>

	<p>Government. Hence it is my suggestion that NIT ACT should be amended so that Education Minister and Education Secretary of the concerned States are designated as the ex-officio members of Board of Governors (BoG) of NITs. This will ensure State Government's speedy assistance to the NITs in time of need.</p>
<p>Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya</p>	<p>The sanction of the 11 Eklavya Residential Schools by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2018-19 is a significant steps for the improvement of our secondary education sector in Meghalaya. It is also expected that the Government of India will sanction an additional 25 such schools in the near future. Besides these, the State Government intends to construct its own residential schools so as to ensure that the dropout rates in the secondary and higher secondary levels can be contained to a large extent. To ensure free and affordable education to all our children, there is a need to construct an additional 5500 additional classrooms in the primary education level as well. We would urge the Central Government to consider providing the required financial assistance to enable the State Government to do so.</p>
<p>Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>There is only one INI (Institute of National Importance) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh i.e. National Institute of Technology, Jote thereby depriving the students of my state from quality higher education. For this, I request that NEC may identify and provide fund for establishment of regional important educational Institutions in Arunachal. Government of India should consider providing adequate amount of funds and resources to create ample state-of-the-art institutions in the field of Science, Medical Science, Engineering Arts, management and other specialized streams. Apart from these Middle and Secondary level education institution may also be included in the purview of NEC.</p>
	<p>To remove the critical gaps in Physical and Social infrastructure needs to strengthen the economic conditions of the people living in the remote border blocks and to arrest the stress migration from the border areas towards the plains, the Government of Arunachal</p>

	Pradesh has submitted a composite development proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking special assistance for providing Rural Connectivity, development of educational, health & power infrastructures and providing water supply and sanitation in Border Areas. I would request NEC to take up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs, government of India to sanction the project at the earliest.
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam	NEC may also think of setting up of a Language Academy to facilitate teaching as well as research on different languages spoken in the Northeast and the countries in ASEAN and BBIN. Our Government will provide necessary land for setting up of this Academy.
	We need quality education not only to bring our youth to the mainstream of employment but also to equip them to contribute to nation building. I propose NEC and DoNER to help us to have at least one Kendriya Vidyalaya and one Navodaya Vidyalaya in every development block of every state in the region.
Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya	We are placing huge emphasis on secondary education. In our state, the total number of students in Secondary schools is 1,04,727 and Higher Secondary schools is 54,739. However, the number of individuals in the age bracket of 15-19 years is 4,03,675. This means there is a big demand supply gap in secondary education. To bridge this gap, the Government is in the process of setting up Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in all blocks of the State. Each of these residential schools will be constructed at an approximate cost of ₹ 24 crore and will cater to 480 students when fully operational. This initiative will transform the landscape of secondary education in our State. We already got sanction for 11 EMRS from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is expected that 25 more EMRS will be sanctioned for the State in the next two years.

B. Skill/Training/Capacity building

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam</p>	<p>Skill development for enhancing employability of educated youths of Assam is an urgent necessity. By augmenting human capabilities and skills we can provide gainful employment to the huge youth population of the region. However, the state has certain constraints due to low level of industrial activity and lack of adequate numbers of professional and vocational training Institutes. More research work may be undertaken by NEC in this arena for generating employment opportunity in the state.</p>
<p>Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>UNEMPLOYMENT: Our state is witnessing a major problem of unemployment. There are very limited services in the private sector. Hence, there is a need of a two-fold strategy for ushering growth in the state, we are bringing out a new industrial Policy which will give suitable incentives especially for agro-based industries. We require support from NEC for framing the policy and providing suitable incentives for executing it.</p>
<p>Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland</p>	<p>Nagaland is blessed with a young educated population with good proficiency in English. With the right skills, the demands of the labour market in the region can be met and opportunities created for them to compete at the national and global level. However, there are no centres of excellence to tap into the potential of our people. I would therefore suggest that Regional Centres of Excellence be established in the region to harness the abundant talents of the youths.</p>

C. Sports

Points raised by	Important Points
(1)	(2)
<p>Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>SPORTS AND YOUTH: Our state has the potential to produce world class but due to inadequate sports infrastructure we are unable to tap the potential of our youths.</p>
	<p>There is an emphasis on Sports by the Government of India through the Khelo India and Fit India programs. In this regard sufficient funds should be made available through NEC for development of Sports Infrastructure in NE States in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular.</p>
<p>Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalay</p>	<p>A huge priority for Meghalaya is to promote sports both to achieve excellence and as a way of life, especially for the youth. Meghalaya will be hosting the 39th National Games in 2022 which coincides with the 50th year of formation of the State and the 75th year of Independence. The State is committed to organizing these games in a spectacular way and to use the opportunity to create world class sporting infrastructure that will be utilized by the youth of the State and the region for many years to come. To be able to achieve these targets, we would require expertise and financial assistance from the Government of India. I am also hopeful that the NEC and the Ministry of DoNER would be able to support us in the construction of Sports and other support infrastructure for the games.</p>
<p>Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland</p>	<p>In my earlier presentation, I had pointed out the enormous potential that the youth of the region have in sports. I would like to suggest that sports may also be included as a thrust area of NEC. Let me also point out that apart from creating sporting infrastructure, there is need to create opportunities for developing the skills and lending exposure to these young people both at the national and international levels.</p>

Sector: Science & Technology

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>In last thirty years, since Arunachal Pradesh became a State, developmental issues have been receiving attention of the Government of the day. However, it is important to note that despite all that, in almost all the sectors, there are areas of concern which have to be addressed now for solution in the years to come. The biggest problem which the State faces now is that of the lack of robust Land, Air, Internet and Mobile Network Connectivity. This derogates from the developmental needs as well as security parameters of the State.</p>
<p>Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur</p>	<p>I am happy to learn that NEC has initiated for the introduction of Smart Visual Classroom across the entire NE States. Under the scheme, students will benefit by e-learning. My Government has already identified schools with the mandatory facilities. My Government will provide all the necessary inputs as per the requirement of the NEC.</p>
<p>Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam</p>	<p>NEC should ensure that internet and mobile connectivity is available in every part of the North East. This will boost trade & commerce in the North East and facilitate realization of the region as the expressway to ASEAN countries as envisioned through Act East Policy.</p>
<p>Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Mizoram</p>	<p>Importance of infrastructure development in economic growth cannot be overemphasized. Infrastructure is the lifeline of an economy and the fate of the economy is intricately linked to the development of its infrastructure. Infrastructure financing in the North Eastern Region has been primarily met by the Government. North Eastern Council would need to continue to play an active role in infrastructure development. Poor air, rail, road and internet connectivity within the North Eastern Region and with other region remains a critical issue for economic development in the region.</p>
	<p>In addition, digital connectivity is one of the biggest challenges</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>facing the North East Region and the condition in Mizoram is even worse as compared to other NE states. High speed internet connectivity is the basic requirement for socioeconomic development. We all know that under Digital India programme, the Central Government has taken massive initiatives for 'broadband to all' and 'Optical Fiber Network to every village'. The National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN), which is now known as "Bharat Net" was started way back in 2012 by Department of Telecommunication in Mizoram. But till today the progress in my State is not visible. The Central Government may have to work closer with State machinery as a partner in this initiative.</p>
<p>Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland</p>	<p>We are living today in an age of advanced digital technology, where online services have made many services accessible to the common man at the click of a button. The advanced countries of the world including India are moving towards 5G connectivity while many of the North Eastern States, particularly Nagaland, struggle to access even basic internet connectivity. I feel this is an area NEC can intervene in providing infrastructure for high speed internet connectivity upto the village level in the entire region. Without such facilities, we will all struggle to implement Direct Benefits Transfer schemes and extend much needed banking coverage in the 29 unbanked Blocks. The First Pilot National Information Infrastructure (NII) project which provides High Speed Internet bandwidth through wireless medium was successfully implemented in Peren district in 2016. The proposal to extend this project to the remaining 10 (ten) districts was taken up with the NITI Aayog with an outlay of Rs. 100 crores. NITI Aayog have in principle accepted the project, and had written to the Ministry of DoNER for funding. Since then, we have received no further communication in the matter. I shall be grateful if the matter is considered expeditiously.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	<p>The rapid increase in the average temperature of the Earth's surface due to the global warming is a big concern for the world. As our government is sensitive to environmental issues, we have launched Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign wherein we plan to plant 1 crore trees in next year's. Under the program, we will also be planting trees alongside all our National Highways and State Highways. I appeal NEC and Ministry of DoNER to pursue Green Bonus for Arunachal Pradesh with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.</p>

Sector: Information & Public Relation

A. Cultural Activities

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	<p>With modernization and external influences, the tribal culture and identity gets populated and the intrinsic and, culture attributes tend to get, diluted. I find many youths of current generation completely bereft and ignorant of tribal traditions. Many don't even know their dialects. There is an urgent need for Government intervention to preserve and protect indigenous tribal culture and identity in its purest form. The tribal scripts, the oral traditions, the rituals need to be archived by professional ethnographers.</p> <p>NEC can play a pivotal role by providing assistance in this direction by adequately funding for setting up of heritage centers and museums. I would suggest Ministry of DoNER and NEC to initiate a program on development of modified roman scripts of indigenous tribes of all the 8 North Eastern States in consultation with the concerned Ministries</p>

Sector: Evaluation & Monitoring

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram	<p>Evaluation and Monitoring sector in the Council may be strengthened by the inclusion of industry experts so as to instill greater level of professionalism in the process.</p>

Sector: Finance

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam</p>	<p>The NEC budget during 2018-19 was Rs 1135.00 crores against which normative allocation for Assam was fixed for Rs.136.00 crores. This trend of allocation for NEC is quite inadequate to address the hopes and aspirations of Assam and the region as a whole. Without sustainable backing from the NEC, it will be difficult for the State to reach the desired levels of growth and development as envisioned in the NER Vision 2020. The Government of India will require to review the fund allocation to the North Eastern Council by raising the annual budget size so as to enable the NEC to fulfill its mandate for ensuring sustainable growth and development in Assam and the North East.</p>
<p>Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur</p>	<p>You will agree with me that there is still a large gap between the resources available and the needs of all the north eastern States. The amount provided to the North Eastern Council, which is less than Rs. 800 crores for eight NE States, is too small to make any meaningful impact on the development of inter-state physical infrastructure, or human development, in the eight-member States. As per Economic Survey 2018-19, Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices of these eight States continue to be very low hovering around 2.72% of total All India during 2016-17. You will agree that without a quantum jump in the NEC allocation, it will be difficult for NEC to provide fund for core areas identified for economic development of NER States. Considering our bona-fide requirements of the economically backward small States of the NE Region, I draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Home Ministerji through this august house for sustained enhancement of NEC and Ministry of DoNER budget to catch up with the development at the national average by 2030.</p>
	<p>I would like to inform that as per the latest Economic Survey</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>2018-19 Report, the per Capita Net Domestic Product at current prices of my State stood at Rs. 57888 against the All India per Capita Net National Income (NNI) of Rs. 104659. My Government has a vision for the State to catch up with all India average of NNI and other major indicators of sustainable development goals by 2030. To achieve this goal, the important sectoral targets set are (i) Reducing Infrastructural deficit, (ii) Sustaining growth in agricultural and allied sectors, (iii) Expanding and strengthening capacity of key social sectors – Health, education, women and child welfare, nutrition and food security, (iv) Inclusiveness, (v) Social and regional equity, (vi) Capacity building and Skill Development, and (vii) Institutional decentralization. We require budgetary support of North Eastern Council and Ministry of DoNER.</p>
<p>Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura</p>	<p>In externally aided projects, North Eastern States has to contribute 20% of the project cost. Over this, the share of States in the loan component is 90:10. Hence, it is requested that the 20% share of states in project cost should be reconsidered because the financial capabilities of the North Eastern States are limited.</p>
	<p>Most of the North Eastern States are revenue deficit state. Apart from normal deviation of funds from Finance Commission, recommendation for grant in revenue loss is also given. Due to low collection of GST etc. huge difference can be seen in general deviation in central taxes part. Centre should think of compensation in terms of extra revenue difference grant to states with low revenue.</p>
<p>Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura</p>	<p>Tripura faces fund constraints in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and schemes under Central Assistance to State Plan (CASP). Even though the funding pattern between Central Ministries and State Governments of NE States is 90:10, it is still a difficult to meet even 10% State share</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>due to fund constraints. Consequently, many programmes under CSS do not get implemented, resulting in not only the State losing out, but also the Central Ministries not being able to spend the required 10% of their budgets for the NE Region. As a matter of fact, the situation is unlikely to be different in other North Eastern States. In this context, NEC funding for schemes/projects of NE States may be provided 100% grant. It would be appropriate if NEC sets apart some of its yearly budget for meeting the 10% State share of the NE States for the schemes under CSS and CASP. This would be of immense help to the NE States for mobilizing adequate central funds for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).</p>
	<p>In many schemes share of State has been kept at much higher than 10% as per earlier practice. For example in Smart City project, the state share is 50%. The North East states are finding it difficult to contribute such a share because of financial constraints. The issue needs to be looked into.</p>
	<p>Most of the NE states are revenue deficient. The Finance Commission recommends revenue gap grant in addition to normal devolution. It has been seen that there is an additional gap in shortfall with regard to normal devolution in share of central taxes because of short collection of GST etc. For example, Tripura is expected to receive Rs. 1461 crore less share of taxes than recommended by the 14th Finance Commission. The revenue deficient states are required to meet the entire shortfall in share of central taxes by themselves. For the NE states it becomes very difficult to meet such shortfall because of narrow resource base. Hence, Government of India is requested to consider compensating the same through additional revenue gap grant to revenue deficient NE states.</p>
<p>Shri Ganga Prasad, Hon'ble Governor of</p>	<p>The North Eastern States are aware that the North Eastern Council has helped infrastructure development in the region.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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Sikkim	<p>However, it has been noticed that in the last 2-3 years, the role of the North Eastern Council has somewhat diminished.</p> <p>This is mainly due to the non-availability of funds of the desired level for the infrastructure development in the region. The normative allocations provided to the North East States in the last 5 years by the North Eastern Council indicate that sufficient funds are not being made available to the Member States. At the same time, we are aware that the North Eastern Council has identified core areas for regional planning of the North Eastern Region based on vision 2020. Therefore, I feel it pertinent to state that without enhancement of the budgetary allocation of the North Eastern Council it will be difficult to ensure smooth flow of funds for these core areas. Let me impress upon the house and the Government of India that the North Eastern Council funding needs substantial enhancement which is required urgently to compensate the previous shortage of funds to the North Eastern Region as special category States. Therefore, a special one-time package from Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources of 10% Gross Budgetary Support may also be provided to the North Eastern States which will enable completion of all ongoing projects</p>
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	<p>15th Finance Commission is about to make its recommendations to Government of India regarding the formula by which vertical and horizontal devolution of Central funds would be given to various states. Presently Arunachal Pradesh received 1.37% of resources from the divisible pool. This share needs to be revised very substantially keeping in view the strategic location of the state and several jointly shared developmental priorities of Centre and State.</p>
Shri N. Biren Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur	<p>I am proud to recall the commitment of the then BJP Government under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji for the infrastructure development of NE states as reflected in the</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
	<p>Speech of the Union Finance Minister while presenting the Union Budget for the year 1998-99. The relevant paragraphs from the Budget Speech are reproduced below:</p> <p>“Furthermore, it has been decided that a non-lapsable Central Resource Pool will be created for deposit of funds from all Ministries where the plan expenditure on the North Eastern Region is less than 10 per cent of the total plan allocation of the Ministry. The difference between 10 per cent of the allocation and the actual expenditure incurred on the North Eastern Region will be transferred to the Central Pool, which will be used for funding specific programmes for economic and social upliftment of the North Eastern States”.</p> <p>However, total of the 10% has not been invested in the NE States. My Government desires that NE States be allowed to assess these unutilized resources for the infrastructure development in the NE States. The amount released to the NEC is too small to make any meaningful impact on the development of inter-state physical infrastructure and human resource development of the North eastern region. There is still a large gap between the resources made available and the expectation and aspiration of the States. Without a quantum jump in the NEC allocation and budgetary support from the Centre, it will be difficult for north eastern states to catch up with the development index and sustainable development goals at the national average by 2030.</p>
	<p>There has been continued gap between demand and supply of resources allocated. This has resulted in accumulation of committed liabilities for completion of many ongoing projects in the NE States. Perhaps, this could be one reason for delay in the completion of projects. In this connection, I draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Home Minister and Chairman of North Eastern Council, Shri Amit Shahji through this August house for</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>providing one time package for completion of ongoing projects and extension of ongoing projects from 2020 to 2022. Total committed liability of NEC share for completion of ongoing projects and new projects sanctioned during 2017-18 is Rs. 206.22 crores.</p>
<p>Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya</p>	<p>To enable the NEC to fulfil its mandate of promoting development of the Northeastern region in the real sense, its budget should be increased to about Rs.2000 crores annually. Unless such resources are made available, the NER Vision 2020 providing for the comprehensive development of NE States will only remain a pipedream.</p>
	<p>Another crucial issue worth highlighting here is the inability of the Ministries of the Government of India to utilize the 10% of their budget for schemes and programmes in the North Eastern States. These unutilized funds are not being placed adequately at the disposal of either the Ministry of DoNER or the State Governments for the implementation of development projects. I would, therefore, like to suggest that the substantial accumulated amount lying with the Ministry of Finance may be allocated to the NEC for implementation of inter-sectoral and integrated development plans in the NE States, towards the achievement of NER Vision 2020.</p>
	<p>I believe that the Northeast council has a very important role to play as we all work towards transforming this region and improving the lives and wellbeing of its 45 million citizens. This will mean that the council has to be empowered through providing bigger budgets, greater delegation of financial powers and increasing flexibility in sanctioning and implementing projects. I am confident that under the leadership of our new Chairman, the council will be able to become a true driver and catalyst for growth and prosperity.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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<p>Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mizoram</p>	<p>Government of India recognised that a very big infrastructure gap in the North Eastern Region came in the way of socio-economic development of the people in this part of the country and that this also came in the way of their integration with the national mainstream. Recognising the need to make special arrangements for bridging this infrastructure gap, decision was taken by the Government of India that mandated 10% of Gross Budgetary Resources of each Ministry of Government of India to be earmarked for investments in the North Eastern States. A mechanism was also constituted wherein whatever could not be spent by the Ministries out of the 10% GBS shall be put into Non-Lapsable Pool of Resources (NLCPR) with the Ministry of Finance to be invested for development works of North East Region. This measure has helped the NER States tremendously in upgrading and strengthening the social and economic infrastructure. However, due to very low base, the levels of infrastructures in the NER are still significantly below that of other parts of the Country. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that the 10% GBS and NLCPR mechanism is continued without any dilution by the Government of India.</p>
	<p>It is a matter of serious concern for the NER that the 10% GBS and NLCPR arrangements have been diluted in the recent years as could be seen in the declining resources made available to NEC and Ministry of DONER and other Central Ministries for investments in the NER. NLCPR project funding under Ministry of DONER has been done away with except for ongoing projects and 10% GBS Project funding in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has also been dispensed with except for few ongoing projects. I was given to understand that an amount of more than Rs 50,000 crores have been accumulated in the Non Lapsable Pool but yet to be allocated for NLCPR to the Ministry of DONER. We would like to see that 10% GBS to North East and NLCPR</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	Scheme or a better alternative is put in place. I request the Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman of NEC restoration of 10% GBS for North East Region and NLCPR Scheme.
	The allocation of funds for North Eastern Areas is only about 2.7% of the central expenditure in the union budget 2019-2020 [Statement 11 of expenditure profile, Union Budget 2019-2020]. Moreover, transfer of resources to Schemes of North Eastern Council and Central Pool of Resources for NER for 2019-2020 indicated a sharp and continuous decline [Statement 18 of the expenditure profile, Union Budget 2019-2020]. The transfer of resources for Central Pool of Resources for NER for 2019-2020 have been declining sharply each year from Rs 701.90 crores in 2017-2018 to Rs 392.00 crores in 2019-2020. Similarly, transfers of resources for Schemes of North Eastern Council have been persistently declining from Rs 772.43 crores in 2017-2018 to 325.77 crores in 2019-2020. These are the crucial sources of fund for infrastructure development in the North Eastern Region. Given the fiscal constraints that leave little room for expanding public investment at the scale required, and difficulty in attracting private investment, the NE States have been depending heavily on funding from the Central Government for infrastructure development. Hon'ble Chairman of NEC may kindly take necessary steps to amend such constraint of financial resources for development in the North Eastern Region.
	As for the NEC Scheme, Rs 4500 crores earmarked for the whole North Eastern States during 2017-18 to 2019-20 have been too little to have meaningful impact for the Region's Development. The earmarked fund includes Rs 2357 crores for committed liabilities of ongoing projects, Rs 1000 crores for NERSDS, and Rs 640 crores for NLCPR (C) liabilities. There is no fund left for new project during this period. It is highly doubtful that the North Eastern Region can be transformed into an 'engine

Points raised by	Important Points
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	of growth' as the Hon'ble Prime Minister has envisioned, unless the Central Government increases allocation of resources for infrastructure development in the NER. We will have to significantly enhance funds allocated to the NEC and Ministry of DONER, so as to have meaningful impact for the region's development.
Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland	<p>At the 67th Plenary held at Shillong last year, I had raised the need for providing sufficient funds to the NEC if it is to fulfil its role of being a catalyst for the development of the North-Eastern Region. We are still waiting for a response. In fact, it is a matter of much concern to note that during 2018-19 no new projects were sanctioned for Nagaland. Even more disturbing is the fact that during 2019-20 also, NEC has serious fund constraints and may not be able to take up new schemes. Since NEC's budget caters to the requirements of central projects implemented by Central Government Agencies like NERCORMP, ICAR, BRO, AAI, etc. including that of the eight North Eastern States, NEC urgently requires adequate budgetary support.</p>
Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura	<p>In the 66th Plenary of the North Eastern Council, the normative allocation of NEC Budget among NE states was approved and it was decided that 12% of allocation would be made to Tripura as per a formula based on various development indices like the geographical condition population and human index, etc. However, based on the releases made during the last 5 years (2014-15 to 2018-19), it has been observed that the share of Tripura over these years has been only 7.20%. It is indeed an area of concern for our State. It is requested to adhere for providing 12% share to Tripura.</p>
	<p>Presently, 60% of the NEC budget is distributed among the 8 NE states and the remaining 40% Budget is set aside for Central component for Central Ministries and agencies for taking up</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>regional projects. Instead, it may be well thought of whether 90% NEC Budget may be distributed to the NE states and the remaining 10% may be retained by NEC for taking up such regional projects which are necessary for the region and the projects for the State be finalized by a committee headed by state's Chief Secretary like that of MoDoNER system of sanctioning projects. This will expedite sanction as well as speed of NEC projects implementation in the state. State Government may be given freedom to increase or decrease project cost as per their requirement and also make component-wise changes in the projects.</p>
	<p>The outlay for Rs. 580 crore for 2019-20 to NEC is too small to take care of the ongoing incomplete projects leaving hardly any worth mentioning amount for new projects in the pipeline. In order to address the problem of regional disparity, NEC may be adequately funded and its budget during 2019-20 may also be substantially enhanced.</p>

Sector: General Issues

Points raised by	Important Points
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<p>Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>NEC can play a lead role in becoming the Think Tank for North Eastern Region. There is, therefore, a need to bring in Domain Experts in NEC to focus on developing clear cut roadmap for helping sizable investments in the Region. Not only does North Eastern Region require adequate funds, but it also requires technical experts who may suggest ways and means to bridge the massive gap in development of North Eastern region and the rest of India. For instance, my State Arunachal Pradesh has a vast land area by is struggling to tap its potential due to lack of human resource and technology. I would urge NEC to institute a detailed study as to how the massive area of my state can act as a boon for the region. The study must then translate into action by adequate funding through various sources.</p>
	<p>NEC must also find ways to showcase the best practices of the States in the NER which can be replicated so that whole Region benefits from this common forum. Recently NITI Aayog has formed NITI forum to address the regional imbalance in the North Eastern Region. I would urge NEC to use this opportunity to emerge as the Planning Body of the North Eastern Region by tying up with NITI Aayog.</p>
<p>Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam</p>	<p>Assam is strategically located in the North East and Guwahati is the gateway to the North Eastern Region. It is needless to mention that any development projects taken up in Assam, would as a natural corollary ensure that the benefits accrue to other states as well. Hence projects having multi-state impact should be given higher priority by the Ministry of DoNER for funding through NEC. For all round development of NE region, support from NEC is of utmost importance. Therefore, pending any further decision, I would urge upon the Ministry of DoNER</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	and the NEC to continue providing financial assistance to the developmental programmes of the State beyond March, 2020.
Dr Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur	Sir, in the last 67 th Council meeting, revised General Guidelines and revised Sectoral scheme guidelines of NEC were approved. However, with the introduction of revised Guidelines, major sectors like Power, Irrigation, Flood Control, Water Supply and Sports Sectors, which are also not included under NESIDS, except for tourism related, have been excluded from the NEC mandate. Several members of this Council and my Government had expressed the desire for continuation of these sectors within the ambit of the NEC funding.
	My Government has requested to allow continuation of new projects already sanctioned by NEC during 2017-18 under above mentioned sectors. I am informed that five projects of Flood Control, water supply and roads have been dropped by Project Identification Committee (PIC), because these sectors are no more under NEC mandate. Chairman Sir, these sectors may be continued under NEC and funding extended for projects already sanctioned by NEC.
Shri Tathagata Roy, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya	The introduction of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) as a replacement for the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) is a welcome step. Under the scheme, the Government of India is providing 100 percent financial support to the N.E. States. Meghalaya received a total sanction of Rs.174.80 crore for 6 projects during the year 2018-19. However, we urge the Ministry of DoNER to consider revising the guidelines of the scheme in two aspects. First, the lower limit of Rs.20.00 crore on the project size should be lowered to about Rs.10 crore, so that small but significant projects can be taken up. Besides, lowering of the minimum cost of the project would also allow the State

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>Government to take up more projects under the scheme. Secondly, in the case of road projects, NESIDS covers only those projects which have a relevance to places of tourist interest while neglecting the other important road projects. I would, therefore, strongly recommend to this august gathering that the Ministry of DoNER and the NEC should review the recent guidelines for the over-all economic development of the region.</p>
<p>Prof. Jagdish Mukhi Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram</p>	<p>As per the Revised Guidelines of North Eastern Council, 2018, crucial sectors like Power, Irrigation and Flood Control, Water Supply, Sports, School Education and Primary & Secondary Healthcare have been omitted from sectors for funding under the Council. In fact, these are the core sectors where the States require intervention the most. It is an obvious fact that the Region is still lagging behind other mainland States in terms of quality infrastructure. I, therefore, request this Meeting to revisit the approved sectors, thereby enabling the Council to continue to play its vital role in bridging the much needed infrastructure gap. Moreover, the Council needs to be strengthened in terms of increased sanctioning power and increased budgetary allocation.</p>
	<p>The Region has vast untapped potential by way of landmass, mineral, hydro power and service sector, and a large proportion of working population. The need of the hour is to have a unified infrastructure development plan with appropriate technology, financing, and capacity development. In this regard, NEC may be equipped to act as a think tank for the North East, and to not only formulate the Roadmap but also be empowered to facilitate its implementation.</p>
<p>Shri R.N. Ravi, Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland</p>	<p>Over the decades, unfortunately the NEC has been weakened. It has happened mainly due to inadequate appreciation of the</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>underlying rationale for this unique institution. Its resources have dwindled and its capacity to be a unifier of the region has been severely eroded. It has been practically subsumed by the Ministry of DoNER. The States of the region now look it at merely as a source for additional developmental resources.</p> <p>I would, therefore urged the council especially the Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Amit Shah ji to take cognizance of the fundamental drift of NEC away from its core objective. The institution of NEC can be restructured in tune with the contemporary needs and realities while keeping its core objective of strengthening the underlying oneness of the region.</p>
<p>Shri Ganga Prasad, Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim</p>	<p>It has been noticed with regard to the distribution of North Eastern Council funds on the proposed normative allocation of NEC budget, for Sikkim it has been agreed to 7% allocation from the total kitty of North Eastern Council. However, Sikkim has received allocation way below other states despite the State's good record in implementation of North Eastern Council Schemes.</p>
	<p>The Government of Sikkim is in full agreement with the thrust given by North Eastern Council to the transport and communication, power, agriculture and allied sectors, human resource, tourism and health sectors. Since two years back the initiative of the North Eastern Council was to give weightage to committed liabilities for completion of on-going projects however sadly funds to this effect has not been forthcoming. North Eastern Council may also like to consider higher allocation in the sectors where investments have not been made in the past.</p>
	<p>Withdrawal of power from NEC: In the recommendation of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) dated 20th December, 2017 and approved by Cabinet dated 28th March, 2018 six</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>crucial sectors i.e. Power, Irrigation and Flood Control, Water Supply, Sports, School Education and Primary & Secondary Healthcare have been taken away from the mandate of NEC. Removal of schemes for skill development, inter alia from NEC's mandate appears contradictory to Para 2.5 of the revised NEC Guidelines which states: 'NEC shall focus on issue in enabling in generating jobs'. It may also be mentioned that the role of NEC in crucial sectors such as road construction have been limited to building of inter-state roads only. As a result, the intra-state connectivity requirement gap of the resource-starved North East States has been left stranded. Given the fact that core competence of NEC was institution building, human resource development, infrastructure, etc., the above sectors should be restored to NEC.</p>
	<p>Since inception the total number of sanctioned projects for Sikkim is 165 Nos. and the projects completed till date is 142 Nos. there are 23 NEC projects on going in the State. As per details available in the State Government the funds due from NEC is Rs. 4483.18 lakhs. No projects were sanctioned in the year 2018-19 and similarly no projects were sanctioned for Sikkim in 2019-20. The Utilization Certificate due is nil and also the Utilization Certificate overdue is nil from the State Government's side. Compared to the other States in the NER, Sikkim is small in terms of geographical area and also in terms of population. Our record in implementation and completion of projects so far is good. Sikkim has played a responsible role as a Member of the NEC and the State has done comparatively well. It is the release of funds from the NEC which is somewhat delayed that is proving to be a bottleneck. It is requested that the NEC may kindly expedite the remaining release of funds for the ongoing projects in the State so that the schemes are</p>

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	completed on time and in totality.
	As I conclude, I would like to place on record that hastening of the pace of development of North Eastern region should be given highest priority to avoid uneven and unequal distribution from region to region in the Country. Towards this, an environment must be created for all the North Eastern States to catch up with the rest of the Country. For this to happen, it is essential to ensure that the institutions created for the development of the region such as DoNER and NEC are allocated adequate financial powers and autonomy to enable them to fulfill the objectives for which they have been created.
Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura	Up-gradation and reorganization of NEC should be considered so that it can play its role as a regional planning body so that the development of North East Region can reach the national level.
Shri Pema Khandu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh	NEC has been funding many schemes in the social sector or capital works across different departments. The total amount of funds received by the State was around 200 crores. However since 2018, no new schemes are being considered for approval/ sanction. This is adversely affecting developmental works in the state and needs urgent attention.
	Strengthening of Civil Services is crucial as its effectiveness will form the strength of efficacious development and the governance process. Unbiased, honest and efficient civil service is the core of the executive that has the responsibility to effectively monitor and implement all Government policies and programmes. Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories are allocated a common cadre for IAS and other Services. Unlike other States which have a separate individual cadre of their own, because of the common cadre, the officers allocated to the State are subject to frequent transfer and also

Points raised by	Important Points
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	deprived them from their sense of belonging. As such, I demand for Creation of separate cadre for IAS/IPS/IFS Officers for the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The demand for creation of separate cadre for Arunachal Pradesh was also discussed during the last Parliament Session. I once again request Chairman and Vice Chairman, North Eastern Council to take up the matter at appropriate level.
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam	<p>Our Prime Minister Narendra Modiji rightly pointed out in his address in the 65th Plenary session of the Council that NEC must be a state-of-the-art resource centre for the north-eastern states with the necessary resources, knowledge and skills. Keeping this in view, the NEC has to shoulder tremendous responsibility in its initiatives and guide the North Eastern States in their planning for faster development. I am confident that the NEC under your visionary leadership will fulfill its role as a regional planning body successfully.</p>
	<p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of DoNER for launching 'North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme' in 2017. For Assam an amount of Rs. 471 crore has been approved for 8 projects. Continuation of this scheme is very essential for all round development of the region.</p>
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam	<p>I would like to bring to your kind notice that Hon'ble President of India has official retreats in various parts of the country. One Presidential Retreat in the North East will give the people of the region a greater sense of pride for the nation. I humbly suggest that a Presidential Retreat may be established in one of the North Eastern States and NEC may take lead in this matter.</p>
Shri N. Biren Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur	<p>Sir, NEC has been given priority for completion of ongoing projects by March 2020 and except for central sector projects like NERSDS and Smart Visual Class, which are at initial stage,</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>no new projects of the State has been taken up during 2018-19. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister, DoNER, Dr. Jitendraji and Secretary, Ministry of DoNER to whom I have written letters requesting to reconsider the decision taken to keep all projects sanctioned by NEC since 1st April, 2017 in abeyance for examination by Project Implementation Committee (PIC). While the PIC has recommended for continuation of these projects, five projects sanctioned during 2017-18 under anti-erosion, water supply and roads have been dropped. I appeal through this august House to allow State Government to continue execution of these sanctioned projects and provide budget provision under NEC.</p>
	<p>Further, to avoid delay in re-sanction and release of subsequent fund for these projects sanctioned by NEC during 2017-18, may I suggest for lifting the condition of vetting DPRs by line Ministry.</p>
	<p>I seek support of this august House to continue funding of Water Supply, Anti-Erosion and Sports sectors under NEC, since these sectors are not funded under NESIDS, except for tourism related water supply projects.</p>
	<p>My Government has undertaken a number of initiatives for reducing the gap in development between hill and valley and for inclusive growth of the state. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, several policy programmes have been initiated to reach out to the people of my state and to ensure all round development. All efforts have been made to spread awareness of our government policy and programmes and to improve delivery system by organizing various programme such as "Go to Village", "Go to Hills", "Hill Leaders Day", "Go to School", etc. Several projects are also</p>

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	<p>taken up in the hill districts on need basis. This includes construction of Women Market in Hill District Head quarter, construction of transit accommodation of doctors and teachers in the hilly and remote areas. All such new initiatives are expected to yield rich dividend in reducing interstate disparity in the level of development resulting in multiplier effect in boosting rural economy. However, to fulfill expectation of people and achieve the sustainable development goals by 2020, budgetary support from the centre is required. I appeal through this August house for support from NEC, Ministry of DoNER and other central Ministry so that NE states come at par with national average in all national development index.</p>
	<p>My Government is thankful to the Ministry of DoNER for the introduction of HADP in Tamenglong district of Manipur on pilot basis. Under this newly introduced programme, a sum of Rs. 90.00 crore is being sanctioned for infrastructure development of Tamenglong (including Noney) district. Recently, the M/o DoNER has been requested to extend this programme to all hill districts of Manipur. Let me take the privilege of today's August house to request the M/o DoNER to consider the proposal of state Government favourably.</p>
<p>Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya</p>	<p>The implementation of the projects sanctioned from April, 2017 onwards has been put on hold by the NEC. Out of 21 projects sanctioned for Meghalaya during 2017-18 and 2018-19, which have been duly recommended by the State Level Empowered Committee, NEC has so far allowed only 7 (seven) projects to be continued. There has been no response, either from the Ministry of DoNER or the NEC on the remaining 14 projects in spite of repeated requests made by the State Government. These 14 projects are of critical importance to the State and include projects relating to road infrastructure, water supply,</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	irrigation, rural entrepreneurship promotion and building schools.
	Work on many of these 14 projects has already begun and the physical progress of work is almost 30% in some projects. It will be impossible for the State Government to implement these projects without the sanction and funding support from NEC. These projects will remain unfinished unless funds are allocated by NEC. I appeal through this august house to accord the highest priority to this issue and to ensure the sanction and implementation of these projects.
	Another reform that is urgently needed is with regard to the process for approval of the projects submitted by the State Governments to NEC. The current process is long winding and hence time consuming leading to inordinate delays in project approval. Currently clearances are required from four different committees – The Project Identification Committee (PIC) chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of DoNER recommends the projects, the sectoral empowered Committee (SEC) chaired by Member, NEC vets and endorses the selected projects, the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) chaired by the Chief Secretary does the technical and economic appraisal of the DPRs and the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) chaired by the Secretary, DoNER appraises projects costing Rs.5 – Rs.15 crore. The current protracted approval mechanism needs to be rationalized. For instance, both the Project Identification Committee and the Standing Finance Committee may be chaired by the Secretary, NEC. This will facilitate expeditious identification, appraisal, approval and implementation of projects. Furthermore, the delegation of financial power to the Secretary, NEC may be adequately enhanced to empower NEC and to make its functioning effective.

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>I would also like to remind that in the last plenary meeting, the members of the NEC had unanimously raised the issue relating to the decision of the Expenditure Finance Committee under the Ministry of Finance to remove many important sectors from the purview of NEC. Currently NEC is focussing only on specific sectors like bamboo, piggery, regional tourism, higher education, tertiary healthcare, telemedicine, science & technology etc. The Guidelines of the NEC need to be revised to incorporate several crucial sectors such as Sports, School Education, Power, Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Supply, Tourism and Skill Development. This expansion of mandate will enable the NEC to function as a true regional development forum.</p>
<p>Pu Zoramthanga, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mizoram</p>	<p>A lot of wisdom had gone into the setting up of NEC. NEC was constituted as a statutory advisory body under the NEC Act 1971 (84 of 1971) and came into being on the 7th November, 1972. I am given to understand that the S.P. Shukla Committee constituted by the erstwhile Planning Commission inter-alia, have recommended the North Eastern Council to be re-designated as North Eastern Development Council with a bigger role in socio-economic development of the region. The Hon'ble Chairman may like to examine the recommendation so as to strengthen effectiveness of the North Eastern Council.</p>
	<p>Another important issue is construction for hilly areas. Cost of construction in the North Eastern Region and other hilly states has been relatively high as compared to plain areas for several reasons. We often face problems relating to 'one size fits all' approach in costing of project. Separate cost norm for north eastern and hilly states are required by allowing relaxation in costs and eligibility norms including timeline. Hon'ble Chairman may like to entrust NITI Aayog to take up this matter.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>I would also like to reiterate role clarity between Ministry of DONER and NEC. A scrutiny of duties and functions of these two entities indicate a fair amount of overlap in their functions. It is suggested that as a regional planning body, the NEC can play a more meaningful role as a body of regional planning, allocation of funds, and monitoring of development projects in the North East, while policy and coordination with all line Ministries for NE States be handled by Ministry of DONER.</p>
<p>Shri Neiphiu Rio, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland</p>	<p>I would like to inform that during May last year, projects that had been sanctioned in 2017-18 were kept on hold. Nagaland has a total of 51 such projects. Out of these, 21 projects have been approved for continuation. In such a situation, I am constrained to request that the remaining projects may be reviewed for concurrence as there has been no budgetary provision for new projects since 2018-19.</p>
	<p>I am happy to see that the revised guidelines for NEC have done away with the system of priority lists and retained schemes. However, the new system is proving to be cumbersome and time taking. Projects now require clearances of four committees viz., PIC (Project Identification Committee) chaired by Secretary, Ministry of DoNER, SLEC (State Level Empowered Committee) chaired by the respective Chief Secretaries, SEC (Sectoral Empowered Committee) chaired by Hon'ble Member, NEC and SFC (Standing Finance Committee) chaired by Secretary, Ministry of DoNER. I would like to suggest that SLEC may be done away with, since NEC has a full strength of engineers headed by a Chief Engineer. Taking advantage of the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for DoNER, I would like to reiterate the need for simplifying the process of selection and sanctioning of projects under NESIDS in the Ministry of DoNER.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>I would suggest that State-wise budget be earmarked and that we do away with multiple levels of screening projects as this is too time-consuming. Towards this end, the NEC may either send its team for verification and/or the State Government team of officials may be called to present all necessary verification documents. This will significantly reduce the issue of too many formalities and too many guidelines. With such comprehensive measures and systems in place, I believe that this will enable the North Eastern States to be active partners in building the 'New India' as envisaged by our Hon'ble Prime Minister.</p>
<p>Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim</p>	<p>The NEC has contributed immensely to the Agriculture Sector, Irrigation and Flood Control, Medical and Health and in the field of Education, Science and Technology, Industries, promotion of Arts and Culture in the region. However, on the recommendation of the Expenditure Finance Committee in 2017 and on approval of the Cabinet in March 2018 six crucial sectors i.e. Power, Irrigation and Flood Control, Water Supply, Sports, School Education and Primary & Secondary Healthcare have been taken away from the mandate of NEC. Given the fact that core competence of NEC has been institution building, human resource development, infrastructure, etc., many of the above sectors may be restored to the NEC for both continuity and consistency.</p>
	<p>We also see a strong case for a quantum increase in the NEC's allocation by the Union Government. This regional planning body must be backed by sufficient resources so that issues which have inter-state, regional and national ramifications could be addressed adequately. What is more specifically needed at this juncture is a strict monitoring and evaluation of across the board projects funded by the NEC.</p>
	<p>We urge both the Ministry of DoNER and NEC to focus on eight</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	<p>crucial sectors in the course of next 5-10 years. These include diverse institution building; projects that bring substantive gains to the region from the Act East Policy of India; skilling and capacity building of the youth population; tourism and other service sectors like health, education and trade; water and environmental conservations; sound and efficient governance; agriculture; and four way infrastructure building as I just mentioned.</p>
	<p>We are a firm believer in collective regional performance and deliveries by the North East states as whole. The slackness and dullness in the development activities of the NEC seen in the last two years bring some degree of pessimism among us. No fresh sanctions and fund releases have taken place during 2018-19 and 2019-20. This is despite the fact that we have a series of highly productive and remunerative projects in the pipeline.</p> <p>For us in Sikkim, the normative allocation of 7% in the last 5 years has been less as compared to the other North Eastern States. As against the allocation to Sikkim from NEC of Rs. 192.41 crore, the actual fund received has just been Rs. 168.87 crore during 2014-15 to 2018-19.</p> <p>This shortfall of Rs. 24 crore has been calculated as per NEC's total release minus release to other States which totals to Rs. 2748.72 crore.</p>
	<p>Out of the total 165 projects sanctioned by the North Eastern Council in Sikkim we have completed 142. For the remaining and ongoing 23 projects, the funds requiring sanctions amount to Rs. 44.83 crore. The NEC may instantly release the remaining funds to enable us to complete all these projects. In this regard, we once again fervently request the Union Ministry of Finance to allocate sufficient funds to Ministry of DoNER and</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
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	NEC. These actions are urgently needed.
Shri Biplab Kumar Deb, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura	NEC may be reoriented from time to time according to the shifting demands of NE Region so that it can play a pivotal role as a Regional Planning Body.
	In NEC and many central schemes, the state is being asked to release the state share first. This is a clear deviation from the earlier practice. The releases from NEC and central ministries may not be made conditional i.e. release of state share first. This delays the implementation of the projects and puts severe constraints on the finances of the State. The issue needs to be favourably looked into.

Sector: Security related matters

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
<p>Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh</p>	<p>In Arunachal Pradesh, there are three districts viz. Tirap, Changlang and Longding (TLC) and four Police Stations viz. Namsai, Mahadevpur, Roing and Sunpura under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.</p> <p>Our Daily Summary of Information (DSI) are reporting increased insurgency and anti national activities in TCL areas of terrorists from Assam, Manipur, Bodoland and other Northeastern Separatists organizations. These non-indigenous insurgents are considering Arunachal Pradesh as a safe haven for their hideouts, extortion, and fresh recruitment operations. There is an intense drive by various insurgent groups to pick local youth from TLC areas for their recruitment.</p> <p>After 2019, Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha simultaneous elections, NSCN (IM) ambushed and killed an elected MLA from Tirap District along with 10 others in broad daylight. To counter such dreadful incident, counter insurgency operations were launched by the armed forces and our security forces have succeeded in arresting some of the key suspects involved in the killings. I seek cooperation from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to provide assistance to our State and bolster our counter insurgency operations, by providing men, material and technological help.</p>
	<p>Our Government is working tirelessly to maintain law and order, peace and harmony in the State. Policing in a diverse and sensitive State like our's requires unique skills and specialized training. In follow up of this drive our State will be bringing out its own Police Act shortly. We need support of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in upgrading the existing facilities in Police Training College, in districts police lines and setting up of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) in all districts. We are committed to bring visible reforms in policing in the State.</p>

Points raised by	Important Points
[1]	[2]
Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura	<p>The work of fencing on the India-Bangladesh border is in full swing and the remaining work is being speeded up. Gomti River should be declared as India-Bangladesh protocol route at the earliest so that Tripura can be used as an entry door to the North East.</p>
	<p>The Indian Government has taken many important steps for the Bru Refugees in Tripura from Mizoram. But, here I would like to mention that the problem is not yet resolved and we should keep trying for its resolution.</p>
Shri Prem Singh Tamang, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim	<p>On top of this we live with constant threat of natural disasters and hazard vulnerability risk. Given what is happening on the other sides of our international borders, we require policy and resource interventions in the border area development projects by both the Union Government agencies and also the Ministry of DoNER and the NEC. We shall have to unflinchingly ensure our national security; protect and promote human security interests and strive for diverse aspects of environmental security.</p>
Dr Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur	<p>The North East is especially vulnerable to drug trafficking and concomitant issues like drug abuse, HIV-AIDS and Hepatitis-C. Large scale recent seizures at various places in the region by different law enforcing agencies are ample proof of this menace. Ganja and poppy are widely cultivated in the NE region and poverty is the key factor which drives unemployed locals to take such cultivation. A concerted effort by all stakeholders in the region for controlling the illicit opium poppy cultivation is essential as it has reached an alarming situation. The means and knowledge of alternative means of livelihood should be provided to the cultivators and this is where the NEC can play a vital role by providing the wherewithal. I would like to request for a pro-active role of the NEC in checking the proliferation of drug trafficking and drug abuse in the region.</p>

PART – II

ANNEXURE

SPEECHES (VERBATIM) OF HON'BLE HOME MINISTER,
HON'BLE MOS (DONER), HON'BLE GOVERNORS AND
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTERS, PERMANENT MEMBERS OF NEC



**SPEECH
OF
SHRI AMIT SHAH,
HON'BLE HOME MINISTER**

**AT
THE 68th NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL MEETING**

**8th – 9th September, 2019
GUWAHATI**

Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, NEC, Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other guests present, on the occasion of 68th Plenary Session of North Eastern Council, I welcome you all.

On the occasion of 65th Plenary Session of NEC in May, 2016, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had said, "If the western region of the country can develop, if other regions of the country can develop then I see no reason why the Northeastern region of the country cannot develop. I also believe that if India develops all the regions including the North-East region, India can move forward. Our North East regions are also very important for strategic reasons and it is my firm commitment to bring this region at par with other developed regions of the Country."

This gives importance that we are responsible for all round development of this region. With the belief that north eastern region has an important role in all round development of the country, this government has taken many big initiative in the last five years and will continue in the future as well.

Under the new arrangement, Home Minister, as the chairman of NEC and Minister of DoNER, NEC provides a forum to discuss inter-state affairs more broadly and also consider common approaches to be adopted in future. For this reason, the Director Generals of Police of all the north eastern states have been invited to this meeting. The NEC can now discuss inter-state issues like drug trafficking, arms smuggling, border disputes etc. This re-establishment of the NEC will help it become a more effective body for the NE region.

As you can also see, for the first time in the history of the NEC, all the members of Parliament of this region have been invited to this Plenary. This will give the representatives of the regions an opportunity to participate in the deliberations of this dignified planning body. This brings not only the Ministry of DoNER but also the Parliament to the threshold of the people of the North Eastern region.

Special attention has been paid to improving Physical infrastructure. The Economic Survey of India for 2018-19 has rightly commented that, "Special attention has been paid to the infrastructure of the NE states and there has been a significant improvement in connectivity with construction of important bridges, and expansion of

railways/highways. In Assam 4.94 Km long Bogibeel bridge was inaugurated in December, 2018; it is Asia's second longest rail-cum-roads bridge."

Many roads of the interstate nature, funded by NEC, were not developed further by most states for various reasons. These roads, called orphan roads require immediate restoration and upgrading for inter-state connectivity in the region. The NEC, in consultation with the State Governments, identified economically important but neglected roads in the eight north eastern states. Based on this initiative, a new scheme North East Road Sector Development Schemes (NERSDS) was launched by the Ministry of DoNER during 2015-16 and an amount of Rs. 450 crore was approved for the scheme by March 2017. The cabinet extended the scheme from April 2017 to March 2020 and provided an additional amount of Rs. 1000 crore. I am happy to say that this year within the first 100 days of the present Government 10 roads & bridges have been approved under NERSDS at cost of Rs. 895.00 crore.

Addressing the 65th Plenary of NEC in May 2016, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said that, "You can consider developing the NEC as a state-of-the-art resource centre for the NE states with necessary resources, Knowledge and skills. Resource centre states and implementing agencies to plan and execute projects properly, increasing research and innovations may enable to deliver and provide a strategic policy vision for the region." As a step towards realizing the vision expressed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, tourism in IIM Shillong, Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) logistics development and development of some important areas such as 3-H Mission-Handloom, Handicrafts and Horticulture within North East Region establishment of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis to provide strategic policy support for a tripartite agreement was signed in October, 2016 among Ministry of DoNER, NEC & IIM Shillong. I am told that Rs. 15.00 crore for infrastructure and Rs. 5.00 crore per year for the centre have been set aside for recurring costs. I am happy to note that a temporary infrastructure has been set up at IIM Shillong in July 2018 and the man power recruitment and preliminary research work has been started by the Centre. I urge the NEC and the Centre to expedite sustainable facilities and submit practical policy recommendations.

I am happy to say that to accelerate the economic uplift of the North East through scientific intervention, the office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and the Ministry of

DoNER, of the Government of India in partnership has launched a new initiative of the Government of India in the North East, which is named “Science and Technology Intervention in the North East Region (STINER). Under this initiative appropriate technologies required for the North East region will be developed and disseminated by the Rural Technology Action Group of reputed institutions like various IITs and BARC. During 2018-19, NEC approved Rs. 40.00 crore for establishment of a STINER-Common facility Centre (STINER-CFC), and incubation hub at the Institute of Science & Technology, Jorhat. For this the Hub and spoke approach has been adopted and 8 Spokes will be installed in all the NE States, where all related technology will be demonstrated.

In the month of January, 2018, with the goal of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas” the Hon'ble Prime Minister has prepared a program called “Transforming aspiring districts”. The objective of this program is to rapidly rejuvenate the most backward districts of the Country, 14 of which are in the North East. I am told that NEC & Ministry of DoNER have appointed their own nodal officers and they are actively coordinating the development efforts with the District Administration and NITI Aayog. I would urge all stakeholders to work to make the situation of these identified districts the best in the country.

It is a well-known fact that the community system is one of the strengths of the region. I was told that the North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP), a community based livelihood project has improved the financial condition of a large number of rural households. NERCORMP-III was launched in January, 2014 and operated in Chaglang, Tirap and Longding districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Churachandpur & Chandel districts in Manipur. The total cost of NERCORMP phase-III is Rs. 540.00 crore. Under NERCORMP phase-III, the project is currently operational in 30 blocks covering 58789 houses in 1212 villages. With the end of NERCORMP phase-III in March, 2020, the Government is working towards an advanced program with a wide scope and strong focus on rural entrepreneurship.

On this occasion I would like to announce that the NEC will then take measures for focused development of the deprived/marginalized sections of the deprived areas and the emerging priority sector of the society. These include greening of the north east through aforestation of barren hills and other traditional forest areas; Development and

expansion of organic farming; Development of neglected ethnic groups/tribes such as Bru, Chakma etc. in the North East. NEC will also undertake study work on all the languages/scripts of the NE states, including measures to revive the lost language/scripts; a study on infiltration from Bangladesh and corrective methods; measures or steps to resolve any other inter-state disputes between North eastern states or that are relevant to the NE region are also included.

I believe, still there are some areas and villages in each State which have not been developed which needs to be identified and shall be provided with electricity, toilet, gas, proper roads etc on priority basis.

I propose that the NEC should earmark 30% of its scheme budget to be centrally funded in these priority areas.

In 2022, we will be celebrating 75 years of independence, therefore, NEC should make a road map of development of North East for the target year 2022 keeping in view culture, language, dialect, law & order, security etc pertaining to NER. The Government of India has zero tolerance against revolt of arms. Hence, all eight States of NER should also follow the same. I would also like to assure the NE States that Govt. of India respect the special status given to NE State under article 371 and 371 A to J of the constitution of India.

I believe, the development of NE region cannot be speeded up without proper road, rail and air-connectivity. Hence, efforts should be made to complete the Bharat Mala Project on priority and to bring all the NE States on air and railway map by the year 2022. NE States are very rich in natural resources such as bamboo which shall be harnessed to the fullest for the benefit of the State, which will also reduce the import of the country and save foreign exchange.

I believe that the goal of a \$ 5 trillion economy, inspired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, will be achieved only when the NE region achieves its full potential. I hope all these important issues will be discussed in the Plenary meeting and concrete recommendations will be made to help achieve the grand objective. With these remarks, I would like to conclude my address and look forward to the deliberations in the meeting.

Thank You.



**68th PLENARY
OF
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
(8th and 9th September, 2019)**

**ADDRESS OF
DR JITENDRA SINGH, HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT
CHARGE), MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
AT THE 68TH PLENARY SESSION OF THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**

**ON THE
8TH SEPTEMBER, 2019**

**At the
ASSAM STATE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE,
GUWAHATI**

DR JITENDRA SINGH, HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE), MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION ADDRESS AT THE 68th PLENARY SESSION OF THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL ON 8th SEPTEMBER, 2019

Hon'ble Chairman, NEC, Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other guests present, on the occasion of 68th Plenary Session of North Eastern Council, I welcome you all to the Plenary to discuss various issues of socio-economic development of the States of the North East.

I am glad that for the second consecutive year we are meeting in one of cities of this Region. ***It has been the conscious decision of the Government to come to the doorstep of the people of the Region*** and discuss issues concerning them.

Over the last five years the NEC has been strengthened considerably. ***The annual allocations have increased from Rs 579 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 1055 crore in 2018-19, and more than 60 per cent of this allocation had gone to the states.*** The rest goes towards implementation of pan-regional development projects by the Central Agencies. Further, as I had mentioned last year, the Schemes of the NEC has now become a Central Sector Scheme with 100% Central funding for new projects. This has provided the much needed relief to the States.

For the year 2019-20 NEC has been given its highest Budgetary Allotment of Rs 1476 crore. This is primarily to clear existing liabilities of the on-going projects as advised by the Cabinet while approving the continuation of the existing schemes of the NEC beyond March 2017. However, to enable NEC to take up new projects during the current year, DoNER Ministry has already initiated the process of enhancing the NEC Budget for 2019-20.

The Cabinet in its meeting held on the 27th March, 2018 had stressed on clearing the existing liabilities of the on-going projects of the NEC. For this purpose, NEC had organised 13 meetings with the states during 2018-19 for clearing the existing liabilities of on-going projects. ***As a result, 118 projects could be closed during the year after completing all formalities.*** This has been possible because states have been cooperating through mobilisation of their Implementing

Departments on the ground. I urge upon all the States to carry out regular review of their on-going projects and ensure their timely completion.

With sustained efforts and close coordination with the State Governments, my Ministry has already spent 31% of its budgetary allocation in the current financial year. The enhanced pace of fund utilization is also evident from the fact that Utilization Certificates worth Rs. 726.03 crore have been submitted by the State Governments for the schemes of this Ministry, in this year alone. This includes Utilization Certificates for an amount of Rs. 298.83 crore for projects funded by the NEC, which has been facilitated by an online portal for Utilization Certificates developed in-house through NIC-NEC collaboration. The State Governments are further requested to continue their efforts to main the impetus achieved in this area.

To further accelerate the development process in the NE Region, in February 2018, the NITI-NER Forum was constituted to periodically review the development status in Region. The Forum, chaired by the Vice-Chairman NITI AAYOG and co-chaired by the Vice Chairman NEC with the Secretary NEC as its member Secretary, consists of the Chief Secretaries of the NE states, Secretaries of crucial Ministries of the Government of India as well as experts in various developmental subject relating to the NE states.

The Forum's first meeting was held on 10th April 2018 at Agartala where not only members, but Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers and Ministers from various NE states participated. In its 2nd meeting held on 4th December, 2018, the Forum narrowed the discussion to five important areas i.e., tea, tourism, dairy, pisciculture and bamboo. These five areas have direct impact on the livelihood and income of a large section of the people of the Region and the recommendations have been taken forward by NITI AAYOG for further action by the concerned stakeholder Ministries.

This Government has big plans for the NEC. ***After the Government took over just 100 days ago, NEC prepared a 5 year Vision Plan for the development of the Region. Upgradation of NEC to a state-of-the-art resource centre for the North Eastern states with the necessary resources, knowledge and skills, construction of over 1,000 KM of roads under NE Road Sector Development Scheme, setting up Greenfield airports at Kohima and Shillong at the cost of***

Rs 1,000 crore each, combating climate change and water stress through water source rejuvenation are some of the highlights of the Vision Plan.

Besides, the recommendations of the NITI-NER Forum make up a significant component of the Vision document. The States and the Central Ministries should work together to achieve the objectives of the Vision.

I am happy to announce that this year itself, one of the major digital projects for providing smart classrooms in all the 14 Aspirational Districts of the Region is being sanctioned by NEC. The process of obtaining the details of all the schools to be provided this facility has been completed and the project will be sanctioned very shortly.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister had advised that NEC should develop specialised domain expertise either by itself or through an agency model to assist states and central ministries in their development planning as also problem solving needs. **Keeping this in mind, besides the APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research which was set up at IIM Shillong in July 2018, the Brahmaputra Study Centre was sanctioned in July 2018 at a cost of Rs 28 crore for setting up within the Gauhati University campus.** This Centre will conduct research in different aspects of the river Brahmaputra such as hydrology, waterways, environment, disaster/flood management, hydro-power production etc. and will assist in disaster mitigation as well as socio-economic development planning of the entire Region.

I am also glad to mention that the NEC has been taking up activities in other parts of the country for the benefit of the people from the North East. In order to provide accommodation to the girls students from North Eastern Region studying in Bangalore, the NEC funded a **300 capacity girls' hostel at the Bangalore University campus, which was inaugurated on the 6th March, 2019 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.** NEC has also sanctioned the construction of a **hostel for the North East Students at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi at a cost of Rs. 28.67 crore.** Besides, an iconic **North Eastern Council Cultural and Convention Centre costing approximately Rs 94 crore has been planned by the NEC at Dwarka, New Delhi** for the benefit of the NE Region. This infrastructure will go a long way in providing the much needed accommodation to the students and increasing the visibility of the Region in the rest of the country.

To celebrate the vibrant strengths of the North East, the **NEC in collaboration with the India International Centre (IIC), organised “Experiencing North East” at the India International Centre, New Delhi from the 27th to 31st October 2018.** This event was part of the Destination North East Series funded by the NEC and included displays of art, handicrafts, handlooms, textiles, tourism, food, culture, music, dance etc. In addition, workshops focusing on various themes like Adventure Tourism, Investment Opportunities, Value chains in Food/ Agriculture/ Horticulture, etc provided opportunities for brainstorming.

It also gives me immense pleasure to inform the Plenary that with the objective of showcasing the rich diversity of the Northeast in one of the largest social-cultural-religious events in the world, the **NEC also participated in the Ardh Kumbh Mela in January-February 2019** by exhibiting various arts and crafts, textiles, and ethnic products of the NE states.

In conclusion, I once again welcome all to this 68th Plenary and look forward to the deliberations and recommendations in the coming sessions.



ADDRESS

BY

Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.)

HON'BLE GOVERNOR

OF

ARUANCHAL PRADESH

68TH PLENARY OF

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

AT

GUWAHATI

ON

8th & 9th September 2019

**Hon'ble Chairman, North Eastern Council, Shri Amit Shah Ji,
Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, North Eastern Council, Shri Jitendra Singh Ji,
Hon'ble Governors of North Eastern States,
Hon'ble Chief Ministers of North Eastern States,
Respected Members of NEC,
Learned Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region,
Learned Secretary NEC,
Learned Secretaries of Government of India,
Senior Officers from Government of India and State Governments,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I take it as an honour to participate in this 68th Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council. This is second time that I am attending this august gathering. This platform provides us an opportunity to come together for synergizing our efforts and enhance our developmental speed, in North Eastern Region.

I convey my appreciation to the esteemed members and officials of the North Eastern Council and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (NER) for organizing this important meeting.

North Eastern Council has worked tirelessly in last 47 years for the socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region. Under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, this esteemed institution has picked up momentum and contributed immensely in various civic amenities Sectors like education, healthcare, agriculture, horticulture, tourism, regional connectivity etc. I am sure the North Eastern Council will act as a Think Tank to usher inclusive development in the region.

I would like to mention here that my Government has, in the last few years, made remarkable progress in the development of Arunachal Pradesh and has been able to activate some of the hitherto unexplored areas of developmental Governance. The State Government has streamlined the governance and administration, to make it transparent, corruption free and people friendly. While formulating plans and policies, all sections of the society are now being engaged for friction free and all encompassing developmental works. In last thirty years, since Arunachal Pradesh became a State, developmental issues have been receiving

attention of the Government of the day. However, it is important to note that despite all that, in almost all the sectors, there are areas of concern which have to be addressed now for solution in the years to come. The biggest problem which the State faces now is that of the lack of robust Land, Air, Internet and Mobile Network Connectivity. This derogates from the developmental needs as well as security parameters of the State.

Skill Development, infrastructure and Entrepreneurship Development Facilities are in primitive stage. Educational and health care infrastructure developments in Arunachal Pradesh need extensive effort. Government job seeking mindset still looms large amongst our parents and youth. There is absence of Quality and specialised medical service facilities in remote and distant areas of the State. Aggregation of Agro-Horticulture produce and providing adequate backward and forward linkages in the Agriculture Sector still remain a daunting task. Remarkable opportunities are available in the Tourism Sector, which due to lack of connectivity in the State are yet to be truly realised. Huge Hydro Power potential existing in the State is yet to be tapped. The huge arable land potential in the State, due to primitive ways of tilling is laying waste. Industrial sector in the State has not picked up as yet which is a major source of employment in any developing State. Due to the poor credit profile of the State, people are not able to start new business ventures. The Credit Deposit Ratio of banks in the state is less than 30 against a norm of 60, which shows that the outreach of the banking sector and financial inclusion in the state is grossly inadequate.

In this back drop, I would like to address some important issues which, albeit, pertain to my State but are common, in large measures, to all the North Eastern States.

INSURGENCY AND ANTI-NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In Arunachal Pradesh, there are three districts viz. Tirap, Changlang and Longding (TLC) and four Police Stations viz. Namsai, Mahadevpur, Roing and Sunpura under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act.

Our Daily Summary of Information (DSI) are reporting increased insurgency and anti national activities in TCL areas of terrorists from Assam, Manipur, Bodoland

and other Northeastern Separatists organizations. These non-indigenous insurgents are considering Arunachal Pradesh as a safe haven for their hideouts, extortion, and fresh recruitment operations. There is an intense drive by various insurgent groups to pick local youth from TLC areas for their recruitment.

After 2019, Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha simultaneous elections, NSCN (IM) ambushed and killed an elected MLA from Tirap District along with 10 others in broad daylight. To counter such dreadful incident, counter insurgency operations were launched by the armed forces and our security forces have succeeded in arresting some of the key suspects involved in the killings. I seek cooperation from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to provide assistance to our State and bolster our counter insurgency operations, by providing men, material and technological help.

IMPROVING THE POLICING IN THE STATE

Our Government is working tirelessly to maintain law and order, peace and harmony in the State. Policing in a diverse and sensitive State like our's requires unique skills and specialized training. In follow up of this drive our State will be bringing out its own Police Act shortly. We need support of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in upgrading the existing facilities in Police Training College, in districts police lines and setting up of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) in all districts. We are committed to bring visible reforms in policing in the State.

UPGRADATION OF EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Majority of the educational infrastructure and schools in the State were constructed, decades ago, during NEFA days. These are in dilapidated condition. Though the upgradation work of these infrastructure is in hand but the task is huge and extensive. Our State, owing to difficult terrain, far-flung habitats, vast territory and limited resources, needs substantial fund support from the Central Governments to improve the situation. I would, therefore, request NEC to make appropriation

provisions for upgradation of educational infrastructure like schools etc., which have long out lived their structural cohesiveness. This will solve our long pending problem of the very basic educational amenity for the students in the State.

CONSTRUCTION OF HOLLONGI AIRPORT

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji laid the foundation stone of Hollongi Airport in February 2019. This has given hope to our long cherished dream of connectivity of our State Capital with the rest of the Country. Its early construction will help the State to have reliable air connectivity and fully utilize its potential in the fields of investment, tourism, export-import and quick sale of perishable goods like flowers and orchids etc. I therefore, request the North Eastern Council to take up this matter with Airport Authority of India and expedite the completion of this airport without slippage well within 3 years.

VIJOYNAGAR CIRCLE AND ITS STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Our State shares and International Boundary of 460 kms with Myanmar. In the central part of this West to East stretch, there is a dragger-like undulated 750 Sq.km area, which has a tapering length of 60 kms and the area ends in Myanmar with a width of 6 kms. In the far end of this area, there lies a small place named Vijoynagar. It has 15 Bastis and a population of nearly 5000 people. This place though has an old track alignment, is not connected by any motorable road till date. Miao-Vijoynagar road has now been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). However, due to difficult terrain and high construction cost, the road construction has not been under taken so far. This road passes through Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve. Robust road connectivity is required not only for bringing inclusive development in Vijoynagar but also for checking poaching of tigers and for conservation and protection of flora and fauna of this area. Our Government has now embarked upon the restoration of this road. We have since coordinated with the Border Road Organization, who also are constructing a Class 9 Road to Vijoynagar. It is planned to merge the two parallel roads into one and construct the road as early as possible. I seek support of the NEC and all Central Government ministries for making this dream project a success.

AMENDMENT IN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (NIT) ACT

Each State in our country has been given NIT to fulfil the quality education need in the field of engineering, science and technology. We have one NIT in our State. As of now, Board of Governors (BoG) of NITs consist of two nominated members from the State, one each from the field of Science and Business. There is no representation of any administrative or legislative member from the State in the BoM. In last two years, my experience has been that even from basic amenities like approach roads, electricity, water, security issues. NITs have not route to approach the State Government. Hence it is my suggestion that NIT ACT should be amended so that Education Minister and Education Secretary of the concerned States are designated as the ex-officio members of Board of Governors (BoG) of NITs. This will ensure State Government's speedy assistance to the NITs in time of need.

INNOVATION, TRANSPARENCY & SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

NEC can play a lead role in becoming the Think Tank for North Eastern Region. There is, therefore, a need to bring in Domain Experts in NEC to focus on developing clear cut roadmap for helping sizable investments in the Region. Not only does North Eastern Region require adequate funds, but it also requires technical experts who may suggest ways and means to bridge the massive gap in development of North Eastern region and the rest of India. For instance, my State Arunachal Pradesh has a vast land area by is struggling to tap its potential due to lack of human resource and technology. I would urge NEC to institute a detailed study as to how the massive area of my state can act as a boon for the region. The study must then translate into action by adequate funding through various sources.

NEC must also find ways to showcase the best practices of the States in the NER which can be replicated so that whole Region benefits from this common forum. Recently NITI Aayog has formed NITI forum to address the regional imbalance in the North Eastern Region. I would urge NEC to use this opportunity to emerge as the Planning Body of the North Eastern Region by tying up with NITI Aayog.

There is a huge scope of development in the North-East Region which has now been taken up by the Government of India. In the gamut of potentials for development, my State Arunachal Pradesh tops the list in the North Eastern Region. Going by the Action Philosophy of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas", left this Council resolve to create a New North Eastern Region and make its progress conspicuous at the earliest. In the quest for progress, my State, Arunachal Pradesh will always remain in forefront.

Jai Hind!



**68TH PLENARY OF
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**

**SPEECH BY
Prof. Jagdish Mukhi
Hon'ble Governor of Assam**

**8th & 9th September 2019
Guwahati**

Speech of Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor of Assam for the 68th Plenary of North Eastern Council

Honourable Chairman of the 68th Plenary of North Eastern Council Shri Amit Shah ji, Respected Minister of DoNER Shri Jitendra Singh ji, Respected Governors and Chief Ministers of the North eastern States present here, Members of NEC, Secretary of NEC and other dignitaries.

I feel privileged and happy to welcome you all to this august gathering. It is a great opportunity for all the North Eastern States to come together and to introspect on the development initiatives taken up in each NE States. The Council has striven to serve the needs of the North Eastern states through its focus on its special circumstances and needs. Despite many constraints, it has assisted in the planning and development efforts of the states of the Region. I am positive that the deliberations during this plenary meeting and the decisions reached by the Council would help in achieving even more meaningful contribution towards faster socio-economic development of the North East Region.

There are certain common factors that affect all the States of the Region, such as land locked character, closing of natural markets as well as trading routes, particularly with Bangladesh, and the only area that is linked with the rest of the Country by a narrow strip of land. It is also the area of the Country that has the maximum amount of international borders. Despite all these strengths and weaknesses of the North Eastern Region, it should be admitted that the Region has enormous potentialities to develop and prosper as one of the developed regions in the Country. Assam is strategically located in the North East and Guwahati is the gateway to the North Eastern Region. It is needless to mention that any development projects taken up in Assam, would as a natural corollary ensure that the benefits accrue to other states as well. Hence projects having multi-state impact should be given higher priority by the Ministry of DoNER for funding through NEC. For all round development of NE region, support from NEC is of utmost importance. Therefore, pending any further decision, I would urge upon the Ministry of DoNER and the NEC to continue providing financial assistance to the developmental programmes of the State beyond March, 2020. NEC should lay stress on developing connectivity of the region through airways and waterways. I would like to call upon the Ministry to develop trade and economic links since there are close

historical and cultural ties between the people of the North East and those of the nations of South East Asia in terms of culture, language, history, commerce and environment. These needs to be strengthened by ending the economic isolation of the region through opening of the border trade which will enable development of markets for primary commodities, industrial products and surplus agricultural produce and to facilitate cultural and tourism related interactions with its international neighbors. The “Look East Policy” which is an integral part of the NER Vision,2020 lays emphasis to improve trade ties with Bangladesh along with the countries in the east such as Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia.

Assam is strategically located and there has been considerable growth in Agriculture & Allied Sector. Mechanization, assured irrigation, rise in fertilizer consumption, use of HYV(High Yielding Variety) seeds and soil treatment are the priority areas of our state. There is need to lay emphasis on Agricultural growth and acceleration in Horticulture, Floriculture, Spices and Organic Farming along with creation of adequate non-farm activities. Our focus must be on environment friendly mechanisms in agriculture and also on organic cultivation. NEC may take the opportunity by investment in making North East an organic hub of Asia. We are yet to focus clear attention in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary sector. Food habits of liberalized India are changing. So also the global demand for animal products especially meat, milk and eggs. The potential for the development of animal husbandry is quite vast in the region with our low land man ratio, especially in the hills. Assam can emerge as a major player in India for meat production and its processing. This aspect deserves to be seriously considered. Bamboo is found abundantly in the state and with the new technology and markets emerging for the new bamboo products, it can be commercially exploited with great success.

Investment in selected sectors which will help in creating job opportunity for the youth of Assam. Skill development for enhancing employability of educated youths of Assam is an urgent necessity. By augmenting human capabilities and skills we can provide gainful employment to the huge youth population of the region. However, the state has certain constraints due to low level of industrial activity and lack of adequate numbers of professional and vocational training Institutes. More research work may be undertaken by NEC in this arena for generating employment opportunity in the state.

I may mention that flood and erosion problems faced by Assam in each and every year need to be tackled seriously. Projects under Water Resource sector may be continued and taken up for funding.

Now a day's tourism plays an important role in states development scenario. In view of the gradual increase in tourist flow to Assam, assistance from NEC in this sector is highly essential to fulfill the goal towards expansion of trade activities and full utilisation of the tourism potential in Assam. Tea gardens in Assam covers thousand acres of land. The tea industry in Assam also plays an important role in the state economy as well in the national economy. This will create employment opportunities for the unemployed youths.

Handloom is an important sector for upliftment of the status of women entrepreneur of our state. So NEC may come forward with the schemes related to Handloom sector especially in rural areas.

The NEC budget during 2018-19 was Rs 1135.00 crores against which normative allocation for Assam was fixed for Rs.136.00 crores. This trend of allocation for NEC is quite inadequate to address the hopes and aspirations of Assam and the region as a whole. Without sustainable backing from the NEC, it will be difficult for the State to reach the desired levels of growth and development as envisioned in the NER Vision 2020. The Government of India will require to review the fund allocation to the North Eastern Council by raising the annual budget size so as to enable the NEC to fulfill its mandate for ensuring sustainable growth and development in Assam and the North East.

In conclusion, I wish that the deliberations over these two days will be fruitful so as to strengthen the North Eastern Council to not only provide the much needed support for the development of the North Eastern Region but also to be better equipped to cater to the demands and aspirations of the region. I thank the Hon'ble Chairman and the distinguished Members of the Council and the dignitaries/ officials present here, for having given me the opportunity to put forth my views.

Thank you all,

JAI HIND



GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

**ADDRESS
OF
DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA,
Hon'ble Governor of Manipur**

**AT
THE 68th NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL MEETING**

**8th – 9th September, 2019
GUWAHATI**

Hon'ble Home Minister & Chairman of the North Eastern Council, Shri Amit Shahji, Hon'ble Minister of DoNER, Dr. Jitendra Singhji, Hon'ble Members of Parliament from the North Eastern States, my Distinguished Colleagues & Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege to participate today in this 68th Plenary of the North Eastern Council. I take this opportunity to welcome Shri Amit Shahji, Hon'ble Union Minister for Home Affairs and Chairman of North Eastern Council. I am sure under the guidance of our dynamic Hon'ble Prime Minister and your leadership and understanding of the North East and able hand of Dr. Jitendra Singhji, Hon'ble Minister of DoNER, the concerns of the north eastern States for faster economic growth and peace will be addressed. I also take this opportunity to appreciate and applaud the efforts of the Ministry of DoNER and NEC for inviting some of the Central Ministries to make presentations on their programmes for the North Eastern Region. I am sure today's deliberation will be fruitful and decisions will be taken to enrich the road map for socio-economic development of the region.

2. ENHANCEMENT OF ALLOCATION OF NEC FUNDS

You will agree with me that there is still a large gap between the resources available and the needs of all the north eastern States. The amount provided to the North Eastern Council, which is less than Rs. 800 crores for eight NE States, is too small to make any meaningful impact on the development of inter-state physical infrastructure, or human development, in the eight-member States. As per Economic Survey 2018-19, Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices of these eight States continue to be very low hovering around 2.72% of total All India during 2016-17. You will agree that without a quantum jump in the NEC allocation, it will be difficult for NEC to provide fund for core areas identified for economic development of NER States. Considering our bona-fide requirements of the economically backward small States of the NE Region, I draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Home Ministerji through this august house for sustained enhancement of NEC and Ministry of DoNER budget to catch up with the development a the national average by 2030.

3. REVISED GENERAL GUIDELINES & REVISED SECTORAL GUIDELINES OF NEC

Sir, in the last 67th Council meeting, revised General Guidelines and revised Sectoral scheme guidelines of NEC were approved. However, with the introduction of revised Guidelines, major sectors like Power, Irrigation, Flood Control, Water Supply and Sports Sectors, which are also not included under NESIDS, except for tourism related, have been excluded from the NEC mandate. Several members of this Council and my Government had expressed the desire for continuation of these sectors within the ambit of the NEC funding.

4. CONTINUATION OF APPROVED WORKS

My Government has requested to allow continuation of new projects already sanctioned by NEC during 2017-18 under above mentioned sectors. I am informed that five projects of Flood Control, water supply and roads have been dropped by Project Identification Committee (PIC), because these sectors are no more under NEC mandate. Chairman Sir, these sectors may be continued under NEC and funding extended for projects already sanctioned by NEC.

5. SMART VISUAL CLASSROOM

I am happy to learn that NEC has initiated for the introduction of Smart Visual Classroom across the entire NE States. Under the scheme, students will benefit by e-learning. My Government has already identified schools with the mandatory facilities. My Government will provide all the necessary inputs as per the requirement of the NEC.

6. EXPANSION OF NERCORM-IV

I would like to draw the attention of the Chairman that North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society (NERCORM) has been implementing livelihood projects successfully in hill areas of Manipur. I understand that Ministry of DoNER is taking up phase-IV projects in the NER. My State has submitted proposal for expansion of NERCORM project to Imphal East, Jiribam, Tamenglong and Kamjong District. I would like to request for extension of NERCORM project till the

end of XV Finance Commission period and also to include these four districts in the NERCORM-IV expansion.

7. DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS IN THE NORTH EAST

The North East is especially vulnerable to drug trafficking and concomitant issues like drug abuse, HIV-AIDS and Hepatitis-C. Large scale recent seizures at various places in the region by different law enforcing agencies are ample proof of this menace. Ganja and poppy are widely cultivated in the NE region and poverty is the key factor which drives unemployed locals to take such cultivation. A concerted effort by all stakeholders in the region for controlling the illicit opium poppy cultivation is essential as it has reached an alarming situation. The means and knowledge of alternative means of livelihood should be provided to the cultivators and this is where the NEC can play a vital role by providing the wherewithal. I would like to request for a pro-active role of the NEC in checking the proliferation of drug trafficking and drug abuse in the region. I have taken an initiative for the State Government of Manipur to co-host with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for South Asia as 2-day Regional International Conference cum Meeting on the theme 'Comprehensive Approach to combating illicit trafficking of Afghan Opiates and Drug situation in North East' at Imphal on 30 September – 01 October, 2019. Representatives from 6 countries under UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, officials from 7 States of the North East and the representatives of law enforcement agencies from the Government of India will participate. This is an opportunity to the North Eastern States to share their concerns.

8. VISION 2030

I would like to inform that as per the latest Economic Survey 2018-19 Report, the per Capita Net Domestic Product at current prices of my State stood at Rs. 57888 against the All India per Capita Net National Income (NNI) of Rs. 104659. My Government has a vision for the State to catch up with all India average of NNI and other major indicators of sustainable development goals by 2030. To achieve this goal, the important sectoral targets set are (i) Reducing Infrastructural deficit, (ii) Sustaining growth in agricultural and allied sectors, (iii) Expanding and strengthening capacity of key social sectors – Health, education, women and child welfare, nutrition

and food security, (iv) Inclusiveness, (v) Social and regional equity, (vi) Capacity building and Skill Development, and (vii) Institutional decentralization. We require budgetary support of North Eastern Council and Ministry of DoNER.

9. NEW INITIATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENT

My Government has undertaken a number of initiatives for reducing the gap of development between hill and valley and inclusive growth. Various policy programmes have been launched to connect with people and for ensuring all round development of the people of the State. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri N. Biren Singh under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Modiji has improved the delivery system of various Central and State programmes through pro-people programmes such as "Go to Village", "Go to Hills", "Hill Leaders Day", "Go to School", etc. Several projects are also taken up in the hill districts on need basis. This includes construction of women market in hill district head quarters, construction of transit accommodation of doctors and teachers in the hilly and remote areas. All such new initiatives are expected to yield rich dividend in reducing interstate disparity in the level of development resulting in multiplier effect in boosting rural economy.

I would like to thank the Chairman of North Eastern Council & Union Minister of Home Affairs and Vice Chairman of NEC and Minister of DoNER for giving this opportunity for sharing my views and concern. I hope that my suggestions and views will be taken into consideration by the Council.

JAI HIND



Speech of
Shri Tathagata Roy
Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya

at the
68th Plenary
of
North Eastern Council
on
8th – 9th September, 2019

at
Assam Administrative Staff College,
Guwahati

Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Chairman, NEC, Shri Amit Shah Ji; Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of DoNER & Vice Chairman, NEC, Dr Jitendra Singh Ji; Distinguished Members of the North Eastern Council, Officials from the Government of India, N.E.C., State Governments and Friends.

1. I bring greetings of the people of Meghalaya to you, Sir, and to all the distinguished members of the NEC. It is a great privilege for me to be able to address this august gathering. At the outset, I would like to convey my best wishes to Shri Amit Shah Ji on his assumption of the office of the Chairman of the North Eastern Council. With his vast experience and expertise, I am certain that the North Eastern States would be well served.
2. Meghalaya has many unique strengths and opportunities that have to be leveraged upon to promote sustainable development. A salubrious climate conducive to agri-horticulture sectors and eco-tourism, untapped hydroelectric potential, human resources, forest resources, mineral resources and the social capital in the village communities are some of the key ones. Most of State's agriculture and horticulture produce is naturally organic, with farmers using traditional methods of cultivation. Further, 76.5 % of the State's area is under forest cover which can be tapped for promoting high value eco-tourism and forestry related livelihoods and enterprises. At the grassroots, there is high levels of social capital and community spirit amongst the rural communities, which can be leveraged for fostering sustainable development. In terms of human resources, the State's literacy rate at 75.5% in 2011 is higher than the national average and the English speaking skills of the population are superior to that of most large Indian States.
3. Despite the many strengths and opportunities, the State also faces several critical obstacles, most of which stem from geographical disadvantage of being a landlocked, hilly and remote State. Meghalaya is one of the smallest states in the country and also amongst the poorest States of India. The State ranks 26th, among 29 Indian States, on Human Development Index (HDI) for the year 2011. Inadequate infrastructure and an underdeveloped private sector are a few of the other significant bottlenecks confronting the State in its march to economic prosperity.

4. The State will continue to require the support of the Central Government in its drive towards becoming economically self sufficient and being able to provide the necessary basic services to all its citizens. I would, therefore, request the North Eastern Council as well as the other Ministries of the Government of India, especially the Ministry of DoNER to continue their unstinting support, both financially as well as in terms of expertise and technology.
5. NEC in particular and the Ministry of DoNER in general have also been supporting various projects in the State and the region. However, the recent trend in financing of developmental projects is slightly discouraging. The revision of the NEC guidelines in 2017-18 has cut financial assistance to the critical infrastructure sectors. The essential projects relating to road sector, water supply sector, irrigation and flood control projects, etc. which are of utmost importance have been excluded from the list of approved sectors that can be funded by the NEC as per the revised guidelines.
6. The introduction of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) as a replacement for the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) is a welcome step. Under the scheme, the Government of India is providing 100 percent financial support to the N.E. States. Meghalaya received a total sanction of Rs.174.80 crore for 6 projects during the year 2018-19. However, we urge the Ministry of DoNER to consider revising the guidelines of the scheme in two aspects. First, the lower limit of Rs.20.00 crore on the project size should be lowered to about Rs.10 crore, so that small but significant projects can be taken up. Besides, lowering of the minimum cost of the project would also allow the State Government to take up more projects under the scheme. Secondly, in the case of road projects, NESIDS covers only those projects which have a relevance to places of tourist interest while neglecting the other important road projects. I would, therefore, strongly recommend to this august gathering that the Ministry of DoNER and the NEC should review the recent guidelines for the over-all economic development of the region.
7. In addition to leveraging on Government of India schemes, several important developmental programmes are being implemented in the State with assistance from international multilateral agencies. These include the Supporting Human Capital Development Project, the Meghalaya Livelihoods

and Access to Markets Project (Megha-LAMP), the Community Led Landscape Management Project (CLEMP) and the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Programme (MITP). The focus of these programmes is to foster human development by giving due importance to education, skill development and health sectors, build robust rural livelihoods and enterprises in the agri-horticulture, food-processing and tourism sectors, promote market access and to improve physical and social infrastructure. I would also like to bring to the attention of the gathering that several other Externally Aided Projects are under the consideration of the various Ministries of the Government of India. In this connection, I would like to request the Ministry of DoNER to take up these projects with the Ministry of Finance, NITI Aayog and the line Ministries so that due priority is accorded to these proposals as they are critical to the overall development of the State.

8. Another critical focus of the Government of Meghalaya is to promote the growth of agriculture sector and its allied activities in a Mission mode. The main Missions initiated by the State Government include Mushroom Mission, Lakadong Mission, Milk Mission, Aquaculture Mission and Jackfruit Mission. Huge investments are required for these Mission and the returns are promising. We expect the missions to have multiplier effect in the rural economy which, in turn, would increase the State's Domestic Product. The Government has also initiated the Megh-Aroma Mission to promote the growth of medicinal and aromatic plants in the State. Another strategy of the Government is also to develop end to end value chains for certain identified products like black pepper, scented rice, honey banana, oranges (khasi mandarin) and ginger. To promote all these initiatives, the Government has also set up the Directorate of Food Processing.
9. Meghalaya in particular and the North East in general, are yet to attain self-sufficiency in meeting its own demands for meat, eggs, milk and fish. Through the State Aquaculture Mission, we are moving in that direction. The State Livestock Mission was launched by the State Government to enhance livestock production. With the creation of the Directorate of Dairy Development and the launch of the Milk Mission, there is expectation for increase in the productivity of milk and milk products.

10. An important area which needs immediate attention is the management of our water resources. Despite being a rainfall abundant State, Meghalaya still faces scarcity of water especially in the dry season. A large part of the 1200 cm of annual rainfall received by the State is washed off into the plains of Assam on the northern and eastern sides and to Bangladesh on the southern side. To address this issue, we are planning to construct a large number of Small and Multipurpose Reservoirs (SMRs) to contain the runoff and to store the water. At a cost of approximately Rs.50 lakh per SMR, the State Government will require about Rs.2500 crore for building 5000 SMRs. The Ministry of DoNER and the NEC are requested to help the State in this endeavour.
11. Devastation of forests in the catchment areas of the rivers and streams has caused heavy erosion of the top soil and floods virtually every year in most of the States of the region, bringing untold misery through loss of lives, property and standing crops. In many cases, while the catchment area is located in one State, the river flows through the other States. I would, therefore, suggest that the NEC should deal with this problem at the regional level by taking up massive afforestation programme to protect the catchment areas.
12. The sanction of the 11 Eklavya Residential Schools by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs during 2018-19 is a significant step for the improvement of our secondary education sector in Meghalaya. It is also expected that the Government of India will sanction an additional 25 such schools in the near future. Besides these, the State Government intends to construct its own residential schools so as to ensure that the dropout rates in the secondary and higher secondary levels can be contained to a large extent. To ensure free and affordable education to all our children, there is a need to construct an additional 5500 additional classrooms in the primary education level as well. We would urge the Central Government to consider providing the required financial assistance to enable the State Government to do so.
13. The health indicators of Meghalaya are not very satisfactory. The State Government is accorded topmost priority to this critical sector. Our MMR stands at 197 against the national average of 130, our IMR is 39 while institutional delivery is only 52 % as compared to the national average of 80%. The shortage of doctors and medical specialists and medical institutions

is a major challenge in the State. The State Government plans to expand the PPP model in the health care sector to add to the present 22 health facilities which are currently being managed under this model. Besides the above, the State also plans to strengthen the existing health care facilities by providing more in-patient beds and good health care delivery system for better medicare services for a wider section of people. Existing physical infrastructure of the CHCs, PHCs and Sub-Centres are proposed to be strengthened, renovated and upgraded to meet the Indian Public Health Standard's requirements. Seventy six essential drugs are being provided free of cost to patients in Government health facilities under the Free Drugs Policy of the State Government. The Megha Health Insurance Scheme Phase IV, along with Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, was launched in December 2018. Under these programmes, health insurance coverage of 5 lakh per family is provided to all eligible households with a target coverage of over 7 lakh households.

14. Tourism sector in Meghalaya is identified as a key engine of growth. There has been a significant increase in the number of tourists in the State in recent years. With vastly improved connectivity from Guwahati, the State has now become one of the easily accessible destinations in the country offering its exotic beauty and unique culture. The recent introduction of a daily flight from Kolkata to Shillong by the Indigo Airlines is a much welcome development. Plans are afoot to ensure the safe landing of larger capacity aircrafts in the airport. The Government is promoting tourism in line with the Tourism Policy of the Government of India. However, there is still much to be done within the State to improve upon the existing infrastructure as well as the connectivity to various destination spots. The State Government is taking advantage of the schemes of the Central Government in developing new models like eco tourism clusters, niche areas in adventure and cave tourism besides circuit development.
15. To nurture start-ups and entrepreneurs, the Government is planning to set up growth hubs in every block. The objective is to identify a few competitive products in each block and build the growth hub around these products. The policy on start-ups in the State has been framed and will be implemented soon. The State Government has launched the Chief Minister's e-Champion

challenge to provide a platform to the budding entrepreneurs to upscale their ventures. The challenge offers cash prizes to the top 50 selected entrepreneurs of the State.

16. As we are all aware, road transport is the backbone of development. With a total road length is 10,800 kms, the road density of Meghalaya is only 45.6 km/ 100 sq. km which is significantly much lower than national average of 170 and one of the lowest amongst the north eastern states. Due to our hilly terrain and extreme climatic condition, maintenance of roads and bridges in the State is very high for which the State does not have the necessary budgetary provision. In view thereof, the strategy is to leverage on central resources available under PMGSY and EAPs to the maximum possible extent. The Meghalaya Integrated Transport Sector Project which is funded by the World Bank takes a holistic view of the entire transport sector in the State and is making efforts to integrate different modes of transport like roads, railways, waterways, urban transport, and air transport. An investment of Rs.1,050 crore will be made over a six-year period.
17. A proposal for a National Highway was mooted by the Governor in 2018 from Ratacherra on the Assam-Meghalaya border on NH-44 upto Phulbari in Assam so as to connect the projected Phulbari-Dhubri bridge across the Brahmaputra river. This Highway is projected to run all along the International Border between Meghalaya State and Bangladesh and connect Dawki, Shella, Baghmara and Mahendraganj. This Highway will not only open up the area but will facilitate the work of the Border Security Force in checking infiltration and smuggling to a great extent. It will also provide an alternative route from Barak Valley, Mizoram and Tripura to the rest of India, by passing Guwahati. This proposal was sent to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and requires be looked at favourably.
18. The Baljek airport in West Garo Hills District of Meghalaya is yet to be made operational even though the airport was inaugurated by the then President of India, Smt Pratibha Patil on the 22nd October, 2008. The airport with 3300 ft. runway is fit for landing of 20-seater class of Dornier aircrafts. In this regard, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Airport Authority of India and DoNER are requested to provide necessary assistance and support at the earliest for making the airport functional.

19. Against a potential of 3000 MW of hydro power generation, the installed capacity in the State is only 324 MW. To further augment the generation of power, the construction of several hydro power projects such as the Kynshi and Mawphu Hydro Projects are being finalized. The State Government is earnestly implementing the Central Government programs and regular reviews are being conducted. There is a necessity for strengthening of the existing power network in major towns. Feeder and DT metering under Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY - II), prepaid metering through Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) and introduction of prepaid meters through Smart Metering Scheme are being undertaken.
20. On governance reforms, the Government has strengthened the village level governance through institutionalization of the village employment councils which can deliver development and large projects. On transparency, there is the Social Audit Act and Meghalaya is the first state in the country to pass a social audit legislation to control irregularities in the grass root implementation of programs.
21. On the political front Meghalaya has generally been a tranquil state. However, Tribal vs. Non-Tribal antipathy is sometimes whipped up in Meghalaya for narrow political gains by interested quarters. It is required to keep a vigilant eye on this. In this regard there is potential for trouble in respect of a group of Mazhabi Sikhs who were settled in Shillong for scavenging work by the British in the 19th Century. The situation calls for careful watching and early remedial measures so that it does not blow up into a major crisis.
22. Another potential source of trouble is the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) which was once moved in the Parliament. Interested quarters are spreading a canard that passage of this bill will result in unrestricted access of non-tribals, mainly emigres from Bangladesh, into the state. In my view this fear of the state being infiltrated by non-tribals following the passing of CAB has no basis in fact whatsoever. The non-tribals are ethnically as well as linguistically different from the tribals and can be identified very easily. Secondly, Meghalaya unlike Brahmaputra Valley has very few employment opportunities which will attract non-tribals to settle here. The non-tribals who are already here had been here since the days of British Raj, and among them many have

left. Thirdly there are self-government mechanisms in place (such as the Khasi Dorbars) which will not let non-tribals settle down in the state, and also laws in place which will not permit them to acquire land. As such these fears are completely unfounded. If at all there is ingress of Hindus from Bangladesh after the passage of CAB they will prefer to settle in West Bengal, Tripura or Barak Valley which are Bengali-speaking regions.

23. However, it is essential that these facts are brought to the notice of the people of Meghalaya in a political manner so that no advantage accrues to those elements who are trying to scare the people and whip up anti-non-tribal hysteria for narrow political gains. DoNER ought to take necessary steps in this regard and also persuade the State Government to act accordingly.
24. Another demand that keeps on rearing its head is one for Inner Line Permit (ILP). The Central Government, with the consent of the state, will have to formulate its stand on this question. There are serious difficulties in having ILP in Meghalaya. Unlike Arunachal or Mizoram which have ILP, National Highways pass through Meghalaya providing access to the International border at Dawki (with Bangladesh) and also to a vast area covering the Barak Valley, Tripura and Mizoram. The problems of transiting passengers will have to be carefully considered before any ILP can be thought of.
25. In conclusion, I urge upon the North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER and the Government of India to provide all necessary support and assistance to Meghalaya, as well as the other North Eastern States, so as to ensure the collective growth and prosperity of the region. The growth of the North Eastern region will certainly enable India to become an economic giant amongst the neighbouring countries and the world at large.

I wish our deliberations today every success.

JAI HIND



**ADDRESS
Of
PROF. JAGDISH MUKHI**

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF MIZORAM**

On the occasion of

**THE 68TH PLENARY OF
THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**

At

Assam Administrative Staff College, Guwahati

On

8th September, 2019

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Home Affairs & the Chairman of North Eastern Council, Shri Amit Shah-ji, the Hon'ble Union Minister for DoNER, Dr Jitendra Singhji, Hon'ble Governors and the Chief Ministers, respected Members of the Council, Secretary of Ministry of DoNER, Secretary of North Eastern Council, Senior Officers from the Government of India and the State Governments, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is a great privilege to participate in this august Meeting of the 68th Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council. I am confident that this Meeting will deliver meaningful and fruitful deliberations, resulting in renewed efforts and strategy for accelerating sustainable, inclusive, and integrated development in the North East Region.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to inform this august Forum the significant contributions and role played by the North Eastern Council in the socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region. Ever since its inception, the Council has always worked in close co-ordination with the North Eastern States in the endeavor of achieving integrated as well as inclusive development. Being located in the Region, the Council caters to the needs of the people of the North East, while also representing them. It plays an important role as a catalyst in harnessing the resource potentials. I believe that in all the North Eastern States, the Council has left remarkable footprints in creating infrastructure, livelihood opportunities, and promotion of tourism etc in the Region.

3. In the words of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi-ji, **“Good infrastructure ensures ‘ease of living’ bringing comfort and convenience”**. Mainly due to geographical isolation and the perceived differences, development of infrastructure assumes greater importance as it transforms the economy for growth, thereby resulting in human development and welfare. The sector covers a wide spectrum of services such as transportation, power generation, transmission and distribution, telecommunication, water supply, irrigation, medical and other primary services. Availability of adequate infrastructure facilities is imperative for the overall economic development of the Region. As per the Revised Guidelines of North Eastern Council, 2018, crucial sectors like Power, Irrigation and Flood Control, Water Supply, Sports, School Education and Primary & Secondary Healthcare have been omitted from sectors for funding under the Council. In fact, these are the core sectors

where the States require intervention the most. It is an obvious fact that the Region is still lagging behind other mainland States in terms of quality infrastructure. I, therefore, request this Meeting to revisit the approved sectors, thereby enabling the Council to continue to play its vital role in bridging the much needed infrastructure gap. Moreover, the Council needs to be strengthened in terms of increased sanctioning power and increased budgetary allocation.

4. The Region has vast untapped potential by way of landmass, mineral, hydro power and service sector, and a large proportion of working population. The need of the hour is to have a unified infrastructure development plan with appropriate technology, financing, and capacity development. In this regard, NEC may be equipped to act as a think tank for the North East, and to not only formulate the Roadmap but also be empowered to facilitate its implementation. Evaluation and Monitoring sector in the Council may be strengthened by the inclusion of industry experts so as to instill greater level of professionalism in the process.

5. The future of North East India lies in its potential for economic integration with South East Asia. The geostrategic location of the Region with its immense natural resources accords the possibility of becoming a powerhouse of trade and investment. Trade at the border needs to be officially operationalised, taking advantage of its strategic location. Flow of trade is determined by connectivity, sophisticated market infrastructure, policy co-ordination, and mutual interdependence. But in a landlocked region with neither proper road infrastructure nor links with regional and local markets, economic integration through trade is a challenge. Keeping in view the development interest, I request to shift the focus on the possibilities and potential of commercial gains from a robust border trade with neighboring countries and the ASEAN. Creation of physical and market infrastructure, Trade Policy with special focus on the socio-economic vulnerability of the region, accompanied by Annual Action Plan for each State, will be most imperative. Promotion of trade is a pre requisite for exploiting the comparative geographical as well as natural advantage in uplifting the region from economic backwardness.

As far as the Act East Policy is concerned, the State Government is interested in opening the Gateway to South East Asian Countries through the Indo-Myanmar Border. In this connection, major projects like Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport

project, Rih – Tidim Road project, Border Haats have been included to create economic corridors with South East Asian countries. The State Government of Mizoram has submitted proposal for upgrading the Land Custom Station (LCS) at Zokhawthar into an Integrated Check Post (ICP), and a proposal to construct a Bailey bridge over Tiau River near Myanmar. On the Bangladesh side, proposals for Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Kawrpuichhuah, Tlabung and Land Custom Station (LCS) at Zorinpui, Lawngtlai are being submitted.

6. Connectivity is another major hurdle of development. Poor rail, road and air connectivity has impeded growth for a long time, as goods and services cannot be moved to and fro from the region to other parts of the country and vice versa. Mizoram, bordering the two countries of Myanmar and Bangladesh, if properly connected, can be created as a major hub for trade and investment. Air connectivity, especially in Mizoram will propel tourism sector and result in greater flow of investment while enhancing trade and commerce.

Both the Regional and International connectivity need to be improved. The number of flights serving North East airports is extremely limited. There are only four flights which connect the North East airports (except Guwahati) at present. Moreover, most of the flights from Delhi to North East airports are stop-over flights at Bagdogra, Guwahati or Kolkata. The only Airport in Mizoram is also the only State-owned and State-run Airport in the country. The State's own fund is not sufficient to fully develop the Airport. Upgradation of Lengpui Airport into an international airport, and installation of night landing facility are the need of the hour, in order to be the Gateway to South East Asian countries. Construction of at least one operational airport in the southern border area is strategically required.

7. I once again thank the Ministry of DoNER and the North Eastern Council for giving me the opportunity to put forth my views. I am looking forward to meaningful discussions and interactions during the Plenary Meeting with fruitful outcomes. I also wish that the Ministry and the Council achieve success in all their endeavors.

THANK YOU
JAI HIND



SPEECH
OF
SHRI R.N. RAVI
HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF
NAGALAND

68th PLENARY OF
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
AT
ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE,
GUWAHATI
ON
8th September, 2019

SPEECH OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND, SHRI R.N. RAVI AT THE 68TH PLENARY OF NORTH EAST COUNCIL, GUWAHATI, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2019.

- Hon'ble Chairman, North East Council, Amit Shahji,
- Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Dr Jitendra Singh ji,
- Hon'ble Governors and
- Hon'ble Chief Ministers of North Eastern States,
- Respected Members of the North East Council,
- Secretary, Ministry of Development of North East Region,
- Secretary and other Officers of NEC Secretariat,
- Senior Officers of Government of India and State Government and Distinguished participants.

I am happy to be in your midst at the 68th Plenary of the NEC being hosted at Guwahati, Assam. This is my first meeting as a member of the governing council of NEC and look forward to participation in the plenary which I am confident will be both meaningful and fruitful.

At the outset I would draw the attention of the Council to some of the issues specific to my State Nagaland.

Nagaland is an agrarian state. The future of the state lies in exploiting the opportunities in agriculture and allied activities. Commercial crops like coffee and rubber needs to given a big push. Horticulture is another area where the state has immense potential. Crops like orange, kiwi, passion fruit, cucumbers and pineapples are suited for the soil and climatic conditions of the state. Spices like ginger and turmeric including the world renowned “ Naga King chilly” are grown in abundance. The need of the hour is to provide marketing linkages for these products. Value addition has to be created and organic certification is necessary to fetch good prices.

Power is critical for industrialisation and technological advancements. Therefore the power needs of the North East States should be seriously examined and fulfilled. Nagaland is facing serious power deficit; the State generates only 26.7 MW against the peak requirement of 165 MW. The region has immense potential for hydel power generation. Other renewable sources of energy like solar power should also be explored. It is expected that NEC will come forward to fund such projects.

Nagaland suffers huge connectivity deficit. The poor surface, air and digital connectivity and resultant relative isolation of the State inhibits its economic and

emotional integration with rest of the country. NEC may help Nagaland with special assistance to overcome its connectivity deficit.

Now I would like to draw your attention to the fundamental issue of growing marginalisation of the NEC and its likely consequences.

The North East India, all through the centuries, has been the region of geo-cultural and geo-economic unity. It celebrated its rich cultural diversity through peaceful co-existence of innumerable ethnic communities. The vibrant social interactions and rich economic interdependence of the ethnic communities including those among the hills and the plains were disrupted by the deliberate policies of the British Administration. The neighbours became strangers, mutually suspicious of each other.

The post colonial period witnessed aggressive ethnic assertions. More and more communities began to demand exclusive homeland for themselves. The post colonial North East witnessed multiple political fragmentation of the regions. The traditional forces of unity were weakened. Several economically unviable States were created to satisfy and appease the forces asserting mutual differences and exclusivity.

It was in such a back drop that the idea of North East Council was conceived. It was created as an institution to look at the region as one organic whole and keep it so through creation of shared institutions, infrastructures and interests.

Over the decades, unfortunately the NEC has been weakened. It has happened mainly due to inadequate appreciation of the underlying rationale for this unique institution. Its resources have dwindled and its capacity to be an unifier of the region has been severely eroded. It has been practically subsumed by the Ministry of DoNER. The States of the region now look at it merely as a source for additional developmental resources.

I would, therefore urge the council especially the Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Amit Shah ji to take cognizance of the fundamental drift of NEC away from its core objective. The institution of NEC can be restructured in tune with the contemporary needs and realities while keeping its core objective of strengthening the underlying oneness of the region.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.



**ADDRESS
OF
SHRI GANGA PRASAD,
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM**

**IN THE
68th PLENARY MEETING
OF
THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**

GUWAHATI, 8th – 9th September, 2019

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman NEC Shri Amit Shah Ji, Hon'ble Governors, Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Hon'ble Minister DoNER Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji, Officers of the Government of India and Governments of North Eastern States, officials of North Eastern Council and my dear friends.

It is my privilege to participate in the 68th Plenary of the North Eastern Council. I am sure that the discussion today will address the major issues of the North Eastern Region and work out ways to hasten the pace of socio-economic development of the region.

With the appointment of the Union Home Minister as Chairman of the North Eastern Council, we, in the North East have great hope and aspirations. I am sure his vision for the betterment of the North Eastern Region will go a long way in addressing the challenges before the eight North Eastern States.

The North Eastern States are aware that the North Eastern Council has helped infrastructure development in the region. However, it has been noticed that in the last 2-3 years, the role of the North Eastern Council has somewhat diminished.

This is mainly due to the non-availability of funds of the desired level for the infrastructure development in the region. The normative allocations provided to the North East States in the last 5 years by the North Eastern Council indicates that sufficient funds are not being made available to the Member States. At the same time, we are aware that the North Eastern Council has identified core areas for regional planning of the North Eastern Region based on vision 2020. Therefore, I feel it pertinent to state that without enhancement of the budgetary allocation of the North Eastern Council it will be difficult to ensure smooth flow of funds for these core areas. Let me impress upon the house and the Government of India that the North Eastern Council funding needs substantial enhancement which is required urgently to compensate the previous shortage of funds to the North Eastern Region as special category States. Therefore, a special one-time package from Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources of 10% Gross Budgetary Support may also be provided to the North Eastern States which will enable completion of all ongoing projects.

It has been noticed with regard to the distribution of North Eastern Council funds on the proposed normative allocation of NEC budget, for Sikkim it has been agreed to 7% allocation from the total kitty of North Eastern Council. However,

Sikkim has received allocation way below other states despite the State's good record in implementation of North Eastern Council Schemes.

The Government of Sikkim is in full agreement with the thrust given by North Eastern Council to the transport and communication, power, agriculture and allied sectors, human resource, tourism and health sectors. Since two years back the initiative of the North Eastern Council was to give weightage to committed liabilities for completion of on-going projects however sadly funds to this effect has not been forthcoming. North Eastern Council may also like to consider higher allocation in the sectors where investments have not been made in the past.

Sikkim had submitted 18 Nos of priority projects for funding in the year 2017-18 out of which only 4 projects were sanctioned. Out of which 3 are under implementation and 1 is complete. In 2018-19 no priority list was drawn by Sikkim as the concept of Project Identification Committee was started. One such PIC meeting was conducted for Sikkim through Video Conferencing on 20/09/2018. This meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Secretary DoNER, Secretary, NEC, Chief Secretary, Sikkim and Addl. Chief Secretary/ Development Commissioner Sikkim. Besides the discussions held for the projects sanctioned for 2017-18, 2 new projects under the health sector were also discussed and considered viz:

1. Medical equipment and furniture for the Multi-Specialty Hospital at Sochyagang, Gangtok;

This project has been proposed at various level since 2017-18. Ministry of DoNER has agreed to provide Rs. 160.00 cr. after which NEC recommended the project for Rs. 118.00 cr.

The PIC held on 20.09.2018 had recommended a reduced amount of Rs. 25.00 cr only. The sanction and release of which is still pending even after several requests and lapse of several years. The M/DoNER and NEC are requested to sanction the project at the earliest.

2. Construction of 70 bedded District Hospital @ Rs. 14.14 cr.;

The Government of Sikkim has projected the total cost @ Rs. 20.00 cr. The NEC retained the project at a cost of Rs. 14.14 cr during the year 2017-18. Therefore, post retention and District Hospital at Mangan which demolished, which was badly damaged by the massive earthquake of 18th September, 2011. So far, the State Government has spent Rs. 3.50 cr as part of the State

Share. Due to sudden change in the guidelines and work allocation divided between M/DoNER and NEC the project has been kept in limbo and the North District headquarter of Mangan North Sikkim is without Hospital building as of now. We urge the M/DoNER to sanction this project at the earliest.

3. Construction of Interstate Bus Terminus for Rs. 14.24 cr.

Similarly, in the year 2017-18 the State Govt. had proposed a project viz. construction of the Interstate Bus Terminus at Gangtok. The Government of Sikkim was asked to prepare the DPR after which it was sent to the NEC for consideration and sanction. However, this project was kept on hold due to lack of sufficient funds in the financial year 2017-18. The DPR has since been modified/ corrected as per directions of the NEC and is in cold storage. The Government of Sikkim requests that the ISBT for the state may also be considered and sanctioned as most of the other NE States have built the ISBT through the support of NEC and Sikkim is the only State who do not have this facility.

Issues that require urgent attention of the Government of India:

Withdrawal of power from NEC: In the recommendation of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) dated 20th December, 2017 and approved by Cabinet dated 28th March, 2018 six crucial sectors i.e. Power, Irrigation and Flood Control, Water Supply, Sports, School Education and Primary & Secondary Healthcare have been taken away from the mandate of NEC. Removal of schemes for skill development, inter alia from NEC's mandate appears contradictory to Para 2.5 of the revised NEC Guidelines which states: 'NEC shall focus on issue in enabling in generating jobs'. It may also be mentioned that the role of NEC in crucial sectors such as road construction have been limited to building of inter-state roads only. As a result, the intra-state connectivity requirement gap of the resource-starved North East States has been left stranded. Given the fact that core competence of NEC was institution building, human resource development, infrastructure, etc., the above sectors should be restored to NEC.

Coming to Sikkim specifics, looking at the normative allocation (7%) for Sikkim it is seen over the last 5 years starting from the year 2014-15 up to 2018-19 the allocation to Sikkim from NEC is Rs. 19241.03 lakhs and the actual funds received by the State is Rs. 16883.74 lakhs having a huge shortfall of Rs. 2357.29

lakhs. This has been calculated as per NEC's total release minus releases to other agencies which totals Rs. 274872.19 lakhs.

Since inception the total number of sanctioned projects for Sikkim is 165 Nos. and the projects completed till date is 142 Nos. there are 23 NEC projects on going in the State. As per details available in the State Government the funds due from NEC is Rs. 4483.18 lakhs. No projects were sanctioned in the year 2018-19 and similarly no projects were sanctioned for Sikkim in 2019-20. The Utilization Certificate due is nil and also the Utilization Certificate overdue is nil from the State Government's side. Compared to the other States in the NER, Sikkim is small in terms of geographical area and also in terms of population. Our record in implementation and completion of projects so far is good. Sikkim has played a responsible role as a Member of the NEC and the State has done comparatively well. It is the release of funds from the NEC which is somewhat delayed that is proving to be a bottleneck. It is requested that the NEC may kindly expedite the remaining release of funds for the ongoing projects in the State so that the schemes are completed on time and in totality.

Like the rest of the North East, connectivity is of crucial importance to Sikkim, which is landlocked and bounded by 3 international borders with Nepal, Bhutan and China. The National Highway 10 is the only lifeline and is of great importance to the State. The NH 10 connects Sikkim with the rest of the country. Due to the lack of other means of connectivity roads play an important role in the State and State Highways connecting Gangtok with District Headquarters and Sub-Divisions require constant upgradation and improvement. This task requires mobilization of capital for land compensation as well as to maintain quality construction work. Due to the onslaught of monsoon every year the roads are invariably damaged and the riding quality deteriorates. Hence, the support of Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MORTH), Ministry of DoNER and NEC is sought to maintain the roads in the State. It is heartening to note that the MORTH through the National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) has proposed major road projects including an alternate highway in Sikkim. I would urge all agencies working in the State to expedite their given task.

The Greenfield Airport in Pakyong was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 24th September 2018. The State of Sikkim had great hopes that with the

inauguration of the Air connectivity with the rest of the country would usher in a new era of economic development. However, the air services have since been suspended due to technical reasons. The Government of Sikkim requests the Airport Authority of India to address the technical issues and make this an All-Weather Airport and also made operational during the low visibility period. Then only this can help boost tourism and other economic spinoffs.

With regards to the railway connectivity, some progress in the work on the proposed 44.98 km Sevoke-Rangpo New BG Rail Line is visible. However, a major part of the work is still held up due to lack of forest clearances and other formalities on the West-Bengal side, through which it runs. This requires the urgent attention of the Government of India.

Adoption of Navey-Shotak Gram Panchayat Unit in East Sikkim:

My endeavour after taking charge as Governor of Sikkim has been to connect with the Panchayati Raj functionaries across four districts and know the issues and bottlenecks with regard to their developmental efforts and implementation of various Central and State flagship schemes.

In order to boost morale of grass root representatives and in a bid to transform the rural economy and livelihood, I have adopted one village panchayat in East Sikkim namely Navey-Shotak Gram Panchayat. My aim is to develop the village on pilot basis through various interventions and thrust on core areas of rural economy, especially organic farming, dairy farming, micro processing and rural entrepreneurship, which can later be replicated in other gram panchayats.

As I conclude, I would like to place on record that hastening of the pace of development of North Eastern region should be given highest priority to avoid uneven and unequal distribution from region to region in the Country. Towards this, an environment must be created for all the North Eastern States to catch up with the rest of the Country. For this to happen, it is essential to ensure that the institutions created for the development of the region such as DoNER and NEC are allocated adequate financial powers and autonomy to enable them to fulfill the objectives for which they have been created.

I am hopeful that with the new leadership of Shri Amit Shahji, Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman North Eastern Council, the North Eastern Region will definitely reap rich dividends in the days to come.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion today. I hope that key decisions will be taken during the deliberations that would enrich the road map for the development of the North Eastern Region.

JAI BHARAT! JAI SIKKIM!



SPEECH

**SHRI RAMESH BAIS,
GOVERNOR OF TRIPURA**

AT THE 68th NEC PLENARY

ON

8th AND 9th SEPTEMBER, 2019

AT

**ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE,
GUWAHATI**

Hon'ble Chairman, North Eastern Council (NEC, Shri Amit Shah Ji

Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji;

Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States;

Other Distinguished Members of the Secretariat;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

2. It is my pleasure that I got this opportunity to be part of this important meeting convened by NEC for development of North Eastern Region.

3. Act East Policy is such a commitment and dream of the Government of India that has been visualized for a long time for the development of North Eastern States. It is demand of time that North East Region be made a gateway for trade and other economic activities with South-East Asian Countries. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has repeated this in many of his speeches that the progress of the North Eastern Region is at the heart of Act East Policy of this Government. In this regard, NEC has a big role as a regional plan implementing agency for developing various centers for cross border interconnection, opening the doors for South East Asian Countries for trade and tourism.

4. North East is the store house of bamboo of the country. This "Green Gold" is considered an important part of the region's culture, lifestyle of people and their livelihood. People here have good knowledge of bamboo production, its changes and its use. Traditional knowledge and skills relating to bamboo exists here which can be used in making new products and other applications with complete reliability. Handlooms products like houses made of bamboo, mats, baskets, hats, flutes, umbrella, fishing rods, musical instruments, toys and dolls etc. made of bamboo may help the states of this region in earning good income at various levels and can increase their GSDP. National and international marketing is required for these products and NEC can play a crucial role in popularizing the bamboo of this region by organizing seminars, trade fairs, marts, etc.

5. Sometimes projects get delayed due to delay in getting land approval, forest clearance and delay in release of funds which resulted in time over-run and cost over-run but the revised cost of such projects do not get approved often. Similarly,

changes in taxation system (from VAT to GST) also increase the cost of the projects. Hence, the State Government faced pressure for completion of these projects.

6. In externally aided projects, North Eastern States has to contribute 20% of the project cost. Over this, the share of States in the loan component is 90:10. Hence, it is requested that the 20% share of states in project cost should be reconsidered because the financial capabilities of the North Eastern States are limited.

7. As compared to other states, it is very difficult for the North Eastern States to get approval of externally aided projects. Apart from approval from Line Ministry; Niti Aayog, Finance Department which are for other states, approval from DoNER, MHA and MEA is also required. This makes the process time consuming and difficult.

8. Most of the North Eastern States are revenue deficit state. Apart from normal deviation of funds from Finance Commission, recommendation for grant in revenue loss is also given. Due to low collection of GST etc. huge difference can be seen in general deviation in central taxes part. Centre should think of compensation in terms of extra revenue difference grant to states with low revenue.

9. Up-gradation and reorganization of NEC should be considered so that it can play its role as a regional planning body so that the development of North East Region can reach the national level.

10. Tripura State Government is emphasizing on imparting quality education. NCERT course has been adopted from class 1 to class 9 and NCERT books are translated into Bangla.

11. There is a huge opportunities for the tourism sector in Tripura State through which employment generation is possible. Keeping this in mind, State government is working on projects for developing and expanding the road infrastructure facilities to attract domestic and international tourists. Recently, international celebrities like the princess of Thailand and the Ambassador of United State of America visited tourist places like Unakoti and Neermahal. By these initiatives, tourist places got international recognition.

12. Since Tripura lacked industries on a large scale, hence, tourism can play an important role in the social & economic development of the state. But as we all know that it is difficult for the tourists from main parts of India and other nations to reach the North East and its small – small states. For this, a tourist circuit named 8 sisters

can be developed in the North East India so that a tourist can get a complete tour package for the whole North East. For this, rural tourism and eco-tourism needs to be developed. Seeing the possibility of development and employment, there is a huge requirement in increase of resource allocation in the field of tourism. I would request Ministry of DoNER for establishment of a Central University for tourism and service industry which will cover the aspects related to Tourism and Service industry like hotel management, Civil Aviation, Tourism Management, etc. To promote the tourism in the state, International tourism mart was organized for the first time in Agartala from 22-24 November, 2018 in which 53 international delegates participated.

13. A new scheme called Atal Jaldhara Mission with an objective of ensuring pure drinking water facility in every household by the year 2022 was launched. Under Atal Jaldhara Mission, 31,527 families have already been covered and are still in progress.

14. Tripura is endowed with rich natural resources such as natural gas which can help in establishing natural gas based industry which will increase the employment opportunities in the region and the neighboring states will also get benefits from this industry.

15. To encourage investment in Rubber Industry and Rubber-Wood Industry in the states, a new initiative has been undertaken to increase the number of processing units and related workshops in the State. Rubber production in Tripura has been very good and we will take forward to establish rubber base industries. Apart from this, a logo has been launched for the marketing of tea from Tripura and its branding has been started under the name "Tripureshwari." Single window system has been started in the state to encourage industrial development.

16. There is a huge demand of fish in Tripura. Fish from Andhra Pradesh and Bangladesh are imported here on a large scale. Combined efforts of State and Central Government are required to facilitate the increase in fish production in Tripura.

17. The work of fencing on the India-Bangladesh border is in full swing and the remaining work is being speeded up. Gomti River should be declared as India-

Bangladesh protocol route at the earliest so that Tripura can be used as an entry door to the North East.

18. The Indian Government has taken many important steps for the Bru Refugees in Tripura from Mizoram. But, here I would like to mention that the problem is not yet resolved and we should keep trying for its resolution.

19. Electrification of every household in the country is the mission of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Aiming toward this direction, electricity connection to 1,39,090 houses have been given through "Saubhagya Yojana." Through various schemes, an amount of Rs. 776.17 Crores has been approved for electrification of rural areas.

20. The North East Youth Festival was organized for the first time in 2018 in Agartala. Miss Deepa Karmakar of Tripura won the gold medal in the World Challenger Cup held in Turkey in 2018. She attained 5th Position in the 18th Asian Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia. In 2019, Miss Arshiya Das of Tripura won the gold medal and bronze medal in School Chess Championship held in Uzbekistan. She attained 9th position in the Commonwealth Games held in Delhi.

An athletic track in Badarghat Stadium with a cost of Rs. 7 crore and an athletic track with a cost of Rs. 7 crore and a swimming pool with a cost of Rs. 10 crore are under construction under the Central fund for development of sports. From this, budding players will get recognition not only on state level but also on national level.

21. Every Gram Panchayat and Gram Parishad in the state is declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Showing its commitment towards a clean Tripura mission, the State government has constructed 1,38,153 toilets in houses and the renovation work of 56,405 toilets is under progress.

22. Mahatma Gandhi had said that the soul of India lives in its villages, hence the State Government is laying emphasis on the development of villages. Giving priority to rural employment, the number of people employed under MGNREGA has been increased as compared to previous financial year. During financial year 2018-19, 253.09 Lakh laborers were employed whereas in 2017-18, this number was 176.48 lakhs.

23. Transparency has been brought in the state by digitalizing the Public Distribution System. As a result, 62,000 fake ration cards were cancelled last year. By this, the State Government saved Rs. 63 Crore annually.

24. Till the first fortnight of July, 2019, 4,18,665 Ayushman Cards have been issued by the State Government and every cardholder is entitled for health insurance upto Rs. 5 lakhs. We have to establish better hospitals at the districts level and a Super-Specialty hospital is to be established in Agartala.

25. Through various social pension schemes of State Government, the pension of 4.20 lakh beneficiaries has been increased to Rs. 1000. All Anganwadi workers will be provided smartphones and other surveillance devices.

26. In the end, I would request Hon'ble Home Minister that since Tripura is a small state, kindly give special attention to it.

Thank You



**SPEECH OF
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER
OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

**68th PLENARY OF
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
AT
ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE, GUWAHATI
ON 8th & 9th SEPTEMBER, 2019**

Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Amit Shah ji,

Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Dr. Jitendra Singh ji,

Your Excellencies, Governors of North- Eastern States,

My Colleagues, Hon'ble Chief Ministers, Hon'ble Mps of North East Region,

Respected Members of NEC,

Secretary DoNER,

Secretary NEC,

Secretaries of Government of India,

Chief Secretaries of all North Eastern States,

Senior Officers from Government of India and State Government.

1. It gives me immense pleasure to participate in the 68th Plenary of the North Eastern Council and look forward for a meaningful and fruitful deliberation. The meetings at North Eastern Council not only provide a platform for North Eastern States to exchange the initiatives taken by them in key identified sectors but they also promote cooperative federalism by making States a partner in framing holistic vision for the development of the country. This year our Nation is commemorating the birth centenary of our beloved Father of the Nation-Mahatma Gandhi and therefore it holds a special significance.

2. "A clean India would be the last tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary in 2019", said our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi as he launched the Swachh Bharat Mission at Rajpath in New Delhi. On 2nd October, 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission was launched throughout length and breadth of the country as a national movement. The campaign aims to achieve the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2nd October, 2019.

3. Understanding the significance of sanitation, prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has simultaneously addressed the health problems that roughly half of the Indian families have to deal with due to lack of proper toilets in their homes and to make our nation achieve the status of Open Defecation Free (ODF). Arunachal Pradesh was amongst the first few states in the country to achieve ODF status well

ahead of the target in December 2017, for which I commend my colleagues and their team of officers.

4. Through this forum, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, for the overwhelming victory of the BJP and NDA in the recent Lok Sabha elections. The result of the election has clearly shown that the people of India have full faith in the visionary and illustrious leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister. We, the people of the North East have experienced a perceptible change in the way Government of India has embraced our region and integrated our economy with the India Economy under our Hon'ble Prime Minister. Along with Lok Sabha, we also had elections for the Legislative Assembly in which the people of Arunachal Pradesh reposed confidence and gave massive mandate to our Government.

5. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Shri Amit Shah Ji on his new assignment as the Chairman of NEC. I am sure that with your vast experience and knowledge, the N.E Region is going to be served well and under your able leadership the NEC will be pushed to greater heights for the overall development of the region. I also congratulate Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji for his second term as the Vice-Chairman of NE and thank him for his love and concern for the region. We appreciate your continued efforts toward the development and welfare of the region.

6. We have completed three decades of our existence as a State of the Indian Union. It has been an eventful journey in the history of Arunachal Pradesh, with its fair share of Highs and Lows. We have witnessed before our own eyes the transformation of a remote border tract into a vibrant state. In spite of the fact, that we share a large international border with Bhutan, Myanmar and China, our 26 major tribes and about 100 sub-tribes living in Arunachal Pradesh have carried the great spirit of Nationalism and Patriotism from Generation to Generation.

7. This year, our Government has released the first Outcome Budget 2019-2020 for Arunachal Pradesh. All government schemes have been mapped in the document and have been linked to 17 Goals of the Sustainable Development Goals. This document gives us a blueprint of how our state budget has been catering to the

needs of the people through a programme named **Sarkar Apke Dwar** over a period of one year. We will continue to do so in the coming years as well. This year also we are going to organize such camps to maximize the Governance reach and to ensure that the grievance of the last man is heard and redressed.

8. Herein, I would like to place key and common issues of the region and issues specific to my State, which needs to be addressed on priority before this August gathering.

9. **EXTERNAL AID:** Arunachal Pradesh is perhaps the only state in north East which has been deprived of the externally aided projects from the World Bank, ADB and JICA due to opposition from China. This not only deprives us of financial benefits but also of technical knowledge that comes with Externally Aided Projects besides being a big deterrent in our developmental activities. I would request the NEC to make suitable recommendations for making alternative arrangements in this regard and through the use of this high office facilitate external aid for my state which will not only bring development but also enhance our capacity to handle similar projects in the future.

10. **AGRI & ALLIED SECTOR:** In our State, two-third population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood,. It is bestowed with five agro-climatic zones supporting crop production of all climatic requirements and has vast water resources, large numbers of plants and animal genetic resources and unique biodiversity and about 80% of the traditional Agriculture yields organic products. All these factors are of great advantage for Arunachal Pradesh's potentiality to surge ahead as a major performer in the Agri-allied sectors in times to come.

11. Our State Government has accorded top priority to climate resilient Agri-allied sector activities, in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations, not only to achieve food and nutritional security but also to sustain livelihood and ensure remunerative return of the toil of farmer and also to create employment opportunities in rural areas to decelerate urban migration of young workforce. This year's budget envisages coverage of 90,000 farmers by 2022 under various farmer centric schemes with special emphasis on improvements in Mission

mode programmes for Piggery, Dairy and Fishery development, Improvement of Jhum productivity through fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants (MAP), area expansion by land terracing, Crop diversification with high value crops like Tea, Rubber, oil palm, various fruits crops like Kiwi, Mandarin Orange, pome and stone fruits in tune with emerging market demand. **I request NEC to increase Normative Allocation under Livelihood Sector for Arunachal Pradesh considering its physical vastness, remoteness, difficult terrain and unique topography.**

12. In this regard, I seek guidance and support from NEC and other Northeast States to fulfill the dream of our prime Minister to double the farmer's income by 2022. I am sure that all the states in the North east have similar problems and share similar challenges and opportunities with each other and I hope that my counterparts shall flag more issues apart from necessity of modified guidelines of Centrally sponsored schemes to suit the specific needs of the hilly states considering various hurdles in effective implementation of the farmer-oriented Agri-based developmental schemes. The various challenges include Lack of areas under assured irrigation in foot hills, poor connectivity of farm areas and markets, non-existence of value addition enterprises, inadequate rural and high cost of transportation of both inputs and marketable surplus produce. There needs to be detailed research and adequate technical wherewithal to overcome these issues for effective implementation of Agri based Developmental Schemes.

13. In view the above, I call for establishment of **Regional Agricultural Institute** in Arunachal Pradesh which focuses on agri-potential on varied agro-climatic zones in the North-Eastern region. I would also urge DoNER Ministry to expand the outreach of NERCOMP in all border blocks across Indo-China region in Arunachal Pradesh.

14. **EDUCATION:** There is only one INI (Institute of National Importance) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh i.e. National Institute of Technology , Jote thereby depriving the students of my state from quality higher education. For this, I request that NEC may identify and provide fund for establishment of regional important educational Institutions in Arunachal. Government of India should consider providing adequate amount of funds and resources to create ample state-of-the-art institutions

in the field of Science, Medical Science, Engineering Arts, management and other specialized streams. Apart from these Middle and Secondary level education institution may also be included in the purview of NEC.

15. **HEALTH:** Health facilities is another important area requiring immediate attention. Apart from Tertiary Health care (Medical education) and Telemedicine, I would request Chairman, NEC and Vice-Chairman, NEC to revisit new guidelines and allow the North Eastern Council to sanction projects for setting up Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres especially in remote areas of the state so as to provide the basic right of access to healthcare services to the people at their doorsteps.

16. Union Government has been kind enough to sanction one medical college i.e. Tomo Riba Institute of Health & Medical Sciences in our State. It has been a great boon to our State in health sector. In the first batch, the intake was limited to 50 students only, which has been revised to 100 students this year. There is also provision of strengthening, upgradation and purchase of equipments for TRIHMS. Besides this, the five zonal hospitals at Aolo, Tezu, Khonsa, Bomdila and are also being upgraded and strengthened.

17. I would like to re-emphasize on the fact that incidents of cancer cases is higher in Papum-Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from this, put of pocket expenses on health in Arunachal Pradesh are twice that of national average. I would request NEC to explore the possibility of opening critical care unit in TRIHMS hospital by providing additional funds.

18. This time, once again, I request NEC to provide fund for establishment of Medicity at Pachin Colony, Naharlagun without curtailing the normative allocation for the State. Unfortunately, the standards of health facilities in the State is in miserable state in comparison with other NE States. Hence, special dispensation would be given to our State.

19. **TOURISM:** Arunachal Pradesh has a huge tourism potential. Looking at the pristine beauty of tourist sites and diverse culture of our state, we have the potential

to make a name on global tourism platform. In the Tourism sector, the State has won several awards like Best Tourism Initiative in North East, National Leadership Award, best Decorated Stand at IITM Kochi and Most Promising new destination at OTM Mumbai etc. We aim to introduce a Pan Arunachal Festival showcasing our diverse culture as well as natural beauty which can become the hallmark of our state's tourism potential. We will welcome NEC to partner with us for developing the concept design of this festival.

20. Recently, on Independence Day, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, has called upon Indians to visit at least 15n tourist destinations across the country before 2022, with particular emphasis on Northeast region. I propose that all 8 states should come up with a comprehensive plan to attract tourists from all over the country. This will give a major boost to our local entrepreneurs besides showcasing the beauty of our region to the rest of the nation. Also, I welcome people from Northeast and rest of India to visit my beautiful state of Arunachal Pradesh.

21. We envisage developing Arunachal Haat in Itanagar on the lines of Delhi Haat where tourists can enjoy traditional food, purchase traditional and local handicrafts and also have a glimpse of local culture. NEC can engage top consultants in tourism Sector and help North-Eastern Sates in preparing a comprehensive plan for executing such kind of projects.

22. **TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION:** A well-knit and coordinated system of communication plays an important role in the sustained economic growth of the state. The communication is one of the most difficult challenges for the Sate and the stumbling block in its developmental progress. It is important to note that my state has one of the most difficult terrains and topography of the country, all along the Himalayas marking the sensitive international border with Bhutan, Myanmar and China. Although infrastructure development has been accorded top priority in the strategy of the State's economic development over the four decades of planning, Arunachal is lagging behind the national average in most of the components of infrastructure. The vastness of the territory and rugged, difficult and inaccessible terrain has negated the benefits to the rural masses who are in the interior parts of the State.

23. To remove the critical gaps in Physical and Social infrastructure needs to strengthen the economic conditions of the people living in the remote border blocks and to arrest the stress migration from the border areas towards the plains, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has submitted a composite development proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs seeking special assistance for providing Rural Connectivity, development of educational, health & power infrastructures and providing water supply and sanitation in Border Areas. I would request NEC to take up the matter with Ministry of Home Affairs, government of India to sanction the project at the earliest.

24. Strategically 3 (three) important road projects are coming up in the state; 1500 kms Trans-Arunachal Highway, Arunachal Frontier Highway and East West Corridor which will connect all the District headquarters and important towns running through the different parts of the State from East to West. These projects are pending at different stages. I appeal NEC and Ministry of DoNER to pursue the matter with the concerned ministry at appropriate level so that people of my state can reap the fruits of development. The people of Arunachal Pradesh are thankful to Government of India for shifting developmental focus towards Arunachal Pradesh which is a healthy sign of equitable development. As you all are aware that my state is the gateway to North-East economic corridor, I see this as a realistic approach to boost trade and economic activity with our neighbouring countries as part of the Act East Policy.

25. **RAILWAYS CONNECTIVITY:** Arunachal Pradesh had been historically left behind as far as rail infrastructure is concerned. I am of the opinion that Railways will certainly provide a low-cost medium of transportation for not only people of the state but also of goods which will give a fillip to the local economy of the state. Further, Rail connectivity will give a major boost to Tourism sector of my state. Out of the 8 railways line projects in our state, preliminary survey for the three railway lines Bhalukpong-Tenga-Tawang, North Lakhimpur—Bame-Aalo-Silapatahr and Pasighat-Roing-Tezu-Parashram Kund-Rupa has already been completed. The next time-bound challenge is to ensure that all land acquisition issues and clearances are granted well in time. These rail lines will facilitate in promoting regional tourism and pilgrimage to religious places like Pasrasuramkund, Tawang Monastery, Malinithan,

etc. I Again, appeal to NEC and Ministry of DoNER to take up the matter with the Ministry of Railways for early start of the construction works.

26. **AIR CONNECTIVITY:** Due to the mountainous terrain of Arunachal Pradesh, during times of natural calamities and emergencies, air connectivity remains the only reliable communications option and therefore assumes a lot of priority in our scheme of things. Our decades'-ole dream of having our own "Hollongi Airport" in the State Capital has been realized as Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji laid the foundation stone for "Construction of Hollongi Airport". This project was stuck for past 12 years and got cleared very recently by the efforts of the State government. Land for the same has been acquired and handed over to the Airport Authority of India. We will put all our efforts to facilitate State of the Art Airport in Itanagar which will fly both national and international flights. I want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Chairman, NEC and Vice-Chairman, NEC that this Greenfield Airport may be upgraded to International Airport, as it is close to the International border. In addition, I request NEC support for funds for construction of Airports at various strategic locations on the lines of Tezu Airport.

27. **NORTH EAST WATED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:** Water scarcity is a national problem. Fast change in land use due to population and other biotic pressures are directly impacting water scarcity in the country including Arunachal Pradesh. Now the indications are there that water sources are depleting gradually. Thus about 97% of the water received from the rainfall is lost as runoff water into the Brahmaputra river. To tap the water resources of the North Eastern Region for optimum utilization, there is a need for holistic and integrated planning. Initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister for creation of North East Water Management Authority which is in the process of finalization by NITI Aayog will go a long way in fulfilling the objective of optimization of water resources in the North Eastern Region. Since, Arunachal Pradesh constitutes about 46% of water shed area of Brahmaputra basin and about 70% of its discharge, I once again request to set up the one branch offices of North East Water Management Authority at Itanagar.

28. **HYDROPOWER:** Our state has huge potential for Hydropower sector as compared to other Northeastern States. THE Cabinet Committee on Economic

Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister approved the expenditure on pre-investment activities and various clearances for expenditure on pre-investment activities and various clearances for Dilbang Multipurpose Project (2880 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh for an amount of Rs. 28080 crores. The project will be completed within 9 years. On completion, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh will get 12% free power from the project which will enrich state's coffers by about Rs. 26785 crores over the project life of forty years besides other externalities like industrial and commercial activities. Our government will involve all stakeholders and allay any fears of dislocation of people and environmental degradation before construction of the project starts. We invite NEC and Ministry of DoNER for partnership.

29. **UNEMPLOYMENT:** Our state is witnessing a major problem of unemployment. There are very limited services in the private sector. Hence, there is a need of a two-fold strategy for ushering growth in the state, we are bringing out a new industrial Policy which will give suitable incentives especially for agro-based industries. We require support from NEC for framing the policy and providing suitable incentives for executing it.

30. **BAMBOO:** bamboo has a huge scope of development in the entire North eastern region. The region has not been able to effectively harness this resource on a commercial scale. NEC must provide support in value addition of this resource through an integrated value chain which links the farmers with the bamboo processing facilities. This will be a crucial source of livelihood for our people.

31. **SPORTS AND YOUTH:** Our state has the potential to produce world class but due to inadequate sports infrastructure we are unable to tap the potential of our youths. Sangay Lhaden Sports Academy which is the lone sports academy in the State has produced world class players and our youths have brought national as well as international laurels. I am thankful and delighted to share that the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, government of India has announced to set up Centres of Excellence in 3 sports which are Boxing, Weight Lifting and Martial Arts in our state. Each centre of Excellence will have 100-capacity residential school and will be set up in Sangay Lhaden Sports Academy. With the sustained efforts of Government of India and State Government, we are hopeful of producing world class sports players

in near future. In addition, I am very happy to inform you all that we re planning to host the North East Youth Festival (NEYF) in 2019 and Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in 2022.

32. **GREEN BONUS:** Our State has a quality forest cover of 82% of the total area and thus provides invaluable ecological services to the nation and the world as a carbon sink. The State has 148.52 tonnes of carbon stock per hectare which is highest in the country and its value is estimated to be about Rs. 48000.00 crore annually.

33. The rapid increase in the average temperature of the Earth's surface due to the global warming is a big concern for the world. As our government is sensitive to environmental issues, we have launched **Clean-Green Arunachal Campaign** wherein we plan to plant **1 crore** trees in next years. Under the program, we will also be planting trees alongside all our National Highways and State Highways. I appeal NEC and Ministry of DoNER to pursue Green Bonus for Arunachal Pradesh with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

34. **IFC & WS:** One of the biggest challenges which we face in the state is the annual devastation caused by **relentless monsoons**. There is massive destructive of roads and other infrastructures. The current norms of disaster relief under SDRF/NDRF guidelines are to meager to restore the infrastructure. The State Government has been unable to restore the rain damages in the State that has been accumulating over the years. The State is left with a mammoth task of restoring damages, which the State is unable to carry out due to its meager resources. I would request NEC to provide funds for repair and maintenance of important infrastructure projects which are damaged every year during monsoon season.

35. **INSURGENCY:** My State Government is working hard towards weaning away youth from **insurgency** through effective policies. My Government is ready to help any youth who volunteers to leave the misguided path of insurgency and join the mainstream society in nation building. We are an egalitarian society where the voice of last man is also give due importance and, in this spirit, I urge all the

misguided youth to perform their duties towards Nation building by leaving the path of violence and joining the mainstream.

36. **DRUG MENACE:** The **drug menace** mostly in the form of opium addiction is not just a social evil but also a national security threat. This opium addiction is not confined to the youth but across age groups.

37. The challenges of during addiction have to be addressed though a dual strategy. One is to wean away the farmers from growing opium by providing them alternative crops like cardamom, ginger, high yielding variety of horticulture and agriculture seeds etc. The other is to strengthen the drug rehabilitation system in the state. NERCOMP has made appreciable impact in the three insurgency-affected and drug infested districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding. The same may be extended to other backward areas of the State.

38. I am thankful to MGA, Government of India to sanction a special security infrastructure package of Rs 156 crore for the TCL region. This will go a long way in strengthening the local police in their fight against the insurgents in the region. The districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding should be given priority in areas of education, social development and inclusive growth as well.

39. **ART & CULTURE:** Arunachal Pradesh is one of the most ethnically diverse State of India. The cultural outline of the State is varied ranging from Mahayana Buddhist followers amongst the Monpa and Sherdukpen in West Arunachal Pradesh to animist clans of Tani Tribes in Central Arunachal Pradesh, to skillful woodcraftsman of Nocte tribes in eastern Arunachal Pradesh. You will be interested to know that Arunachal Pradesh is perhaps the only State in India that houses both Mahayan and Theravada Buddhism for over several centuries.

40. With modernization and external influences, the tribal culture and identity gets eroded and the intrinsic and, culture attributes tend to get, diluted. I find many youths of current generation completely bereft and ignorant of tribal traditions. Many don't even know their dialects. There is an urgent need for Government intervention to preserve and protect indigenous tribal culture and identity in its purest form. The

tribal scripts, the oral traditions, the rituals need to be archived by professional ethnographers.

41. NEC can play a pivotal role by providing assistance in this direction by adequately funding for setting up of heritage centers and museums. I would suggest Ministry of DoNER and NEC to initiate a program on development of modified roman scripts of indigenous tribes of all the 8 North Eastern States in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

42. I would like to mention that nothing great can be achieved without teamwork. I urge all the members of this august gathering to collaborate with each other and make the North Eastern Region one of the best administered following the mantra of Hon'ble Prime Minister " Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas".

43. I compliment the organizer of this meeting for the meticulous arrangements they have made for this important event. I once again wish the organizers well, the plenary, a grand success.

44. Lastly, I sincerely thank the Chairman, North Eastern Council and Vice-Chairman, North Eastern Council for giving me this opportunity for sharing my views and concerns. I hope that my views and suggestions will be taken into consideration by the Council. I also thank Secretary, DoNER Secretary, NEC and all officers of NEC for organizing the Plenary in befitting manner. Thank You all

Jai Hind ! Jai Arunachal !

**ADDENDUM TO SPEECH OF HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, ARUNACHAL
PRADESH DELIVERED DURING 68TH PLENARY MEETING OF NEC**

1. All Developmental Schemes of the Government of India whether in the social sector or for creation of infrastructure/ capital works are based on population criteria. NE states have low demography but large geographical areas, a large part of which comprises remote, hostile and challenging terrain. Hence for a state like Arunachal Pradesh the criteria for deciding quantum of funding under various Central Sector Schemes should not be based on population and must take into account special conditions of the state.
2. Arunachal Pradesh is prone to several natural disasters on account of heavy rainfall resulting in landslides, floods and other calamities which cause large scale destruction of houses, standing crops and other private property besides damage to infrastructure. The relief grants that the state receives from Government of India to mitigate the natural calamities in insufficient and needs to be revised substantially.
3. Connectivity whether in terms of air, rail and roads remains a major challenge in Arunachal Pradesh. In this regard, the following areas need major attention.
4. At present there are around 700/800 rural habitations that are unconnected by road because they do not qualify for funding under PMGSY. However the fact remains that there are people residing in these habitations and hence the funding for these roads could be taken up under NERSDS or Bharatmala. Alternatively the eligibility criteria under PMGSY could be revised for states like Arunachal Pradesh.
5. Tawang is a strategic district of Arunachal Pradesh that shares international border with China (Tibet). It is important that an airport should be developed at Tawang both for tourism and security reasons. The State Government will make requisite land available for development of this airport. The funding for the same could be taken up under NEC/ DoNER funds.
6. The Hon Prime Minister has recently laid the foundation stone for the development of an International Airport in Arunachal Pradesh. This Airport is expected to become operational by 2022. In the meanwhile it is important to improve air connectivity of the state capital with the national capital. Lilabari Airport in North Lakhimpur district of Assam is the nearest airport to Itanagar.

As an interim measure a daily flight from Delhi to Lilabari via Guwahati may be commenced at the earliest.

7. NEC has been funding many schemes in the social sector or capital works across different departments. The total amount of funds received by the State was around 200 crores. However since 2018, no new schemes are being considered for approval/ sanction. This is adversely affecting developmental works in the state and needs urgent attention.
8. Arunachal Pradesh faces a unique challenge on account of unfounded and baseless claims by China on our territory. The state does not receive any funds for externally aided projects through ADB/WB and other agencies. There is a substantial deprivation of developmental loans/ aid to the state which needs to be compensated through an alternative arrangement, preferably under NEC.
9. There is an emphasis on Sports by the Government of India through the Khelo India and Fit India programs. In this regard sufficient funds should be made available through NEC for development of Sports Infrastructure in NE States in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular.
10. Pangsau Pass marks the international border with Myanmar and is located in the Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh. The state government has already constructed necessary infrastructure at Pangsau Pass for facilitation of border trade. The Land Customs station proposed here need to be made operational with immediate effect.
11. 15th Finance Commission is about to make its recommendations to Government of India regarding the formula by which vertical and horizontal devolution of Central funds would be given to various states. Presently Arunachal Pradesh received 1.37% of resources from the divisible pool. This share needs to be revised very substantially keeping in view the strategic location of the state and several jointly shared developmental priorities of Centre and State.
12. Strengthening of Civil Services is crucial as its effectiveness will form the strength of efficacious development and the governance process. Unbiased, honest and efficient civil service is the core of the executive that has the responsibility to effectively monitor and implement all Government policies and programmes. Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories

are allocated a common cadre for IAS and other Services. Unlike other States which have a separate individual cadre of their own, because of the common cadre, the officers allocated to the State are subject to frequent transfer and also deprived them from their sense of belonging. As such, I demand for Creation of separate cadre for IAS/IPS/IFS Officers for the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The demand for creation of separate cadre for Arunachal Pradesh was also discussed during the last Parliament Session. I once again request Chairman and Vice Chairman, North Eastern Council to take up the matter at appropriate level.



68th PLENARY OF THE
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

SPEECH OF
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL
CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM

8th September, 2019
GUWAHATI

Respected Amit Shahji, please allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate you on taking over as Chairperson of NEC. I am confident that under your visionary and dynamic leadership, the Council will be able to consolidate its role and give a renewed push to development in the region.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Amit Shah ji for the historic step to strengthen complete national integration by abrogating Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution. This monumental decision has fulfilled a long standing dream of the people of the country of 'one Nation and one Constitution'.

The North Eastern region, which deeply suffered in the development index due to extremism for last six decades, has now started to enjoy the fruits of development. Due to zero tolerance policy against insurgency and people friendly development initiatives of the NDA government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji, peace has today prevailed in the region and a new chapter of growth is being added every day.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir,

Incidentally today is the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. On this occasion, I offer my deep tribute to this legendary cultural icon. I extend my deep gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji, for conferring the highest civilian honour to Bhupen da posthumously in recognition to his immense contribution towards nation building.

Time and again, Hon'ble Prime Minister Modiji has outlined his vision for development of North East with special focus on connectivity within the region, with rest of India and outside world, speedier completion of infrastructure projects and provision of basic amenities in each and every household. In the history of independent India, Hon'ble Modiji is the only Prime Minister who has made more than 30 visits to the region and ensured that his cabinet colleagues visit the states of the North East every fortnight to monitor implementation of development projects for faster growth of the region. This speaks volumes about Hon'ble Modiji commitment for the North East.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir,

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modiji rightly pointed out in his address in the 65th Plenary session of the Council that NEC must be a state-of-the-art resource centre for the north-eastern states with the necessary resources, knowledge and skills. Keeping this in view, the NEC has to shoulder tremendous responsibility in its initiatives and guide the North Eastern States in their planning for faster development. I am confident that the NEC under your visionary leadership will fulfill its role as a regional planning body successfully.

Respected Chairman Sir, with path-breaking 'Act East Policy', Hon'ble Prime Minister Modiji has re-positioned the North Eastern region as country's expressway to the ASEAN. North East Council has an important role to play in rolling out of Act East Policy particularly on issues relating to trade, investment, tourism, dependable connectivity and building relations with Southeast Asian countries in close coordination with various ministries of the Government of India.

In order to establish air links with ASEAN & BBIN countries, there is a need to launch direct flights between the capitals of ASEAN and BBIN countries and Guwahati. Assam has already committed Rs. 100 crore Viability Gap Fund under UDAN International and as a result of this, flight has started between Guwahati and Dhaka. Soon another flight will start between Guwahati and Bangkok. We have requested Ministry of Civil Aviation to bid out more destinations in ASEAN countries.

In order to promote awareness about North East in ASEAN region, NEC may start hosting a festival of North East in each of the ASEAN countries to project the rich heritage, culture, handloom & handicrafts, industrial and tourist potential of all the North Eastern States. NEC should also plan youth exchange programmes between North East and ASEAN countries with focus on sports and culture.

NEC may also think of setting up of a Language Academy to facilitate teaching as well as research on different languages spoken in the Northeast and the countries in ASEAN and BBIN. Our Government will provide necessary land for setting up of this Academy.

Moreover, NEC can also become the flag bearer of Act East Policy by providing special assistance to the North Eastern States to realize their export potential to the ASEAN and other countries. NEC should also facilitate the opening

of consulates of ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries in Guwahati to ease travel to and from these countries to the North East.

You are aware that Hon'ble Prime Minister has given top most priority to Highways, Infoways and Transway as the vehicles of development. NEC should ensure that internet and mobile connectivity is available in every part of the North East. This will boost trade & commerce in the North East and facilitate realization of the region as the expressway to ASEAN countries as envisioned through Act East Policy.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, we are working hard to make Assam the industrial hub, from which we can service around 80 crore population of BBIN and ASEAN countries. In this context, I would like to request you to consider a more investment friendly industrial policy by suitably modifying the existing North East Industrial Development Scheme 2017 for the region.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modiji envisions the entire Northeast to be hub of organic farming. Accordingly, we have committed ourselves to promote organic farming in a big way. In this regard, I am happy to inform you that from last year farmers of Assam have successfully exported fruits and vegetables from Guwahati to Dubai, London, Hong Kong and other international destinations. Meanwhile, a proposal with DPR to set up an Organic University has been submitted to the NEC. The NEC may provide necessary support to Assam Government for setting up North East Organic Agriculture University. Government of Assam is ready to provide land for this University.

Respected Chairman Sir, flood, erosion and landslide is an issue which has also assumed alarming proportion not only in Assam but in the entire north eastern region. Amongst the north eastern states, Assam is the worst sufferer of this natural scourge. It needs to be mentioned that river bank erosion is a major problem in Assam caused by river Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries. On an average, approximately eight thousand hectares land is eroded every year and the State has lost 4.27 lakh hectares of agricultural homestead to erosion since 1950s affecting over 1.25 lakh farm families. Erosion is systematically destroying the chain of embankments, which provide relief from annual floods.

Unfortunately, in the SDRF guidelines, 'river erosion' has not been included as a natural calamity. In the interest of taking timely action on erosion, river erosion should be considered as eligible calamity for consideration of assistance under NDRF and SDRF.

Since Assam is a lower riparian State, unless there is proper and holistic intervention in the entire basin, the problem of flood and erosion cannot be properly attended. We are thankful to Hon'ble Prime Minister for setting up a high level committee for proper management of water resources in northeast region under the chairmanship of Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog. The Committee has suggested for establishment of Northeast Water Management Authority. The Northeast Water Management Authority may put into place at the earliest a permanent solution to the problem of flood and erosion in Assam and the North East.

In this regard, I would like to request Hon'ble Chairman Sir to take necessary steps to consider the entire North East as a disaster hotspot and to have a dedicated Disaster Mitigation Fund exclusively for the North East to enable the state governments to take preventive measures against the endemic problem of riverbank erosion, landslides, earthquakes and floods.

Moreover, there is an urgent need to tap the waterways potential of Assam in particular and the North East in general to realize the untapped potential of the region.

Expressways on both banks of Brahmaputra will benefit all North Eastern states in promoting safer and faster transport as well as in maintaining navigability of Brahmaputra. It will also provide protection against erosion of river banks. NEC may consider taking up this as a flagship project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of DoNER for launching 'North East Special infrastructure Development Scheme' in 2017. For Assam an amount of Rs. 471 crore has been approved for 8 projects. Continuation of this scheme is very essential for all round development of the region.

I also take this opportunity to draw attention of Hon'ble Chairman Sir for the following few issues, which are very essential for all round development of the people of the region.

Sir, we welcome the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of doubling medical colleges in the country under which 75 new medical colleges are proposed to be established. Considering the remoteness and backwardness of the region, NEC and DoNER should help us in having more medical college in the North East.

We need quality education not only to bring our youth to the mainstream of employment but also to equip them to contribute to nation building. I propose NEC and DoNER to help us to have at least one Kendriya Vidyalaya and one Navodaya Vidyalaya in every development block of every state in the region.

You are also aware that forests in the North East provide a very important ecosystem to the entire country. However, the forest dwellers in the North East are finding it difficult to protect these forests due to their isolation, poverty and lack of development. A special scheme should be initiated by the NEC to protect the forest wealth of the North East.

Hon'ble Chaiman Sir,

I would like to bring to your kind notice that Hon'ble President of India has official retreats in various parts of the country. One Presidential Retreat in the North East will give the people of the region a greater sense of pride for the nation. I humbly suggest that a Presidential Retreat may be established in one of the North Eastern States and NEC may take lead in this matter.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts today. I am confident that under your dynamic leadership, the NEC will fulfill its role in transforming the region as one of the most prosperous region of India.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

Thank you.

JAI HIND!



GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

**SPEECH
OF
SHRI N BIREN SINGH,
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, MANIPUR**

**AT
THE 68th NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL MEETING**

**8th – 9th September, 2019
GUWAHATI**

Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs & Chairman of the North Eastern Council, Shri Amit Shahji, Hon'ble Minister of DoNER and Vice-Chairman of North Eastern Council, Dr. Jitendra Singhji, my Distinguished Colleagues & Members of the Council, Hon'ble Members of Parliament from North East States, Officials from Ministry of DoNER, NEC, Other Central Ministry and State Government

It is a privilege for me to take part in this august gathering of the 68th North Eastern Council Plenary and I take this opportunity to share our views on the agenda items and participate in today's deliberation on issues of our concerns. I am sure that under the guidance of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji and Union Minister of Home and Chairman, Shri Amit Shahji and Union Minister of DoNER and Vice Chairman of North Eastern Council, Dr. Jitendraji, the concern for NE states will be addressed and decisions will be taken to speed up socio-economic development of the region and to maintain peace in the region.

2. ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2019-20 AND CONTINUATION OF PROJECTS AND SECTOR DROPPED UNDER NEC.

Sir, NEC has been given priority for completion of ongoing projects by March 2020 and except for central sector projects like NERSDS and Smart Visual Class, which are at initial stage, no new projects of the State has been taken up during 2018-19. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister, DoNER, Dr. Jitendraji and Secretary, Ministry of DoNER to whom I have written letters requesting to reconsider the decision taken to keep all projects sanctioned by NEC since 1st April, 2017 in abeyance for examination by Project Implementation Committee (PIC). While the PIC has recommended for continuation of these projects, five projects sanctioned during 2017-18 under anti-erosion, water supply and roads have been dropped. I appeal through this august House to allow State Government to continue execution of these sanctioned projects and provide budget provision under NEC.

Further, to avoid delay in re-sanction and release of subsequent fund for these projects sanctioned by NEC during 2017-18, may I suggest for lifting the condition of vetting DPRs by line Ministry.

I seek support of this august House to continue funding of Water Supply, Anti-Erosion and Sports sectors under NEC, since these sectors are not funded under NESIDS, except for tourism related water supply projects.

3. COMMUNITY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS:

Sir, North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Society implemented in Ukhrul, Senapati under NERCORMP-II have done well and NERCORMP-III implemented in Churachandpur and Chandel are doing well in improving livelihoods for people of Manipur. The project has transformed the lives of the rural women of villages covered under this project. Based on the success of this project, I understand that NERCORMP-IV project will be launched by Ministry of DoNER in near future. I appeal for clearance of this project early and seek handholding support extended by NEC to NERCORMP-III, till NERCORMP-IV is launched so that the human resource available are given fair chance under NERCORMP-IV and they are not left stranded. I also request for expansion of the project to Tamenglong, Imphal East, Jiribam and Kamjong district for upliftment of the poor and weaker section of our Society under Phase-IV.

Sir, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has transferred watershed projects implemented under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) projects to the States. The project is implemented on 90:10 funding pattern between the centre and the state with funding of manpower from the project fund. The North East States have no resource to complete these projects on their own. In view of the importance of watershed management and catchment area treatment to harvest maximum rainwater and looming water scarcity due to climate change, I appeal to this August House to take up with the Ministry for continuation of these programmes till 2022.

4. 10% GROSS BUDGETARY SUPPORT AND ENHANCEMENT OF BUDGET SUPPORT FOR NEC

I am proud to recall the commitment of the then BJP Government under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji for the infrastructure development of NE states as reflected in the Speech of the Union Finance Minister while presenting the Union Budget for the year 1998-99. The relevant paragraphs from the Budget Speech are reproduced below:

“Furthermore, it has been decided that a non-lapsable Central Resource Pool will be created for deposit of funds from all Ministries where the plan expenditure on the North Eastern Region is less than 10 per cent of the total plan allocation of the Ministry. The difference between 10 per cent of the allocation and the actual expenditure incurred on the North Eastern Region will be transferred to the Central Pool, which will be used for funding specific programmes for economic and social upliftment of the North Eastern States”.

However, total of the 10% has not been invested in the NE States. My Government desires that NE States be allowed to assess these unutilized resources for the infrastructure development in the NE States. The amount released to the NEC is too small to make any meaningful impact on the development of inter-state physical infrastructure and human resource development of the North eastern region. There is still a large gap between the resources made available and the expectation and aspiration of the States. Without a quantum jump in the NEC allocation and budgetary support from the Centre, it will be difficult for north eastern states to catch up with the development index and sustainable development goals at the national average by 2030.

5. ONE TIME PACKAGE FOR CLEARING COMMITTED LIABILITIES

There has been continued gap between demand and supply of resources allocated. This has resulted in accumulation of committed liabilities for completion of many ongoing projects in the NE States. Perhaps, this could be one reason for delay in the completion of projects. In this connection, I draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Home Minister and Chairman of North Eastern Council, Shri Amit Shahji through this August house for providing one time package for completion of ongoing projects and extension of ongoing projects from 2020 to 2022. Total committed liability of NEC share for completion of ongoing projects and new projects sanctioned during 2017-18 is Rs. 206.22 crores.

6. NEW INITIATIVES OF STATE GOVERNMENT

My Government has undertaken a number of initiatives for reducing the gap in development between hill and valley and for inclusive growth of the state. Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, several policy programmes have been initiated to reach out to the people of my state and to ensure

all round development. All efforts have been made to spread awareness of our government policy and programmes and to improve delivery system by organizing various programme such as “Go to Village”, “Go to Hills”, “Hill Leaders Day”, “Go to School”, etc. Several projects are also taken up in the hill districts on need basis. This includes construction of Women Market in Hill District Head quarter, construction of transit accommodation of doctors and teachers in the hilly and remote areas. All such new initiatives are expected to yield rich dividend in reducing interstate disparity in the level of development resulting in multiplier effect in boosting rural economy. However, to fulfill expectation of people and achieve the sustainable development goals by 2020, budgetary support from the centre is required. I appeal through this August house for support from NEC, Ministry of DoNER and other central Ministry so that NE states come at par with national average in all national development index.

7. INTRODUCTION OF HILL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (HADP) IN MANIPUR

My Government is thankful to the Ministry of DoNER for the introduction of HADP in Tamenglong district of Manipur on pilot basis. Under this newly introduced programme, a sum of Rs. 90.00 crore is being sanctioned for infrastructure development of Tamenglong (including Noney) district. Recently, the M/o DoNER has been requested to extend this programme to all hill districts of Manipur. Let me take the privilege of today’s August house to request the M/o DoNER to consider the proposal of state Government favourably.

8. Sir, I would like to thank you for giving us this platform today to highlight our concerns and strengthen the commitment for developing the North-East. I hope that my suggestions and views will be taken into consideration by the Council.

JAI HIND



GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

SPEECH OF
SHRI CONRAD K. SANGMA
CHIEF MINISTER OF MEGHALAYA

68TH PLENARY MEETING
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER, 2019
ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE
GUWAHATI

SPEECH OF THE CHIEF MINISTER OF MEGHALAYA
68th PLENARY MEETING OF NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
8 - 9 SEPTEMBER, 2019

1. Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman, NEC, Shri Amit Shah Ji; Hon'ble Union Minister of State, Ministry of DoNER and Vice Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji; Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of Northeastern Sister States, Distinguished Members of the North Eastern Council, Officials from the Government of India, N.E.C. and State Governments, Ladies and Gentlemen. At the outset, on behalf of the people of Meghalaya, I would like to extend my well-wishes to Shri Amit Shah Ji on his new assignment as the Chairman of the NEC. The entire Northeastern region is looking up to you for leadership and guidance to resolve many of our long pending issues and to lead us on the path of peace and prosperity.
2. As you are aware, Sir, the North Eastern region of the country is unique in many ways. The eight North Eastern States are strategically located with and have 5182 kms of International border, comprising 99% of their combined geographical boundary with neighbouring countries like China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. There are over 40 tribes scattered all over the region, each with their own unique identity and cultural heritage. The region has huge forest cover accounting for about 22% of the total forest cover of the country. Thus, the region provides substantial eco-system services like carbon capture and sequestration, oxygen production, gene pool protection and soil conservation for the entire country. It is estimated that the Northeastern states account for a significant percentage of the total carbon stock of the country. Despite the regions importance in the provision of eco system services, the region is economically underdeveloped contributing only 2.6 percent to the Net Domestic Product of the country.
3. The underdevelopment of the region stems from the various geographic and historical circumstances. Being largely landlocked with mountainous terrain, the cost of building and maintaining infrastructure is much higher in the region. The cost disability in infrastructure creation is further accentuated by the lower density of population and higher number of habitations. A recent study by IIT Guwahati has quantified the cost disability for Meghalaya on various parameters. The labour cost in Meghalaya is 47% higher than Odhisa. In comparison to states like Odhisa and Madhya Pradesh, the hiring of machinery in Meghalaya is 50%

higher on average across most equipment. The unit cost of highway projects is also 2.24 times higher than other General category states.

4. Over the years, the Government of India and the State Governments of the Northeastern states have taken up various infrastructure projects that alleviated the geographic disadvantage to some extent. Improvement of road, rail and air connectivity in the region is a case in point. I like to propose to this forum two iconic infrastructure projects, which could be game- changers for the entire region. The first project is the 8-laning of Guwahati- Shillong- Dawki-Sylhet- Chitagon Highway. This project involves upgradation of the existing roads and will enable transportation and export of materials and minerals from the Northeastern States to the south East Asian countries through Chittagong. It will have a transformative impact on the region's economy. The second critical project is the Silchar – Mahendraganj - Hili road which also includes a bridge across the river Brahmaputra. This road will dramatically reduce the travel time between North Eastern States and the rest of the country, lower the landing costs of materials and make the products, especially the high value perishable agri- horticulture, of the North East competitive in the rest of the country. I am confident that these two iconic projects will, to some extent, ease the challenges faced by the region. Taking up of these bold, large-scale projects which are both strategically and economically important for the country is only possible under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji and our Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji. I have already apprised the Hon'ble Prime Minister about these projects and I want to use this forum to reiterate the criticality of these projects for the region.
5. Now, I would like to highlight issues specific to my state, Meghalaya. The State has many advantages, primary among which are the bountiful water and forest resources. The large agro-biodiversity of Meghalaya can help promote agri- horticulture and livestock based economic development. Further, Tourism and hospitality sectors are key to our growth. Despite these advantages, we face several challenges which include insufficient access to markets, an underdeveloped private sector and inadequate infrastructure. For instance, the road density of the State is only 47.8 Km/ 100 sq. km against the national average of 170. Even amongst the NE states, Meghalaya's road density is on

the lower side of the spectrum. Owing to all these challenges, the State remains underdeveloped and is today one of the poorer states in the country. The State's per capita income for 2017-18 is Rs.87,500 against the National per capita income of Rs.1,14,958.

6. My Government wants to transform Meghalaya into an economically developed, sustainability-focussed middle income state by 2030. To achieve this goal, large investments are needed in the various sectors of the economy. We are particularly focussing on primary sector rejuvenation, human capital development, infrastructure expansion and entrepreneurship promotion.
7. We are thankful to the Government of India, its various Ministries including the Ministry of DONER and NEC for supporting many development projects over the years. I would like to particularly emphasize on the projects supported by NEC and the Ministry of the Development of the Northeastern region. NEC has funded several critical projects in my State, especially relating to infrastructure development, in the roads, airport and power sectors. Projects like the construction of a Double Circuit Tower from Nangilbabra (Meghalaya) to Agia (Assam) costing Rs.43.32 crore, upgradation of Mairang-Ranigodown-Azra Road costing Rs.100 crore and the upgradation of Jowai-Nartiang-Khanduli road costing Rs.67.36 crore have brought about substantial development to different pockets of the State.
8. However, in the recent past, the NEC has not been able to take up new projects owing to resource constraints. Against the allocation of Rs.4500 crore approved by the Union Cabinet for the Schemes of NEC for the period from 2017-20, only Rs.19 crores was left for new NEC projects. The rest of the money was allocated for clearing of committed liabilities of various ongoing projects. This lack of resources has constrained the NEC's ability to fund new projects.
9. The implementation of the projects sanctioned from April, 2017 onwards has been put on hold by the NEC. Out of 21 projects sanctioned for Meghalaya during 2017-18 and 2018-19, which have been duly recommended by the State Level Empowered Committee, NEC has so far allowed only 7 (seven) projects to be continued. There has been no response, either from the Ministry of DoNER or the NEC on the remaining 14 projects in spite of repeated requests made by the

State Government. These 14 projects are of critical importance to the State and include projects relating to road infrastructure, water supply, irrigation, rural entrepreneurship promotion and building schools. The project for construction of the Rongjeng-Mangsang-Adokgre road is of particular importance. Work on many of these 14 projects has already begun and the physical progress of work is almost 30% in some projects. It will be impossible for the State Government to implement these projects without the sanction and funding support from NEC. These projects will remain unfinished unless funds are allocated by NEC. I appeal through this august house to accord the highest priority to this issue and to ensure the sanction and implementation of these projects.

10. To enable the NEC to fulfil its mandate of promoting development of the Northeastern region in the real sense, its budget should be increased to about Rs.2000 crores annually. Unless such resources are made available, the NER Vision 2020 providing for the comprehensive development of NE States will only remain a pipedream.
11. Another reform that is urgently needed is with regard to the process for approval of the projects submitted by the State Governments to NEC. The current process is long winding and hence time consuming leading to inordinate delays in project approval. Currently clearances are required from four different committees – The Project Identification Committee (PIC) chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of DoNER recommends the projects, the sectoral empowered Committee (SEC) chaired by Member, NEC vets and endorses the selected projects, the State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) chaired by the Chief Secretary does the technical and economic appraisal of the DPRs and the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) chaired by the Secretary, DoNER appraises projects costing Rs.5 – Rs.15 crore. The current protracted approval mechanism needs to be rationalized. For instance, both the Project Identification Committee and the Standing Finance Committee may be chaired by the Secretary, NEC. This will facilitate expeditious identification, appraisal, approval and implementation of projects. Furthermore, the delegation of financial power to the Secretary, NEC may be adequately enhanced to empower NEC and to make its functioning effective.

12. I would also like to remind that in the last plenary meeting, the members of the NEC had unanimously raised the issue relating to the decision of the Expenditure Finance Committee under the Ministry of Finance to remove many important sectors from the purview of NEC. Currently NEC is focussing only on specific sectors like bamboo, piggery, regional tourism, higher education, tertiary healthcare, telemedicine, science & technology etc. The Guidelines of the NEC need to be revised to incorporate several crucial sectors such as Sports, School Education, Power, Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Irrigation, Flood Control and Water Supply, Tourism and Skill Development. This expansion of mandate will enable the NEC to function as a true regional development forum.
13. Another crucial issue is with regard to the guidelines of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS). I welcome the scheme and I am happy that Meghalaya has received a total sanction of about Rs.175 crores for 6 vital infrastructure projects. We have already submitted additional projects of about Rs.300 crores. I urge the Ministry of DoNER to sanction the additional list of projects submitted as well. However, there is a need to relook at the guidelines of NESIDS to make the scheme more effective. First, the lower limit of Rs.20 crore on the project size should be lowered to about Rs.10 crore, so that small but significant projects can be taken up. Besides, lowering of the minimum cost of the project would also allow the State Governments to take up more projects under the scheme. Secondly, in the case of road projects, NESIDS covers only those projects that connect tourist spots. This provision needs to be relaxed so that we can invest in road connectivity in the broader sense.
14. Another crucial issue worth highlighting here is the inability of the Ministries of the Government of India to utilize the 10% of their budget for schemes and programmes in the North Eastern States. These unutilized funds are not being placed adequately at the disposal of either the Ministry of DoNER or the State Governments for the implementation of development projects. I would, therefore, like to suggest that the substantial accumulated amount lying with the Ministry of Finance may be allocated to the NEC for implementation of inter-sectoral and integrated development plans in the NE States, towards the achievement of NER Vision 2020.

15. I will now highlight some key focus areas for my Government as we work towards achieving our development goals. We are placing huge emphasis on secondary education. In our state, the total number of students in Secondary schools is 1,04,727 and Higher Secondary schools is 54,739. However, the number of individuals in the age bracket of 15-19 years is 4,03,675. This means there is a big demand supply gap in secondary education. To bridge this gap, the Government is in the process of setting up Ekalavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in all blocks of the State. Each of these residential schools will be constructed at an approximate cost of ₹ 24 crore and will cater to 480 students when fully operational. This initiative will transform the landscape of secondary education in our State. We already got sanction for 11 EMRS from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is expected that 25 more EMRS will be sanctioned for the State in the next two years.
16. In the Health Sector, we are making all out efforts to improve our Maternal and Child Health indicators. Our Infant Mortality Rate is 39 deaths per 1000 livebirths and our Maternal Mortality rate is 197 deaths per 100,000 livebirths. My goal is to reduce these numbers dramatically in the next 2-3 years. To achieve this, we have successfully piloted a new initiative that uses real time data on the pregnant women to monitor their health status on a continuous basis. Under this data driven model, primary data on pregnant women is collected by the Medical Officers and Health functionaries through a mobile app. This data is updated regularly and can be seen in Shillong by me and other health officials. Each pregnant woman can be tracked and on any given day, the number of women due for delivery can be seen on the Chief Minister's Dash Board. In South West Garo Hills District, where this initiative was piloted, institutional deliveries improved by 30 percent in just 3 months. Now we are expanding this project to all the districts of the State and to cover not only health and institutional deliveries, but also the sectors of Nutrition, Education and Rural Development. I have named this initiative Meghalaya's Outcomes oriented Transformation in Health, nutrition, Education and Rural development Program or the MOTHER program.
17. Meghalaya is one of the few States to set up a Farmers Commission to mobilize the farmers and ensure that all grievances of the farming community are given due regard and heard. Further, we have launched a number of missions to

improve the production and productivity in the horticulture sector. The Missions in the sectors of Lakadong Turmeric, Jackfruit and Mushroom have now started to bear fruit. Through the missions, market linkages are being forged with International market players like Amazon to get the best price for our produce. Meghalaya is also one of the few state to have a dedicated Uber-like transportation system for evacuation of agricultural produce. We call this IT enabled service the 1917 iTEAMS. Farmers in my State can now dial the toll-free number of 1917 and not only access information, but also transport their produce using the 21 Agri Response Vehicles stationed at strategic places.

18. The State government has placed special emphasis on the effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes. Meghalaya is today one of the top implementers of MGNREGS in the country. We have spent about 1000 crore on MGNREGS in the last financial year generating an average of 72 person days of wage employment for all registered job-card holders in the State.
19. Another priority area for my Government is the tourism sector. Despite the phenomenal potential of Meghalaya as a tourist destination, the contribution of this sector to the State GDP is less than 5 percent. We want to promote Meghalaya as a sustainable high-value tourist destination and to create a unique experience for national and international Tourists. We are in talks with international brands like Airbnb for promoting the State in that direction. The ultimate goal of Meghalaya Tourism is to generate better incomes for our entrepreneurs and local communities. Village eco-tourism is an area that holds enormous promise for the State. We are developing projects to sustainably market the cultural and bio-diversity richness of the rural areas.
20. Meghalaya lies in a fragile eco-system and livelihoods of people are dependent on environment. We are therefore making serious efforts towards protecting our ecology, rejuvenating our springs and water sources, protecting and enhancing our green cover. A lot of investments are being made through externally aided projects. In addition, the State has its own programmes to promote sustainability through community participation. We launched the Meghalaya One Citizen One Tree initiative and encouraged every citizen of the state to plant and take care of at least one tree. On this year's World Environment Day, the 5th of June, the citizens of the State planted a total of 1.2 million trees.

21. Another path breaking initiative of my government is the Meghalaya Water Policy. We have become the first state in the country to formulate a State Water Policy. This policy will enable us to better manage our water resources and ensure long term water security and equity. One of the goals is to harness the 3000 mm of average annual rainfall that the State receives. Currently, most of this abundant resource is washed off. To remedy this scenario, we plan to create a large network of decentralized water storage infrastructure across the state in the form of 5000 small multipurpose reservoirs (SMRs) of varying capacities. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi *ji* has appreciated our State for taking this initiative in his recent *mann ki baat* program.
22. A huge priority for Meghalaya is to promote sports both to achieve excellence and as a way of life, especially for the youth. Meghalaya will be hosting the 39th National Games in 2022 which coincides with the 50th year of formation of the State and the 75th year of Independence. The State is committed to organizing these games in a spectacular way and to use the opportunity to create world class sporting infrastructure that will be utilized by the youth of the State and the region for many years to come. To be able to achieve these targets, we would require expertise and financial assistance from the Government of India. I am also hopeful that the NEC and the Ministry of DoNER would be able to support us in the construction of Sports and other support infrastructure for the games.
23. Respected Chairman and members of this esteemed council, I would like to conclude by underscoring that the Northeastern region has enormous untapped potential in areas like horticulture, hydroelectricity, tourism and hospitality sectors, and other knowledge industries. A concerted effort is needed by the various state governments and the Government of India to convert these immense possibilities into reality. I believe that the Northeast council has a very important role to play as we all work towards transforming this region and improving the lives and wellbeing of its 45 million citizens. This will mean that the council has to be empowered through providing bigger budgets, greater delegation of financial powers and increasing flexibility in sanctioning and implementing projects. I am confident that under the leadership of our new Chairman, the council will be able to become a true driver and catalyst for growth and prosperity.

24. I thank our kind host, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam for the excellent arrangements and hospitality. I would like to thank once again, our Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman for gracing the meeting with his presence and I sincerely hope that issues highlighted above receive due consideration.

25. Thank you. Jai Hind.



Speech

of

Pu Zoramthanga

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Mizoram

at the

68th Plenary of the

North Eastern Council

8th – 9th September, 2019

Assam Administrative Staff College,

Guwahati, Assam.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman of NEC Shri Amir Shah ji, Vice Chairman of NEC Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Governors of the North Eastern States, Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Members of the North Eastern Council, Senior Officials of the Ministry of DONER, Various Ministries of Government of India, NEC and State Governments, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. At the outset, let me welcome Shri Amit Shah ji the Hon'ble Union Home Minister, our new Chairman, into the North East fraternity and I hope that under his dynamic leadership, the North Eastern Council will achieve greater heights for the rapid development of the North East Region.

2. A lot of wisdom had gone into the setting up of NEC. NEC was constituted as a statutory advisory body under the NEC Act 1971 (84 of 1971) and came into being on the 7th November, 1972. I am given to understand that the S.P. Shukla Committee constituted by the erstwhile Planning Commission inter-alia, have recommended the North Eastern Council to be re-designated as North Eastern Development Council with a bigger role in socio-economic development of the region. The Hon'ble Chairman may like to examine the recommendation so as to strengthen effectiveness of the North Eastern Council.

3. Government of India recognised that a very big infrastructure gap in the North Eastern Region came in the way of socio-economic development of the people in this part of the country and that this also came in the way of their integration with the national mainstream. Recognising the need to make special arrangements for bridging this infrastructure gap, decision was taken by the Government of India that mandated 10% of Gross Budgetary Resources of each Ministry of Government of India to be earmarked for investments in the North Eastern States. A mechanism was also constituted wherein whatever could not be spent by the Ministries out of the 10% GBS shall be put into Non-Lapsable Pool of Resources (NLCPR) with the Ministry of Finance to be invested for development works of North East Region. This measure has helped the NER States tremendously in upgrading and strengthening the social and economic infrastructure. However, due to very low base, the levels of infrastructures in the NER are still significantly below that of other parts of the

Country. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that the 10% GBS and NLCPR mechanism is continued without any dilution by the Government of India.

4. It is a matter of serious concern for the NER that the 10% GBS and NLCPR arrangements have been diluted in the recent years as could be seen in the declining resources made available to NEC and Ministry of DONER and other Central Ministries for investments in the NER. NLCPR project funding under Ministry of DONER has been done away with except for ongoing projects and 10% GBS Project funding in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has also been dispensed with except for few ongoing projects. I was given to understand that an amount of more than Rs 50,000 crores have been accumulated in the NonLapsable Pool but yet to be allocated for NLCPR to the Ministry of DONER. We would like to see that 10% GBS to North East and NLCPR Scheme or a better alternative is put in place. I request the Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman of NEC restoration of 10% GBS for North East Region and NLCPR Scheme.

5. The allocation of funds for North Eastern Areas is only about 2.7% of the central expenditure in the union budget 2019-2020 [Statement 11 of expenditure profile, Union Budget 2019-2020]. Moreover, transfer of resources to Schemes of North Eastern Council and Central Pool of Resources for NER for 2019-2020 indicated a sharp and continuous decline [Statement 18 of the expenditure profile, Union Budget 2019-2020]. The transfer of resources for Central Pool of Resources for NER for 2019-2020 have been declining sharply each year from Rs 701.90 crores in 2017-2018 to Rs 392.00 crores in 2019-2020. Similarly, transfers of resources for Schemes of North Eastern Council have been persistently declining from Rs 772.43 crores in 2017-2018 to 325.77 crores in 2019-2020. These are the crucial sources of fund for infrastructure development in the North Eastern Region. Given the fiscal constraints that leave little room for expanding public investment at the scale required, and difficulty in attracting private investment, the NE States have been depending heavily on funding from the Central Government for infrastructure development. Hon'ble Chairman of NEC may kindly take necessary steps to amend such constraint of financial resources for development in the North Eastern Region.

6. As for the NEC Scheme, Rs 4500 crores earmarked for the whole North Eastern States during 2017-18 to 2019-20 have been too little to have meaningful

impact for the Region's Development. The earmarked fund includes Rs 2357 crores for committed liabilities of ongoing projects, Rs 1000 crores for NERSDS, and Rs 640 crores for NLCPR (C) liabilities. There is no fund left for new project during this period. It is highly doubtful that the North Eastern Region can be transformed into an 'engine of growth' as the Hon'ble Prime Minister has envisioned, unless the Central Government increases allocation of resources for infrastructure development in the NER. We will have to significantly enhance funds allocated to the NEC and Ministry of DONER, so as to have meaningful impact for the region's development.

7. I would like to submit the importance of streamlining of approval process of External Aided Project (EAP) for the NE States. As you are aware, EAP is an important source for financing development projects. However, availing financing of projects/programmes through EAP is a very long process for NE States. Apart from the general requirement of clearances from Ministry of Finance (DEA), NITI Aayog and concerned line Ministry, project proposals from the North-Eastern Region requires additional clearances from various Ministries including Ministry of DONER, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of External Affairs. In view of this additional requirement, it is an extremely long procedure and is very difficult for the NE States to avail the financing of Projects from EAP. All the concerned Ministries of the Government of India, before clearance of the Projects, have their own systems of examining the Projects, and normally take a long period in issuing clearance. This has to be streamlined and all necessary clearances could easily be completed through a Steering Committee constituted in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to approve the projects for EAP. The Steering Committee, in the case of NER, may consist of the representatives of the concerned Ministries indicated to obtain their inputs in the Committee itself, and separate clearances should no longer be required to be obtained separately. This will ease the constant problem of processing of Project Proposals for EAP from the States in the North-Eastern Region, and the NER may be able to avail more funding through EAP, and will bring about resource inflow, and more importantly, the 'Transfer of Knowledge and Expertise' through implementation of projects under EAP. I request Hon'ble Chairman to kindly intervene and have the process streamlined and simplified with the help of Ministry of Finance.

8. Another important issue is construction for hilly areas. Cost of construction in the North Eastern Region and other hilly states has been relatively high as compared to plain areas for several reasons. We often face problems relating to 'one size fits all' approach in costing of project. Separate cost norm for north eastern and hilly states are required by allowing relaxation in costs and eligibility norms including timeline. Hon'ble Chairman may like to entrust NITI Aayog to take up this matter.

9. We have repeatedly discussed in this forum that although the Look /Act East policy has been in existence for more than two decades, nothing much has happened. There are several issues and challenges such as trade and investment complementarities, connectivity, security, and strategic partnership with East Asian countries which need to be put in place in order to reap significant benefits from such a policy. NEC has to be a key instrument in the Act East Policy. The Policy gave hope to the people of North East particularly for trade-led growth of the N.E. Region and its economic integration with one of the fastest growing economies i.e. South East Asia. We initially considered that the North Eastern Region had for the first time, become an important component of India's foreign policy, bringing a new paradigm of development in the North East perspective. As such, the Act East Policy of the Government of India was an important land mark in the history of North Eastern Region. However, even after almost two decades of its policy announcement, it has had no impact on the region's economy. The fact that India's North East states are the gateway to India's relation with its neighbouring countries has been ignored for quite a long time. Perhaps, we may need to act "North East" before acting "East". If Act East Policy is to be made into reality, State Governments of the North East should be sufficiently involved both at the level of policy formulation and implementation. Mizoram has a long international boundary with Myanmar and Bangladesh. The people of the State have trade relationship with the people across the border in formal and informal forms in some border trade points. These practices need to be institutionalized for socioeconomic upliftment of the local population, State, Region and Country as a whole.

10. I would also like to reiterate role clarity between Ministry of DONER and NEC. A scrutiny of duties and functions of these two entities indicate a fair amount of overlap in their functions. It is suggested that as a regional planning body, the NEC can play a more meaningful role as a body of regional planning, allocation of funds,

and monitoring of development projects in the North East, while policy and coordination with all line Ministries for NE States be handled by Ministry of DONER.

11. Importance of infrastructure development in economic growth cannot be overemphasized. Infrastructure is the lifeline of an economy and the fate of the economy is intricately linked to the development of its infrastructure. Infrastructure financing in the North Eastern Region has been primarily met by the Government. North Eastern Council would need to continue to play an active role in infrastructure development. Poor air, rail, road and internet connectivity within the North Eastern Region and with other region remains a critical issue for economic development in the region.

12. As for Mizoram, road transport is the biggest transport infrastructure. The State is connected by air with only one airport at Lengpui. The State does not have waterways, and railway connectivity is under construction. Road transport has played a very important role in the development of the State. However, due to hilly terrain and heavy rains through the year, costs of construction and maintenance of roads are significantly higher than other parts of the country. The total length of roads in the state is 7632 kms with road density of 36.19 km/ 100 sq km only, which is way below the national average of 166 km / 100 sq. km. A much higher investment would be required to catch up with national average of 166 km / 100 sq. km.

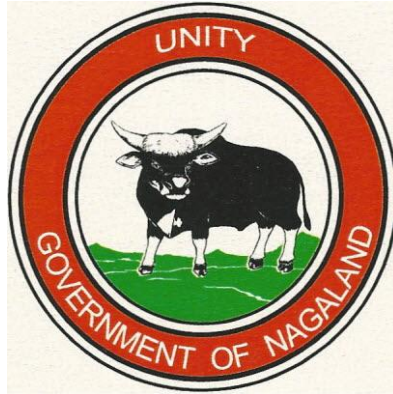
13. Financial gaps in Water Supply requirement have been enormous. Out of 720 rural habitations there are still 520 rural habitations that need to be provided with sufficient drinking water supply of 55 litre per capita per day as per norms fixed by Government of India. While the fund requirement for providing 55 lpcd norms to all rural areas works out to be Rs 1194.21 crores, provisional fund allocation for the State of Mizoram under Jal Jeeven Mission 2019-20 is only Rs 33.22 crores. Moreover, past five years fund allocation indicated that only around Rs 29.74 crores have been received annually. The State would require to enhance the annual fund allocation to at least Rs 238.84 crores during the coming five years (2020-2025) to achieve the goal of providing functional household tap connection to every household by 2024. Similarly, urban water supply would need additional investment of about Rs 951.78 crores for the next five years to provide 70 lpcd norms by 2024. I am made to understand that other States of the NER also require much higher level

of investments in infrastructure for water supplies to achieve norms set by the Government of India.

14. In addition, digital connectivity is one of the biggest challenges facing the North East Region and the condition in Mizoram is even worse as compared to other NE states. High speed internet connectivity is the basic requirement for socioeconomic development. We all know that under Digital India programme, the Central Government has taken massive initiatives for 'broadband to all' and 'Optical Fiber Network to every village'. The National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN), which is now known as "Bharat Net" was started way back in 2012 by Department of Telecommunication in Mizoram. But till today the progress in my State is not visible. The Central Government may have to work closer with State machinery as a partner in this initiative.

15. To conclude, I would like to reiterate that we in the North Eastern States are trying our best to make progress in our respective States. There is, however, ample scope for larger involvement of the North Eastern Council for development of the Region. The existing development lag must be bridged through credible infrastructure for sustainable development in the region to make North East Region as "new engine of growth" in the country.

16. Thank you



SPEECH

OF

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO,
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

OF

NAGALAND

68TH PLENARY OF
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

AT

ASSAM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COLLEGE,

GUWAHATI

ON

8th September, 2019

Speech by Shri Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister of Nagaland during the 68th Plenary of the NEC on 8th September, 2019 at Guwahati

1. Shri. Amit Shah ji, Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman of NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for DoNER and Vice Chairman of NEC, Hon'ble Governors of the North East States, my esteemed colleagues, the Chief Ministers, distinguished members of the NEC, officials of the Government of India and the North Eastern States, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen.

2. I am privileged to be present at this 68th Plenary of the NEC here in Guwahati. This is an opportunity for all of us as members of the Governing Council of NEC to raise issues of common concern to the North Eastern States, including other issues specific to our own States for consideration. Since the plenary is held only once a year, I request that the issues raised by the members be accorded due importance and acted upon.

3. I would like to inform that **during May last year, projects that had been sanctioned in 2017-18 were kept on hold. Nagaland has a total of 51 such projects. Out of these, 21 projects have been approved for continuation.** In such a situation, I am constrained to request that the remaining projects may be reviewed for **concurrence as there has been no budgetary provision for new projects since 2018-19.**

4. At the 67th Plenary held at Shillong last year, I had raised the need for providing sufficient funds to the NEC if it is to fulfil its role of being a catalyst for the development of the North-Eastern Region. We are still waiting for a response. In fact, it is a matter of much concern to note that during **2018-19 no new projects were sanctioned for Nagaland.** Even more **disturbing is the fact that during 2019-20 also, NEC has serious fund constraints and may not be able to take up new schemes.** Since NEC's budget caters to the requirements of central projects implemented by Central Government Agencies like NERCORMP, ICAR, BRO, AAI, etc. including that of the eight North Eastern States, NEC urgently requires adequate budgetary support.

5. I am happy to see that the **revised guidelines** for NEC have done away with the system of priority lists and retained schemes. However, the new system is

proving to be cumbersome and time taking. Projects now require clearances of **four committees viz., PIC (Project Identification Committee) chaired by Secretary, Ministry of DoNER, SLEC (State Level Empowered Committee) chaired by the respective Chief Secretaries, SEC (Sectoral Empowered Committee) chaired by Hon'ble Member, NEC and SFC (Standing Finance Committee) chaired by Secretary, Ministry of DoNER.** I would like to suggest that SLEC may be done away with, since NEC has a full strength of engineers headed by a Chief Engineer. Taking advantage of the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for DoNER, I would like to reiterate the need for simplifying the process of selection and sanctioning of projects under NESIDS in the Ministry of DoNER.

6. At the last plenary held at Shillong I had also highlighted the importance of **infrastructure and connectivity for economic development. A land locked State like Nagaland, with limited rail and air connectivity totally depends on road connectivity as the main mode of transport.** Apart from the need for new roads, with unstable soil and **heavy rainfall** during the monsoons, **maintenance of existing roads is always a challenge.** During the past one year, large stretches of roads were washed away cutting off some districts of the State for months. The State with **limited resources looks upon the NEC for provision of funds for maintenance and restoration of existing roads** which are the lifeline of the State. There is also need for adequate funds for providing good connectivity to Myanmar as a part of India's Act East Policy.

7. Nagaland is in need of a **Trans-Nagaland Highway** to connect 6 (Six) districts of Nagaland at the foothills to facilitate smooth movement of people and goods. It would **provide connectivity from Kanubari (Arunachal Pradesh) in the north to Amguri (Assam) to Dimapur (Nagaland) to Khelma (Peren District of Nagaland bordering Assam) to Kalachand, Haflong (Assam) in the south.** This proposed Trans-Nagaland Highway measures 430 km in length from North to South. Besides providing good connectivity, it will provide a big boost to economic activity in the State. We have also submitted a proposal for declaration of the **Trans Nagaland Highway from Tizit (NH 702) to NH 29 (Dimapur By-pass) to Khelma in Peren District bordering Assam as a National Highway.** The highway will also **pass through six Districts of Nagaland along the foothills.** This will bring much **economic benefit** to the State, and I am hopeful the Central Government will

consider our requests for improving road infrastructure favourably. The tribal hohos have already given No Objection Certificate and land is being donated free of cost.

8. **A Greenfield Airport was first proposed in 2003** with the policy of an Airport in each State Capital. Accordingly, the **State Government had identified a suitable site at Ciethu, Chiechama which is located at a distance of 20 Kms from the New Capital complex, Kohima on NH-61**. The process of land acquisition and payment of land compensation for approximately 645 acres of land was also completed by the State Government. **The North Eastern Council (NEC)** vide their letter no NEC/T/Release/KohimaAirport/2005/2006/34 dated 23rd February 2006 had **sanctioned an amount of ` 90.00 lakhs for the Techno Economic Feasibility study for the Airport**. **The Government of Nagaland had also contributed ` 10.00 lakhs for the study which was conducted by the Airport Authority of India**. On the basis of the Techno Economic Feasibility Study, **the DPR for setting up the Airport was also prepared in July 2008**.

Kohima is the only State capital in the country which does not have an airport. Feasibility studies and surveys have been done by AAI in 2006-07 and 2018, DPRs prepared but the project is still pending for locating funds of approximately ` 6314 crores. In the last survey conducted by a team of officials from the AAI, DGCA and MoEFCC on 7th and 8th August 2018, the team found the site feasible for an airport with 4.4 km runway which will be compatible for Airbus 320. Villagers of the area have agreed to provide additional lands as required for which the State Government has given its consent to bear the cost for the same. As such, **the Government is in the process of acquiring another 368 acres which will make the total land available at more than a thousand acres**. **The proposed site at Chiechama, Kohima has a feasibility of a 4400 meters airstrip with scope for further expansion in future**.

While the cost of the project may be higher due to the difficult terrain, it may be appreciated that this will go a long way in providing direct physical connectivity with the rest of the country which is an important pre-requisite for economic development such as promotion of tourism, export of organic products and handicrafts, besides fostering emotional integration between the region and the mainland. It is therefore requested that sanction for the airport be given in

order to connect the State capital with the rest of the country. **I express my sincere appreciation to NEC for writing to the Airports Authority of India to submit a proposal for construction of an airstrip at Ciethu during November 2018, to be funded under MH: 4552.**

9. I once again thank Dr. Jitendra Singh ji for recently assuring me that the DoNER Ministry had submitted a proposal for sanction of ` 1,000 crore towards the proposed Greenfield Airport at Ciethu, Chiechama, Kohima District. During my recent meeting with Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Union Minister for State of Civil Aviation in New Delhi in the presence of officials from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the proposed airport was envisaged to be a four-season operational airport for which I request the Government of India to take this project up centrally keeping in mind the cost factor and importance of such an airport. I take the opportunity of this august platform to express our gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for according high priority towards all the eight Northeastern States, particularly the far-flung States like Nagaland. In addition to this, it would be incomplete to mention that the existing Dimapur Airport urgently needs improvement in terms of infrastructure development for passenger handling including Cargo and amenities for passengers. The runway and Apron get inundated during monsoon which needs to be addressed on urgency. We are also grateful for the soon to be introduced flights to Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Imphal from Dimapur under Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik – Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN-RCS) which is to be operational from October onwards.

10. Dimapur Railway Station is an intermediate Station on the Guwahati-Dibrugarh Sector. For the expansion of railways within the State of Nagaland, two projects were proposed. The Dimapur-Zubza Railway Line was sanctioned in 2007-08 and the latest estimated cost is ` 2950 crores. Works have been taken up in the acquired land and the project is hoped to be completed by December 2020. **Another railway line, Dimapur to Tizit (257.19 km) was included in the Railway Budget 2013-14 and figured in the Railways Pink Book of 2014-15 at a cost of ` 4273.95 crores.** The Final Location Survey (FLS) was sanctioned in 2016. While the works are in progress, I would appeal to the NEC and the Government of India to accord high priority to connectivity in the State of Nagaland which has harsh terrain and

intense climatic conditions. Alternative modes of transport are a must as this will not only provide alternative means but also immensely boost development infrastructure, commercial activities and also uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people.

11. We are living today in an age of advanced **digital technology**, where online services have made many services accessible to the common man at the click of a button. The advanced countries of the world including India are moving towards **5G connectivity** while many of the North Eastern States, particularly Nagaland, **struggle to access even basic internet connectivity**. I feel this is an area **NEC can intervene in providing infrastructure for high speed internet connectivity upto the village level in the entire region**. Without such facilities, we will all struggle to implement Direct Benefits Transfer schemes and extend much needed banking coverage in the 29 unbanked Blocks. **The First Pilot National Information Infrastructure (NII) project which provides High Speed Internet bandwidth through wireless medium was successfully implemented in Peren district in 2016**. The proposal to extend this project to the remaining 10 (ten) districts was taken up with the NITI Aayog with an outlay of **Rs. 100 crores**. NITI Aayog have in principle accepted the project, and had **written to the Ministry of DoNER for funding**. Since then, we have received no further communication in the matter. I shall be grateful if the matter is considered expeditiously.

12. I am happy that the **revised NEC guidelines have included sectors such as tourism and bamboo. Tourism is one of the thrust areas of NEC**. Like the rest of the region, Nagaland, with its vibrant culture and heritage, panoramic landscapes and natural beauty, rich exotic flora, fauna and biodiversity offers unique experiences for tourists unlike anywhere else. The Hornbill Festival has gained popularity and has placed Nagaland on the tourist map of the world. We have gone further and are now **organizing Mini-Hornbills in the 11 districts of the State coinciding with the local festivals**. There is a pressing need to augment tourist infrastructure by setting up guest houses, hotels and homestays in remote locations to promote rural tourism. I request NEC to come forward to finance entrepreneurs for setting up homestays and for eco and rural tourism projects.

13. **Bamboo is another natural resource** which the State has in abundance. This fast regenerating plant has great economic potential with appropriate

technology intervention. **I am happy that NEC has included bamboo as one of its thrust areas**, and I look forward to appropriate interventions by the NEC to develop this rich resource for development of the region.

14. In my earlier presentation, I had **pointed out the enormous potential that the youth of the region** have in **sports**. I would like to suggest that sports may also be included as a thrust area of NEC. Let me also point out that apart from **creating sporting infrastructure, there is need to create opportunities for developing the skills and lending exposure** to these young people both at the national and international levels.

15. The **Nagaland Vision 2030 envisages transforming agriculture**, which is the **mainstay of the State's economy**. The document envisages a cluster approach for integrated development of selected commercial crops including fruits and vegetables. We hope to achieve this by converging the activities of all agri and allied departments to provide a basket of services and inputs to the farmers which will result in higher productivity and better economies of scale. **Piggery is another activity that will be a thrust area for the State given the high demand within the State itself. Nagaland is perhaps one of the highest pork-consuming States in the country and there is vast scope for piggery. By tradition, backyard pig rearing is practised in almost all Naga households. This can be promoted commercially on a large-scale with modern techniques through adequate funding from the NEC or the Government of India.**

16. **Nagaland had missed out on the 'white revolution' which the country witnessed**. It shall be the endeavour of my Government to usher in a 'white revolution' in the State. The agricultural products of our State are organic by default and therefore, have the potential of catering to the demands of the niche market and fetch premium prices. To make these possible, there is need for facilities to provide organic certification. I also request NEC to come forward in developing the necessary linkages in areas of food processing, storage, packaging and marketing and handhold local entrepreneurs in these crucial sectors.

17. Nagaland is blessed with a young educated population with **good proficiency in English**. With the right skills, the demands of the labour market in the region can be met and opportunities created for them to compete at the national and global

level. However, there are no centres of excellence to tap into the potential of our people. I would therefore suggest that Regional Centres of Excellence be established in the region to harness the abundant talents of the youths.

18. Let me conclude by requesting this august Council to discuss the issues raised by members with seriousness and work out a comprehensive Action Plan for the region with State-specific programmes. I would suggest that State-wise budget be earmarked and that we do away with multiple levels of screening projects as this is too time-consuming. Towards this end, the NEC may either send its team for verification and/or the State Government team of officials may be called to present all necessary verification documents. This will significantly reduce the issue of too many formalities and too many guidelines. With such comprehensive measures and systems in place, I believe that this will enable the North Eastern States to be active partners in building the 'New India' as envisaged by our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Thank You.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Speech of

Shri Prem Singh Tamang

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sikkim

at the 68th Plenary Meeting of

North Eastern Council, Guwahati

on

8th – 9th September, 2019

Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Chairman of the North Eastern Council Respected Shri Amit Shah-jyu, Hon'ble Union Minister of DoNER Respected Dr. Jitendra Singh-jyu Hon'ble Governors and Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Respected Secretary-DoNER, Respected Secretary NEC and highly distinguished officials of the Government of India and the North Eastern States.

I bring warm greeting to you from the people of Sikkim. It is indeed a great privilege to be able to address this august gathering here in this historic city of Guwahati.

The North East region today stands at a very crucial juncture in four different respects. Firstly, in the context of announcements made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi declaring the North East as a bridge head in India's Act East Policy.

Secondly, the changing nature of traditional and non-traditional contents of national security issues. Thirdly, unprecedented development of physical infrastructure in the region during the last decade or so. And fourthly, North East region as a whole trying to emerge as anew 'growth and development pole' in India.

In all these four context, the roles of both Ministry of DoNER and NEC are of critical significance. These two institutions must actually be the pivot. When India-built Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project and Sittwe port in Myanmar and the trilateral highway between India-Myanmar and Thailand will be ready to operate in course of next couple of years, it is the North East region which is going to be the primary actor and first beneficiary. Are we prepared to harness the advantages of this port and highway? How do we realize the cream of India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement? What is our role in the India led Ganga-Mekong Initiative?

In our vital national security issues, besides the core issue of military security, human security and environmental security are emerging to be rather very crucial. These include issues of migration, livelihood, climate change, natural resource management, water and river security, trans-border environmental injuries and also gene piracy and smuggling of wildlife and medicinal herbs. Are we fully grasping these threats? Are we making comprehensive policy interventions?

In the infrastructure gap, we have four way challenges i.e. within a state like Sikkim; among the states in the North East region; between the North East region

and the rest of the country and finally the north East region and the neighbouring countries. Though the NDA Government is struggling to bridge all these four way gaps, we feel we still do not have the right planning and strategy and policy interventions. The spirit, speed and strength with which Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi's Government completed the hugely pending Bogibeel bridge and Bhupen Hazarika Setu in Assam, are worth mentioning here. We are doubly sure that under the guidance of Hon'ble Shri Amit Shah-jyu and Shri Jitendra Singh-jyu, the now famous 'Bogibeel spirit' will be seen across the projects and the geographies of the North East region.

North East region has all the potentials to be a major growth and development pole of India. We pledge to play a pivotal role in making India a 5 trillion dollar economy. We have unparalleled advantages and endowments which most of the states in the rest of India do not possess. Some states in the region have started showing the vision, capability and determination to achieve. Our state Sikkim is one of them. These states just require what a famous economist Paul Rosenstein-Rodan described as BIG PUSH. We require the most modern technical, technological and professional institutions.

The global multilateral institution like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the UN agencies and even JICA must enhance the level of their development participation. Innovative schemes like North East Industrial Development Schemes 2018 could be extended to investors from the South East Asian countries and integrate with their flourishing markets. A recent study done by Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in Jakarta showed how North East region could become a major power pool in the electricity interconnection and trading involving BBIN and South East Asian countries. This goes very well with the Cross Border Energy Trading policy issued by the Ministry of Power in December 2018. This will bring a new dynamism in this eastern sub-region and India's Act East Policy.

Hon'ble Sirs, therefore, given these newer opportunities, we must gear up for more versatile institutional orientation and robust capacity of not only the MDoNER and the NEC but also all the North East region specific institutions like NEEPCO, NEDFi, NERAMAC, NEHHDC and others. Can we make these institutions modern, technology savvy, community and youth oriented and private sector friendly with

multi-disciplinary experts and much deeper and wider inter-state, inter-ministerial and inter departmental coordination and cooperation? This is a formidable challenge.

We should also be referring to and seriously consider a forward looking Memorandum submitted by the Chief Ministers of the North East and other Himalayan states to the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission and the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister from the forum of the Himalayan Conclave held in Musoorrie in July last.

Please allow me to take this rare opportunity to bring forward the issues related to our state. Our landlocked status makes us totally dependent on the single and only National Highway 10 which connects the State with the rest of the country. The Sevoke-Rangpo stretch of this highway is now maintained by PWD West Bengal and the remaining Rangpo-Gangtok stretch by NHIDCL. There are serious problems of coordination, quality and technicality. We therefore, request for a single agency management of the entire stretch preferably by NHIDCL.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been appealing the people of the country to visit the North Eastern Region for tourism and leisure. With the varieties of tourist attractions ranging from pilgrimage to rivers, mountains to sports and tea, wildlife to agriculture heritage, ethnicity to war cemeteries, borderlands to autonomous councils and silk to slow food, the North East Region must have been the most sought after global tourism destination. However, tourism had remained largely nascent and inconsequential. It could be because of lack of integrated planning and strategy, absence of regional leadership, low priority by institutions and of course a falsely constructed image of North East region as a venue of conflict, violence and instability. We firmly believe that lack of regional vision, integrated planning, management, skills, institutions and infrastructure have made the laggardness more complex.

Young boys and girls from the North East region now have the privilege of being the most versatile actors in hospitality sector in the country. How to build confidence among the tourists and visitors from within our country and abroad is another issue we shall have to delve into. We can make globally acclaimed sports persons like Mary Kom, Bhaichung Bhutia, Dipa Karmaker, Hima Das, Anshu Jamsenpa, Tarundeep Rai, Rautfeli, Sanjita Chanu, Shiva Thapa and others as our

brand ambassadors. The NEC as a Regional Planning Body has to unfurl the road map of regional and sustainable tourism strategy upfront in the line of North East Vision Document 2008. In Sikkim and adjoining Darjeeling we have developed a distinct brand name in the tourism. We can share our experience in this regard.

The NEC has contributed immensely to the Agriculture Sector, Irrigation and Flood Control, Medical and Health and in the field of Education, Science and Technology, Industries, promotion of Arts and Culture in the region. However, on the recommendation of the Expenditure Finance Committee in 2017 and on approval of the Cabinet in March 2018 six crucial sectors i.e. Power, Irrigation and Flood Control, Water Supply, Sports, School Education and Primary & Secondary Healthcare have been taken away from the mandate of NEC. Given the fact that core competence of NEC has been institution building, human resource development, infrastructure, etc., many of the above sectors may be restored to the NEC for both continuity and consistency.

We also see a strong case for a quantum increase in the NEC's allocation by the Union Government. This regional planning body must be backed by sufficient resources so that issues which have inter-state, regional and national ramifications could be addressed adequately. What is more specifically needed at this juncture is a strict monitoring and evaluation of across the board projects funded by the NEC.

We urge both the Ministry of DoNER and NEC to focus on eight crucial sectors in the course of next 5-10 years. These include diverse institution building; projects that bring substantive gains to the region from the Act East Policy of India; skilling and capacity building of the youth population; tourism and other service sectors like health, education and trade; water and environmental conservations; sound and efficient governance; agriculture; and four way infrastructure building as I just mentioned.

Could Hon'ble Prime Minister's "Make In India Mission" and Start up projects be extended to crucial sectors like food processing, tourism, music and sports products, traditional medicinal systems, horticulture and agriculture commodities and green energy items?

Though our state is in an infant stage of organic revolution, it has opened numerous possibilities in horticulture, floriculture, agriculture and allied sectors. We

are now exploring wider interventions to diversify the organic produces, doubly enhance the productivity of farmers and access national and global market. Our vision is to realize the goal to be the 'green capital' of India. Both the august institutions like Ministry of DoNER and NEC could be the partners in this process.

We are a firm believer in collective regional performance and deliveries by the North East states as whole. The slackness and dullness in the development activities of the NEC seen in the last two years bring some degree of pessimism among us. No fresh sanctions and fund releases have taken place during 2018-19 and 2019-20. This is despite the fact that we have a series of highly productive and remunerative projects in the pipeline.

For us in Sikkim, the normative allocation of 7% in the last 5 years has been less as compared to the other North Eastern States. As against the allocation to Sikkim from NEC of Rs. 192.41 crore, the actual fund received has just been Rs. 168.87 crore during 2014-15 to 2018-19.

This shortfall of Rs. 24 crore has been calculated as per NEC's total release minus release to other States which totals to Rs. 2748.72 crore.

In the Project Identification Committee (PIC) meeting of September 2018 our State's two crucial projects were considered. First was the Medical equipment and furniture for the Multi-Specialty Hospital at Sochyagang, Gangtok for which Ministry of DoNER had agreed to provide Rs. 160.00 crore. Against this the NEC recommended for Rs. 118 crore. The PIC however, recommended a drastically reduced amount of Rs. 25 crore only. This also has not been sanctioned as of today. The delay has been very costly both in terms of cost escalation and the hardships felt by the people at large.

Secondly, the construction of 70 bedded District Hospital at Mangan which was severely damaged by the earthquake in September 2011. The NEC retained the project at a cost of Rs. 14.14 crore during the year 2017-18. The State Government has already spent Rs. 3.50 crore as part of its share. However due to sudden change in the guidelines the work allocation between Ministry of DoNER and NEC the project has been kept in limbo. North District being such a national security sensitive region is today without a proper hospital. We urge the Ministry of DoNER to sanction this project at the earliest.

Unlike other states, despite massive increase in passenger traffic, tourists arrival and security requirements, Sikkim does not have an Interstate Bus Terminus. We have already prepared and revised the detailed project report amounting to Rs. 14.24 crore. We are awaiting its formal sanction at the earliest possible.

Out of the total 165 projects sanctioned by the North Eastern Council in Sikkim we have completed 142. For the remaining and ongoing 23 projects, the funds requiring sanctions amount to Rs. 44.83 crore. The NEC may instantly release the remaining funds to enable us to complete all these projects. In this regard, we once again fervently request the Union Ministry of Finance to allocate sufficient funds to Ministry of DoNER and NEC. These actions are urgently needed.

Our Government is keen to further strengthen the Panchayats and Municipalities in terms of administrative capabilities, functional autonomy and revenue mobilization.

Our Government is just four month old now. We have inherited a huge burden of more than Rs. 16,000 crores from the reckless governance and rampant leakages in the last Government. We had published a White Paper which was presented in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly in July 2019. If not managed in time and effectively, these debt burdens could thwart all the development projects in Sikkim. We are trying to seriously work out the ways and means to steadily reduce and wipe out these burdens through a five pronged strategy.

In the Himalayan Conclave held in Musoorrie in July 2019, we made three far reaching demands before the 15th Finance Commission. First, a state of the art Climate Change Research and Mitigation Centre for the entire Himalayan region. Second, Globalization of Local projects under which we plan to commercially establish horizontal and vertical integration of the rich traditional medicinal systems of Sikkim and the North east region with the global market. And third, setting up a new National Importance Project Fund aimed at making the entire Himalayan regions inter-connected, developed and secured and integrated with the rest of India.

Before I conclude, let me mention that as a Himalayan state with one of the highest forest coverage, our ecosystems provide crucial resources and services that underpin the economic life, social stability and ecological protection of people worldwide. These benefits are directly and indirectly extended at the very local,

national, regional and international levels. Owing to all these we have considered development maneuverability, limited revenue options and cost disabilities.

On top of this we live with constant threat of natural disasters and hazard vulnerability risk. Given what is happening on the other sides of our international borders, we require policy and resource interventions in the border area development projects by both the Union Government agencies and also the Ministry of DoNER and the NEC. We shall have to unflinchingly ensure our national security; protect and promote human security interests and strive for diverse aspects of environmental security.

Hon'ble Chairman, now we have a strong team of professionals, experts and seasoned bureaucrats to take forward the development agenda. Let me personally assure the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Chairman and the Hon'ble Minister DoNER that Sikkim would always be in the forefront of the Nation's strive for development, peace, prosperity and equality. We hope to have a fruitful and meaningful discussion on the agendas of the 68th Plenary Session which hopefully will result in time bound outcomes and will truly lead the North East Region towards inclusive, balanced and faster economic growth.

Thank you so much for your kind indulgence.

Jai Hind! Jai Sikkim!



**Speech of
SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB,
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Tripura**

**68th Plenary of
North Eastern Council**

**8–9 September, 2019
GUWAHATI**

Hon'ble Chairman, North Eastern Council (NEC), Shri Amit Shah ji;

Hon'ble Vice-Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh ji;

Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States;

Other Distinguished Members of the Council;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

2. I consider it as a great honour to be present amidst you all here in the 68th NEC Meeting as a representative of the 37 lakh people of the State of Tripura.

2.1 Since the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has assumed office, he has directed special attention towards North Eastern States. This has given the regional visibility and recognition across the political, social and cultural realm and brought the region closer to the rest of the Nation and development of economy, infrastructure, employment, industry, and culture.

2.2 I welcome Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah ji, the Chairman of the NEC. I am more than confident that under his able guidance the development initiatives in the North East region would bring progress and prosperity in the entire region.

2.3 I am extremely thankful to the Union Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh ji who has been a guiding light for the development of North-East. As the Vice Chairman of the Council, his valuable support is always available for the holistic growth of the region.

2.4 Government of Tripura simply believes in PRT i.e. Perform Reform and Transform, the State as a Model State in the next 3 years.

3. During the last 17 months, the State Government of Tripura has undertaken several path breaking initiatives to bring about a sea change in the socio-economic scenario of the State. Few of these are:

3.1 For the first time, the State Government and Food Corporation of India jointly have taken an initiative for Paddy procurement at Minimum Support Price. Under this initiative, 10,406 MT Paddy was purchased in 2018-19 and 16,470 MT Paddy in 2019-20 at Rs. 17.50 per Kg. This has increased the profit margin of farmers by Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 per Kg.

3.2 Queen Pineapple, after being declared as State Fruit of Tripura by the Hon'ble President of India last year, has made it to the Domestic and International markets to Dubai and Qatar, in addition to Bangladesh and other states in India. During 2019, 3,500 MT Queen and Kew pineapples have been exported outside the State, of which, 300 MT or so was exported to Dubai and Bangladesh. The farmers are now getting proactive Government support for cultivation and marketing pineapples.

3.3 To encourage afforestation and beautification of roads, the State Government formulated a new scheme Roadside Beautification and Plantation of Trees (RBPT) for 13,120-km stretch of roadways, including 853 km-stretch of national highways in the State. In the first phase, the roadside plantation along a 125 km-stretch between Badharghat in Agartala and Sabroom will be completed by next month. The State Government is committed to provide a monthly assistance of Rs. 200 per family for the upkeep of plants on the roadside in front of their houses.

3.4 State Government also launched a new scheme called Atal Jaldhara Mission with an objective of ensuring pure drinking water facility in every household by the year 2022 and it is for the first time in the States' history that such a scheme on its own at a cost of Rs. 840 crore has been taken up.

3.5 The State Government has constituted Tripura Urban Development Authority (TUDA) last year and this Urban Body floated 3 township projects for constructing 1,000 flats in Agartala.

3.6 The State Government will soon launch a project to provide 10,000 cows to 5,000 farmer families through bank loans to help solve unemployment problem to some extent, fulfill the demand of milk and help minimizing malnutrition. Under the project, farmers will have to buy cows with the help of bank loans.

3.7 The State Government is proposing to set up an ambitious 'Cultural Hub' at a cost of Rs. 200 crore to integrate and boost the diverse and traditional cultural harmony among the North Eastern States. Full-fledged branch centres of four autonomous bodies under the Union Ministry of Culture -- Lalit Kala Akademi, National School of Drama, Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi – would be accommodated in the hub. Recently, a regional centre of the Lalit Kala Akademi, India's national academy of fine arts, has been set up in Agartala to encourage and

further develop the traditional life and culture of 19 tribes, who constitute one third of Tripura's population.

3.8 The State Government would soon have an IT hub to provide more employment opportunities in the state and also for the entire North Eastern Region. The tender process for setting up an IT hub has already begun and the Government is determined to raise the project. Once the project is implemented, youth of the North Eastern Region would not have to rush for Bangalore, Hyderabad or Chennai to get job in IT sector.

4. NEC Issues:

4.1 In the 66th Plenary of the North Eastern Council, the normative allocation of NEC Budget among NE states was approved and it was decided that 12% of allocation would be made to Tripura as per a formula based on various development indices like the geographical condition population and human index, etc. However, based on the releases made during the last 5 years (2014-15 to 2018-19), it has been observed that the share of Tripura over these years has been only 7.20%. It is indeed an area of concern for our State. It is requested to adhere for providing 12% share to Tripura.

4.2 Presently, 60% of the NEC budget is distributed among the 8 NE states and the remaining 40% Budget is set aside for Central component for Central Ministries and agencies for taking up regional projects. Instead, it may be well thought of whether 90% NEC Budget may be distributed to the NE states and the remaining 10% may be retained by NEC for taking up such regional projects which are necessary for the region and the projects for the State be finalized by a committee headed by state's Chief Secretary like that of MoDoNER system of sanctioning projects. This will expedite sanction as well as speed of NEC projects implementation in the state. State Government may be given freedom to increase or decrease project cost as per their requirement and also make component-wise changes in the projects.

4.3 The outlay for Rs. 580 crore for 2019-20 to NEC is too small to take care of the ongoing incomplete projects leaving hardly any worth mentioning amount for new projects in the pipeline. In order to address the problem of regional disparity, NEC

may be adequately funded and its budget during 2019-20 may also be substantially enhanced.

4.4 NEC liabilities for the ongoing projects of Tripura is perhaps the lowest among the North Eastern States. I would, therefore, request Ministry of DoNER to sanction some new projects, particularly, “Regional Nursing College at Hapania” for an estimated cost of Rs. 65.14 crore, “Construction of 132 KV D/C Transmission line from Surjamaninagar Sub-station to Udaipur Sub-station (40 KM) including 2 (two) feeders bay at Udaipur, Bandurar” at an estimated cost of Rs. 38.77 crore and “Improvement and up-gradation of road from Hmunpui (NH-44A) to Damcherra (Tripura-Mizoram Border) via Monchuang in the State of Tripura” at an estimated cost of Rs. 82.47 crore under the scheme North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS).

4.5 NEC may be reoriented from time to time according to the shifting demands of NE Region so that it can play a pivotal role as a Regional Planning Body.

5 Government of India Issues:

5.1 Tripura faces fund constraints in implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and schemes under Central Assistance to State Plan (CASP). Even though the funding pattern between Central Ministries and State Governments of NE States is 90:10, it is still a difficult to meet even 10% State share due to fund constraints. Consequently, many programmes under CSS do not get implemented, resulting in not only the State losing out, but also the Central Ministries not being able to spend the required 10% of their budgets for the NE Region. As a matter of fact, the situation is unlikely to be different in other North Eastern States. In this context, NEC funding for schemes/ projects of NE States may be provided 100% grant. It would be appropriate if NEC sets apart some of its yearly budget for meeting the 10% State share of the NE States for the schemes under CSS and CASP. This would be of immense help to the NE States for mobilizing adequate central funds for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

5.2 Ministry of Road Transport and Highways may arrange notification of all the National Highways declared In-principle declared in the State at the earliest. For renovation, repair and maintenance of existing National highways, Ministry may provide adequate support to the State Government.

5.3 River based transport from Bangladesh to India and vice-versa will help the goods movement from Chittagong Port to Tripura and other North-Eastern States like Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, etc., thus making Tripura to become a gateway to North East. This project may be expedited and grounded at the earliest by declaration of River Gumti as Indo-Bangladesh protocol route, etc. urgently.

5.4 The public sector companies in India may be permitted to spend 10% of their CSR funds in the NE States. This will pave way for early implementation of 'HIRA' the grand initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister, which will boost not only tourism sector but also many other sector in the state.

5.5 Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India has launched the Grid connected solar roof top scheme Phase-II and the Central grant has been reduced to 40% for upto 3 KW and beyond 3 KW it is 20%. The actual price discovered through tender in Tripura is much higher than bench mark cost due to high transportation cost, etc. The actual Central Financial Assistance (CFA) may translate to 30% instead of 40% and balance burden has to be borne by beneficiary. Due to very high burden on the part of the beneficiary, the solar roof top scheme and solar pumps and solarisation of existing pumps for farmers would not be attractive and viable. Therefore, 90% grant and 10% beneficiary share of the project cost is required for successful implementation of the project.

5.6 In many schemes share of State has been kept at much higher than 10% as per earlier practice. For example in Smart City project, the state share is 50%. The North East states are finding it difficult to contribute such a share because of financial constraints. The issue needs to be looked into.

5.7 In NEC and many central schemes, the state is being asked to release the state share first. This is a clear deviation from the earlier practice. The releases from NEC and central ministries may not be made conditional i.e. release of state share first. This delays the implementation of the projects and puts severe constraints on the finances of the State. The issue needs to be favourably looked into.

5.8 Most of the NE states are revenue deficient. The Finance Commission recommends revenue gap grant in addition to normal devolution. It has been seen that there is an additional gap in shortfall with regard to normal devolution in share of central taxes because of short collection of GST etc. For example, Tripura is

expected to receive Rs. 1461 crore less share of taxes than recommended by the 14th Finance Commission. The revenue deficient states are required to meet the entire shortfall in share of central taxes by themselves. For the NE states it becomes very difficult to meet such shortfall because of narrow resource base. Hence, Government of India is requested to consider compensating the same through additional revenue gap grant to revenue deficient NE states.

I am confident that the deliberations and the decisions of this NEC meeting would go a long way in ensuring the comprehensive development of North East India.

Thank you.

JAI HIND

**Address of Prof Biman Kumar Dutta, Member, NEC to the 68th Plenary Session
of North Eastern Council 8th and 9th September, 2019 at the Assam
Administrative College, Guwahati**

Hon'ble Union Home Minister & Chairman, NEC, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of the Development of North Eastern Region & Vice-Chairman, NEC, Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States, Hon'ble Members of Parliament, distinguished invitees.

I feel privileged to be able to attend the 68th NEC Plenary Session. This is my first Plenary, having joined the NEC a year ago and I am honored to speak a few words in front of this august gathering.

Hon'ble Prime Minister attended the 65th Plenary meeting held at Shillong in May, 2016 and set in motion a new development agenda for the North Eastern Region. We are all committed to implement his vision for the North East.

Last year, this Plenary had deliberated on re-positioning of NEC into a Council of conflict resolution, development and planning and knowledge hub for the NER. In line with this re-orientation, the NEC Guidelines were revised to make the organization more focused and effective. The development-related discussions included ways and means to hand hold the Aspirational districts of the Region in their progress forward, doubling farmers' income by 2022, improving water management in the Region, strengthening health care through Ayushman Bharat programme. A special session was also held to discuss the security situation in the Region, border management and intelligence related issues.

Since my joining the NEC in August 2018, I have been making efforts to guide NEC into implementing the Hon'ble Prime Minister's advice to make NEC into a state of the art Resource Centre for the NE Region. During his address to the 65th Plenary, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had suggested that North Eastern Council may look into developing a specialized domain expertise either by itself or through an agency model to assist states and central ministries in their development planning as also problem solving needs. I will highlight some of the initiatives taken in this regard.

I am happy to mention that the APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research has started functioning with the recruitment of the Centre Manager and some Research Officers and supporting staff. Background study of different policies of six sectors i.e. Handloom, Horticulture, Handicraft, Tourism, BPO and logistic was prepared during January- February 2019 and presentation made to NEC on 28-02-2019.

The second meeting of the NITI Forum for North East was held on the 4th December, 2018 at Guwahati under the Chairmanship of Dr Rajiv Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and co-Chairmanship of Dr, Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of DoNER where experts from the relevant fields attended the meeting. Intensive sessions were held on five critical sectors of TEA, TOURISM, PISCICULTURE, DAIRY and BAMBOO which need focused attention in the next five years for the Region to advance.

An MOU was entered in May 2019 for setting up a "Centre for North Eastern Studies" (CeNEST) at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)-Kolkata Campus in a partnership model between the NEC and the IIFT to undertake research and analysis on issues related to international trade and business of NE states and to facilitate the NE states in policy making, strategic planning and effective implementation of various trade promotion schemes in the Region. I am happy to report that the Centre will start implementing the capacity building initiatives in this year itself.

NEC has entered into a collaboration agreement with UNICEF for 'Strengthening Public Health Sector Emergency Preparedness for Response' in the NE states through which emergency preparedness can be strengthened and health system resilience can be developed. First phase of training interventions in Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tripura is planned by December 2019.

In the last six months, the Economic Advisory Council in the PMO has had extensive consultations with NEC and the NE states for transforming the economy of NER by optimum utilization of its resources, attracting private investment improving governance capacity. As a regional planning body, NEC is facilitating the stakeholder consultations and we are looking forward to the recommendations of the Council.

In March 2019, NEC has entered into an MOU with the National Aids Control Organization (NACO) for working towards building capacity of functionaries of the North Eastern states to address HIV preventions and control activities, extending social protection for the affected groups, strengthening health infrastructure through public private partnership, and helping reduce social stigma and discrimination to People Living with HIV/AIDS and other affected groups.

Project Readiness Financing, an initiative of the Asian Development Bank is being facilitated by NEC for building capacity of the NE states in areas like identification, prioritization of projects and pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, survey, investigation and primary data collections, detailed economic and financial analysis including financial and operational sustainability, review and updating of DPRs.

I have also given a lot of attention to the research initiatives ongoing at the premier institutes of the Region such as the Rain Forest Research Institute, and North East Institute of Science and Technology Jorhat. These Institutes need sufficient resources and a clear road map for developing technologies which can be applied in the Region across the development spectrum. Agriculture is the mainstay of the NE and ICAR will need to look at optimizing agriculture/ horticulture production in order to achieve the goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022 and to transform the Region towards becoming the organic capital of the country.

North East Space Application Centre is doing good work in project planning and monitoring through satellite mapping and drone technology. NEC is working to engage NESAC to deliver medical services like deliveries of life saving vaccines, blood samples to interior and inaccessible areas through drones.

NEC has delivered iconic Institutes in the past and has made considerable difference in the development landscape of the Region. I am confident that it will continue to be a catalytic factor in propelling the region forward and I hope the discussions and deliberations in the next two days will empower NEC to better fulfill that role.

Thank you.