



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
64TH PLENARY
OF
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
(15th Meeting as the Statutory Regional Planning Body for the NER)

ON
9TH AND 10TH APRIL, 2015

AT THE
SCOPE AUDITORIUM, SCOPE
COMPLEX,
7, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI

I N D E X

Agenda Items	Contents	Page No
	Summary of the proceeding of first day including – Power Point Presentation by the Central Ministries and discussions on the progress of major infrastructure projects in NER	1 – 8
	Opening Remarks of Chairman, NEC and Secretary's Report on the second day of the proceedings	9 – 10
	Comments and summary of written speeches of the Hon'ble Members of the NEC	10 – 85
Agenda Item No. 1	Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 63 rd Plenary of NEC held on 02.01.2015	85
Agenda Item No. 2	Tabling of the Action Taken Report on the 63 rd Plenary	85
Agenda Item No. 3	Approval of the Draft Annual Plan 2015-16	85
Agenda Item No. 4	Approval of the Revised NEC General Guidelines	85 – 86
Agenda Item No. 5	Approval of the Scheme for Rehabilitation/ Construction of State Guest Houses at Shillong with NEC funding	85 – 86
Annexure – I	Address of Hon'ble Chairman, NEC in bullet points	87 – 94
Annexure – II	Power point presentation made by Secretary, NEC on major issues of concern of NER on 9.4.2015	95 – 101
Annexure – III (A)	Power Point Presentation on the Report of Secretary, NEC	102 – 110
Annexure – III (B)	Full Report of Secretary, NEC	111 – 154
Annexure – IV	List of Orphan Roads proposed for Rehabilitation in Arunachal Pradesh	155 – 157
Annexure – V	Observations on the agenda items of 64 th Plenary by Secretary, DoNER and NEC's comments thereof	158 – 163
	Written Speeches of Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers	165 – 284
Annexure – VI	List of participants	285 – 292

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 64TH PLENARY OF THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL HELD AT THE
SCOPE AUDITORIUM, SCOPE COMPLEX, NEW DELHI ON 9TH AND 10TH APRIL, 2015**

1. 9th April, 2015 – FIRST DAY

1.1 Hon'ble Minister of DoNER (I/C) and Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired the meeting. Hon'ble Governors of 6 States and 5 Chief Ministers attended the meeting. Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya & Mizoram and the Chief Ministers of Assam, Sikkim and Mizoram could not attend. Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju participated as special invitee in the inaugural session on first day.

1.2 At the outset, Secretary, NEC formally welcomed all the participants to the meeting.

1.3 The meeting started with the lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries. After the initial pleasantries, a group photograph was taken.

1.4 Hon'ble Minister DoNER and Chairman, NEC released the latest NEC publication "Basic Statistics of the North Eastern Region - 2015" which has been printed after a gap of nine years.

1.5 The Hon'ble Minister DoNER and Chairman, NEC launched the North Eastern Region Tourism Website www.northeasttourism.gov.in. This would be followed by e-commerce enabled website before the end of December, 2015.

1.6 Hon'ble Minister for DoNER and Chairman, NEC made a small power point presentation with photographs of important milestones. The highlights are as follows:-

- (a) An innovative approach of taking DoNER Secretariat to the NE States to look into grievances of the States has started and is named as "DONER at Doorstep" (DAD). Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh have been covered already.
- (b) Inter-ministerial Committee in Delhi has been started for consultation with Secretaries of Central Ministries. Consultation has been held with Ministry of Tourism and the consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation would be held in the subsequent week.
- (c) Meetings with the MP's of the North Eastern States to solicit their views for speedy development of NER have been started. The first meeting was held on 19th December, 2014.

- (d) A mechanism for regular interaction with Resident Commissioners of the NE States in Delhi to sort out pending issues has been started and the first such interaction was held on 28th January, 2015. This would ensure speedy resolutions of the pending issues of the NE States with the Central Ministries.
- (e) Meetings have also been planned with the North East community and Delhi-based NE Region Officers for better understanding of the region. The first of such meetings was conducted in January and February, 2015.
- (f) On the direction of the Hon'ble Prime Minister for touring the North Eastern States, at least eight Union Ministers have started visiting the region every fortnight from the month of February, 2015 to understand the ground realities.
- (g) Mention was made about the establishment of a Sports University in Manipur, an AIIMS like institution in Assam, a Film Institute in Arunachal Pradesh and six new agricultural colleges in the NE Region under the Central Government funding.
- (h) Mention was also made about proposal for the establishment of Hostels for NE students in JNU and in Delhi University and about a hostel for girls which has already been sanctioned for Bangalore University.
- (i) Announcement was also made for establishment of a "Brahmaputra Study Centre" in the Gauhati University, the oldest University in the region.
- (j) In respect of Air Connectivity, announcement was made about the starting of the Indigo flight in the Delhi – Kolkata – Dimapur sector. This will meet the long standing demand and will provide direct air connectivity to Delhi from Dimapur. Further, it was mentioned about the resumption of Kolkata – Silchar Air India regular daily flight.

1.7 The written speech in bullet points of the Hon'ble Minister DoNER and Chairman, NEC was distributed in the meeting and the same is placed at **Annexure – I**.

1.8 Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju made a short speech. Some of the points made by him are as follows:-

- (a) Ministry of DoNER would have to play their coordinating and supportive role to the North Eastern States in respect of projects being implemented in the region.
- (b) The priorities accorded by the States in respect of NEC and NLCPR projects should not be diluted.

- (c) Ministry of DoNER and NEC should work in tandem to project a positive image of the Region in the corridors of the Central Ministries.
- (d) The idea for organizing 2 days Council meeting was welcomed. As was done earlier, NEC could also organize some sector specific summits for in depth discussion on the emerging issues.

1.9 The main agenda for the first day was the power point presentation by the Central Ministries on the initiatives, projects etc in the NE Region. Before the actual starting of the Power Point Presentation, Secretary, NEC presented a few slides incorporating the main issues and expectations of the NE States from different Ministries. The presentations of the Secretary, NEC could be seen at **Annexure – II**.

1.10 Hard copies of the power point presentations of the Ministries were distributed in the meeting and subsequently after the meeting the same were sent separately to the Hon'ble Members of the NEC and the State Governments for record and perusal. Since the presentations were voluminous they are not annexed here again and only highlights based on interactions on the ppt presentations are given here.

1.10.1 The first power point presentation was from the Ministry of Railways and was given by Shri R.S. Viridi, General Manager, NF Railways, Guwahati. The highlights of his presentations are:-

- (a) Railway Ministry to complete Bogibeel Bridge by June, 2017.
- (b) For Rail lines to Tawang & Parsuramkund, survey work has been done.
- (c) DoNER Ministry was requested by Railways Ministry for Rs.315 crore for land acquisition of Agartala-Akhura rail line. (India portion).
- (d) Imphal –Moreh rail line project for 111 kms costing Rs.5000.00 crores has been proposed to Railway Board.

1.10.2 The presentation on Ministry of Road Transport & Highways was given by Shri S.K. Nirmal, Chief Engineer, MoRTH. The highlights are:-

- (a) The Council unanimously resolved and recommended breaking up of tenders into smaller packages not exceeding Rs.50 crore to enable reliable local contractors to participate and build their contracting capacity.
- (b) East- West corridor upto Silchar to be completed by December, 2015.

- (c) Proper coordination has to be established among BRO, MoRTH and the State PWD for upkeep and maintenance of constructed roads.
- (d) If necessary, a special force could be constituted for providing security at the construction site of the major road projects.
- (e) The welfare of construction labours at the site should be taken care of by the concerned agencies to get good quality work output.
- (f) Inter ministerial Committee with the MoRTH would be constituted shortly by Ministry of DoNER. This Committee, if necessary, would get in touch with Hon'ble Governors and the Chief Ministers.

1.10.3 The presentation on air connectivity was given by Shri Venkataraman Hegde, Director, MoCA. He was assisted by two officers from AAI. The highlights are:-

- (a) Flights from Yangon, Mandalay, Bangkok and Singapore to NER are required to be enabled.
- (b) Tezu Airport to be completed by 2015.
- (c) Request was made by AAI for 100% funding by Government of India of NER projects due to operational losses in the region instead of current 60% funding provided by NEC.
- (d) Frequent interactions with the State Government should be the norm for the MoCA on the issues of Greenfield airports proposed in Sikkim, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh and also on the issues of land acquisition in the expansion proposals of various airports.
- (e) For taking advantage of 'Act East Policy', Customs, Visa on arrival and immigration facilities should be introduced in the prominent airports in the NE Region.
- (f) For the NE Region international Tourists in the Buddhist Tourism Circuit would be interested in direct air flights. A task force could be set up for providing religious Tourism in the NE Region.

1.10.4 From the Ministry of Power, Shri S.D. Dubey from Central Electricity Authority made the presentation. The highlights are:-

- (a) Kohima-Imphal – Misa 400kV transmission line to be constructed in addition to the transmission lines taken by PGCIL.
- (b) SLDCs should be constructed for all NE States.

- (c) Slow progress of generation of Hydro power in the region was flagged as a cause of concern.
- (d) Proper fund allocation to be done for NE States for early completion of all projects.

1.10.5 From the Ministry of External Affairs, Secretary (East) Shri Anil Wadhwa made the presentation. Emphasis was on providing connectivity to the South East Asia. Highlights are:-

- (a) The transformation of the Look East Policy, which had largely focused on Trade & Commerce, Technology, Energy Security, Free Trade Agreements and Economic Integration to Act East Policy, was highlighted. The Act East Policy is now wider in scope and extends beyond ASEAN to the Asia Pacific region. Besides economic cooperation, the policy now also includes defence, security cooperation and cultural links among others and is now more action and result oriented.
- (b) It was mentioned that the Kaladan Multimodal Transport Project is under implementation and there has been a need for revision of project cost due to change in location of the River Port in Myanmar and subsequent increase in the length of roads. Similarly status of other projects such as Trilateral Highway, Rhi-Tiddim Road etc. was discussed.
- (c) Regarding communication through Bangladesh, it was clarified that the protocol for waterways was being renegotiated. Bilateral talks are also being held regarding legal issues of transit and trade with Bangladesh.
- (d) It was also stated that Universities from Thailand and the Singapore Skills Development Institute have shown interest in investing in the North Eastern Region.
- (e) 69 Bridges of Tamu-Kalewaroad road in Myanmar for Rs.376.00 crore to be completed in next 3 years.
- (f) Rhi-Tiddim Road final feasibility report to be ready by early 2016.
- (g) Imphal-Mandalay Bus service and visa on arrival need to be explored.
- (h) Developing backend connectivity for enabling NE States to trade with South East Asia as part of Act East Policy was emphasized.

1.10.6 From the Department of Telecommunication, Shri Uma Shankar, Joint Secretary, Telecom made the presentation. Highlights are:-

- (a) Internet Bandwidth to Cox Bazar being developed to have an international Gateway to NER. Agreement to be signed soon.

- (b) Governments of Tripura, Meghalaya & Arunachal Pradesh were requested by Telecom Ministry to allow seamless movement of equipment & manpower by Telecom.
- (c) Telecom Ministry has requested NE States to allow strengthening of OPGW lines over power towers owned by States. BSNL & Power Dept. of States to have agreement soon.

1.10.7 From the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Shri Amitabh Verma, Chairman, IWAI made the presentation. The highlights are:-

- (a) Protocol for using the Bangladesh waterways from Haldia to Dhubri to be done for 5 years instead of yearly extension for improving confidence of traders.
- (b) Developing 1439 kms of tributaries of Barak & Brahmaputra by IWAI under consideration by IWAI.
- (c) 3m draft of water from Haldia to Dhubri to be developed by 2016 December by IWAI.
- (d) IWAI has a new scheme providing vessels for goods & passengers to States.
- (e) Cruises on Brahmaputra are getting popular. 3 cruises are booked for 3 years. More will join.
- (f) 14 National Waterways, out of 23 river stretches in NER to be developed by IWAI. Work to start from 2016-17. DPR under preparation and will be ready by September 2015.
- (g) Roll on – Roll off (RO-RO) facility between Dhubri and Hatsingbari to commence by October 2016.

1.10.8 From the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI), MHA (Border Trade), Shri Anil Bamba made the presentation. The highlights are:-

- (a) ICP at Agartala has been completed and inaugurated. The works at the ICP, Moreh is being taken up with renewed urgency and the works on Dawki slated to begin.
- (b) LPAI was advised to ensure construction of the connecting roads along with the construction of ICP at Dawki to facilitate trade with Bangladesh.

1.10.9 From the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE), Smt Jyotsna Sitling, Joint Secretary made the presentation. The highlights are:-

- (a) A Skill Gap Study for the NE Region has been conducted by the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC).

- (b) This Study was made on sectoral basis and the aspirational mismatch of the youth of the NER vis-à-vis the opportunities available were highlighted.
- (c) Most of the interventions of the Ministry in the NER are being done through the NSDC and in association with private sector players like Don Bosco, ILFS Skills etc.
- (d) The National Skills Qualification Framework was also mentioned and it was stated that any skill development programmes need to be developed in line with this framework.

1.10.11 From the Ministry of HRD (Department of Higher Education), Shri D.P. Singh, Deputy Secretary made the presentation. The highlights are:-

- (a) A new scheme named “Ishan Uday” – a special scholarship scheme for NER for higher education with 10,000 slots – has been introduced.
- (b) Directions have been given to UGC for inclusion of NER literature in the curriculum of Universities.
- (c) A scheme named “Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiya” (RUSA) for setting up new colleges and upgradation existing ones is in operation
- (d) Another programme named AICTE-NE Quality Improvement Programme for technical education has been introduced.
- (e) It was suggested that study of tribal dialects of NER should be taken up and introduced in the Universities of the country.

1.10.12 From the Ministry of Tourism, Shri Suman Billar, Joint Secretary, Tourism made the presentation. Highlights are:-

- (a) Scheme named PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) has been launched.
- (b) Scheme named SWADESH DARSHAN (Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits) has been introduced.

1.10.13 From the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), Shri Ranjan Kumar, Economic Adviser made the presentation. The highlights are:-

- (a) The total number of bank branches in the NER has improved to 3320 as on 31st March, 2014 from 2309 as on 31st March, 2010.
- (b) As regards the Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), as on 28th January, 2015, PMJDY has been successful in ensuring that 99.98% of the 21.06 crore households

surveyed have at least one bank account. In the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tripura coverage has been 100% whereas in Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland coverage has been 99.97%, 99.92% and 99.92 % respectively.

- (c) As regards improving the Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) in the NER, Reserve Bank of India has advised banks to set up a Special Sub-Committee (SSC) of District Consultative Committee (DCC) in districts having CDR less than 40 in order to monitor the CDR and draw up Monitorable Action Plans (MAPs) to increase the CDR on a self set graduated basis.
- (d) On a query by Hon'ble Governor, Nagaland on the scope of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities of the Banks in the NER, the Ministry promised to send the details at a later date.

1.11 After the end of the presentations, the proceedings of the first day of the Plenary ended with a remark from the Hon'ble Chairman that there should be more frequent interactions between the Central Ministries and the Hon'ble Governors and the Chief Ministers of the NE Region.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2nd DAY 64TH NEC PLENARY HELD AT THE SCOPE AUDITORIUM, SCOPE COMPLEX, NEW DELHI ON 9TH AND 10TH APRIL, 2015

2.1 At the outset, the Honble Chairman, NEC welcomed the Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States to the 2nd Day of the 64th Plenary of the Council. While summing up the proceedings of the previous day, the Hon'ble Chairman reiterated the priority accorded by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the lesser developed States like NE and J&K. It was added that the development of NER is essential part of the Prime Minister's vision for the country.

2.2 Mention was made about the new nomenclature given to the eight north eastern states by the Prime Minister as "Astalakshmi".

2.3 The restoration of direct air link between Dimapur and Delhi via Kolkata was mentioned. This will meet the long standing demand of the State of Nagaland.

2.4 The innovative practice of having rotational camp secretariat of Ministry of DoNER in the North Eastern States was also mentioned. This initiative has been taken for redressal of grievances of the states at their doorsteps. The symbolic name of this initiative has been given as "DoNER at Doorsteps" (DAD).

2.5 Other initiatives like frequent visit of Union Ministers to the North East were also highlighted. It was mentioned that the DoNER Ministry will have closer coordination with the heads of the States i.e., Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers. The Hon'ble Chairman expected to receive the guidance and blessings of the Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers in the development initiatives of the Ministry of DoNER and NEC.

2.6 After the opening remarks of the Hon'ble Chairman, Secretary, NEC presented his report in a short power point presentation. The full version of the Secretary's report was circulated in the meeting. The power point presentation made by the Secretary, NEC and his full report are placed in **Annexure – III (A) and Annexure – III (B)**. In the presentation of the Secretary, the budgetary allocation of NEC, shortfall in allocation against the approved outlay of Planning Commission, sector-wise allocation for the Annual Plan, 2015-16 etc were highlighted.

2.7 The achievements of 2014-15 like construction of hangars at Guwahati Airport, approval of the new road i.e. Pakke-Sijusa-Itakhola Road, completion of the five road projects of the Eleven Five Year Plan etc. were also highlighted.

2.8 Comments from Hon'ble Members of the NEC

After the presentation of the Secretary's report, the Hon'ble Chairman invited comments from the Hon'ble Members of the Council on the agenda points as well as other issues concerning NE Region. The comments and the points given in their written speeches (circulated and taken as read) of the Hon'ble Governors and the Hon'ble Chief Ministers are summarized below. It may be mentioned that the Hon'ble Governors and the Chief Ministers who could not attend the meeting sent their written speeches for distribution in the meeting. These speeches are also summarized below:-

2.9 Hon'ble Governor, Arunachal Pradesh, Lt. General Nirbhay Sharma, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)

2.9.1 At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairman, NEC was congratulated on holding the NEC Plenary just after 3 months of the last meeting. The dynamic effort made by the Hon'ble Chairman in the matters of development of NE Region was also commended.

2.9.2 It was mentioned that although the North Eastern region seemed to have a common canvas but the region is full of complexity and diversity. 'The one-size fit all' policy will not work for the region and critical focus areas for all the States required to be identified. In this regard, the NITI Aayog, Ministry of DoNER and NEC as a Regional Planning body will have to work in tandem.

2.9.3 It was stressed that the North East region requires a systematic and balanced pace of development in each of its States. Lack of Connectivity is the biggest hurdle to the development in the region and is holding up unlocking of the vast economic potential of the region. The region is geographically divided by River Brahmaputra into two halves, i.e., north and south. It was mentioned that epicentre of development is essentially concentrated in the southern part of the region. There is an urgent need to focus more on the region north of River Brahmaputra to bring equitable growth. Trans-Brahmaputra connectivity and need based locating and shifting of certain administrative headquarters of the Central Government was suggested as remedial action.

2.9.4 Maximum emphasis was put on road connectivity for which all the agencies involved like MoRTH and Ministry of Defence should collaborate. It was also suggested next Plenary Meeting should devote a full session on the road connectivity.

2.9.5 In case of construction of roads, it was also mentioned the technology adopted for construction of road in the NE Region should take into account the special climatic and soil condition of the region.

2.9.6 In respect of Railways, gratitude was expressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister for inaugurating the Itanagar-Delhi AC Express and Itanagar-Guwahati Intercity Express train service. Railways were requested to expedite the work on other strategic lines to Tawang in the west and Pasighat in the east in Arunachal Pradesh. Early completion of the Bogibeel Bridge was also urged. The completion of the Bogibeel bridge would be a major factor in the socio-economic development of this region and shall also fill the strategic void in Trans-Brahmaputra movement.

2.9.7 Regarding road connectivity, it was mentioned that the immediate requirement is expediting the construction and up-gradation of roads in Arunachal Pradesh involving 5,000 kms. To achieve it in a reasonable time frame, capacities of the implementing agencies have to be enhanced many fold and processes and procedures are to be streamlined. It was stressed that multiplicity of construction agencies and their coordination including accountability need special attention. Specially, BRO with all its experience in road construction in the mountains is best suited to concentrate on Himalayan states, and NHAI & other agencies could work in other states. Posting of an Addl. DG, BRO to oversee the projects in the NER was welcomed. However, it was felt that the said functionary has not been given the necessary administrative and financial powers to be effective. It was also opined that the location of the office of ADG, BRO should be in Itanagar instead of the current location of Guwahati.

2.9.8 The importance of development of Civil Aviation in the State was reiterated owing to its vastness and tough geographical terrain. Mention was made about the progress of the NEC funded Tezu Airport. This Airport project has to be monitored to expedite the final phase for activating the airport. It was further mentioned that the site for Greenfield Airport at Holongi has been finalized and hence the urgent development of this airport was stressed. Further it was requested that until the completion of Holongi Airport, reliable air service from the fully developed Airport at Lilabari must be improved on highest priority.

The present schedule of Alliance Airline at Lilabari is unsuitable to link flights from New Delhi. Hence, it was suggested to use a bigger aircraft with direct flight scheduled from Lilabari to Delhi and Delhi to Lilabari, alternately via Kolkata or Guwahati. Such a step will enhance connectivity immediately. The matter has already been taken up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

2.9.9 Mention was made about 8 (Eight) Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs) coming up in the border districts of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. NEC was requested to advise the concerned agencies to expedite work in a time bound manner in this regard. It was opined that the infrastructure so created should not only be for Defence purpose and carriage of civil passengers and goods, but should also be for ferrying construction materials for infrastructure development as well. It was further suggested that aircraft services should be planned simultaneously for the ALGs to avoid any delay in starting the service. In addition it was mentioned that two more ALGs are required at Koloriang in Kurung Kumey District and Anini in Dibang Valley District for strategic reasons.

2.9.10 Regarding Inland Waterways, it was stated that the northeast region has many large and small rivers providing facilities for water transport, especially in their plains sections. In Arunachal Pradesh the rivers Siang, Lohit, Subansiri, Burhi Dihing, Noa Dihing, and Tirap are used for navigation by small country boats. Arunachal Pradesh has four stretches with total length of 311 km of waterway. This sector needs to be explored and harnessed. It was lamented that National Waterway 2 running along the Brahmaputra and announced in 1988 is yet to become operational. The development of waterways should be the national priority of the country.

2.9.11 In respect of Tourism, it was mentioned that the natural landscape of Arunachal Pradesh with powerful rivers, magnificent mountains, sprawling forests etc offers huge potential for river rafting, trekking, para-gliding etc. Also, Arunachal Pradesh has distinct and varied cultures among all its 26 major tribes and more than 100 sub-tribes. The challenge in this field however, remains to create tourist hubs to showcase the unique nature's bounty, and to address niche groups of nature lover tourists. It was stressed that connectivity through air, land and waterways are very essential to achieve it. NEC was requested to facilitate in harnessing the tourism potential of the State.

2.9.12 It was mentioned that Arunachal Pradesh has the potential to be powerhouse of the country, provided its hydropower potential is harnessed. In this regard, the impasse due to

environmental and social issues has to be resolved at the earliest. It was further added that River Carrying Capacity & Cumulative Impact Assessment Study of Siang Basin in Arunachal Pradesh for development of Hydropower Projects (HEPs) has been done by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Government of India. As a result many projects on this river have to be dropped and a number of them will not be commercially viable. Similar studies are being conducted on the other major rivers of the State. So it was urged that an overall view should be taken in this regard to expedite the development of feasible Hydro Power Projects to ensure comprehensive development of the region.

2.9.13 On the 'Act East Policy' it was mentioned that the country's vision of becoming a developed economy by 2020 will depend to a large extent on the enhanced economic cooperation with the South East Asian countries. Of late, as part of the 'Act-East Policy', there has been a thrust on regional trade agreements, especially with its eastern neighbours. It was emphasized that NER would have to prepare to be contributors and main stakeholders of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's 'Act East' and 'Make in India' crusades. The North East has to be seen more than a transit route. The NER would have to be shaped as an economic powerhouse influencing South East Asia in general and countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar in particular. In this regard, it was opined that connectivity and security are the main issues to be resolved to realize the dream of prosperity in Ganga-Mekong region, which accounts for 25% of the world's population. North East of India and apart of Myanmar are the weakest links on this axis which needs sustained attention from the Government of India.

2.9.14 It was urged that in Arunachal Pradesh, the border villages would have to be made self-sustaining and a bold rehabilitation policy will have to be thought of. Due to vulnerability in the border belt, there is a need to have a Border Area Security and Development Authority to coordinate efforts and resources of the Centre and State.

2.9.15 It was mentioned that Arunachal Pradesh has a long international boundary with Bhutan, China and Myanmar. The people of the State have trade relationship with the people across the border since ancient times. Some still persist in formal and informal forms in some border trade points, such as Pangsu Pass at Nampong in Indo-Myanmar Border and Bleting (Namtsering), Dongshengmang and Bongkhar at Indo-Bhutan Border. It was opined that these informal trade practices need to be institutionalized for socio-economic upliftment of local population and the State.

2.9.16 It was further urged that formal trading mechanism could be set up at Pangsau Pass in the eastern side of the State connecting the rich South East Asian nations. This could be a part of Kolkata-Kunming initiative. NEC could take up this issue with the Ministry of External Affairs and work out modalities for providing access to the international neighbours in a regulated manner.

2.9.17 In regard to Human Resource Development, it was mentioned that proper education, career guidance and entrepreneurship programmes should be provided to the youth of the region. It was opined that NEC should have special focus on quality education through investment in teachers' training and evaluation. In this regard, distance education, infrastructure and latest scientific methods should be used. The social, gender and regional gaps in education need special attention. In this connection, the announcement of setting up of Centre for Brahmaputra studies' at Guwahati and six agricultural colleges in the region were welcomed.

2.9.18 It was stressed that establishment of a Sainik School in the State will help in facilitating the entry of many tribal youth into the armed forces. The State Government has taken up the case of establishment of Sainik School in the State with the Ministry of Defence. The site for setting up of the first Sainik School in the State has been finalized. The Central Government should expedite the setting up of the Sainik School.

2.9.19 Raising of three Ecological battalions of Territorial Army was also proposed to ensure preservation of the forest cover of the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

2.9.20 In respect of skill development, it was mentioned that Arunachal Pradesh has made significant achievement in creating employment opportunities for the youth through skill development programmes. However, it was emphasized that the skill development need not be only for getting jobs outside the State, but also for creating self employment opportunities within the State. The State has manifold activities in the field of construction, power, health and education. So skill set would have to be created for technicians, nursing, medical attendants, science teachers etc. This would be a departure from the existing low value skill development initiatives involving security guard and beauty culture etc.

2.9.21 Assistance from Central Government was sought for establishing High value Skill Development Centres, ITI and Livelihood Mission Schools in the State. It was opined that short-term skill development training for regular school students and for school dropouts in

subjects like sciences, mathematics and English speaking would give added advantage in the employability.

2.9.22 It was further mentioned that many a times youth have the required skill, enthusiasm and dedication, but are not able to mobilise capital and credit guarantors to start any enterprise. It was therefore urged that the mechanism for providing credit must be eased and the collateral free loan scheme could be implemented properly and reviewed periodically. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship could play a pivotal role in this.

2.9.23 Regarding telecommunication, it was requested that the coverage of telecommunication networks like AIR and DD should be enhanced urgently in the region. There is a big void in the entire border belt calling for an immediate focus. DD through DTH transmission can cover 100% population and 100% area of the State. It is important that for reaching every corner of the State, specially the border belt, the DTH sets could be made available immediately to the border area free of cost which may not involve funding of more than 2-3 crore.

2.9.24 With reference to financial inclusion, it was mentioned that the State is progressing well on the Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana. This programme is welcomed by the people and taken up seriously by the State Government. However, it was opined that to strengthen the effort, opening of more banks is required. It was mentioned that out of 214 administrative centres in the State involving District Headquarters to Circle Headquarters, only 66 administrative centres are covered by the Banks and rest of the Centres do not even have a single Bank branch. This issue requires urgent attention of the Central Government. In this regard, it was added that the Post Offices set up in the State are much more spread out and hence they could be strengthened and utilized to augment the financial inclusion efforts of the banks. BSNL should also focus on providing reliable teleconnectivity to the banks and post offices for facilitating the provision of aadhar linked bank accounts to the beneficiaries of the Government schemes. This will enable the beneficiaries to receive the direct transfer of benefits to their accounts.

2.9.25 It was further added that financial inclusion initiatives must also address the issue of providing easy availability of credit, especially to the vulnerable progressive groups including women self help groups to enable generation of self employment on a sustainable basis. The CD ratio (Credit to Deposit Ratio) in the State stands at around 20%. In some districts, it

is as low as 6% and has to be increased significantly. In this regard, it was expressed that digital connectivity is most vital to address all dimensions of development and security.

2.9.26 Regarding role of NEC, it was emphasized that NEC should play the role of representative of State Governments with ministries of Government of India on following up the State projects. It was reiterated that NEC should be strengthened to make it a 'Think Tank' on strategic planning for NER.

2.9.27 It was mentioned that in view of the huge infrastructure deficit and strategic urgency, a comprehensive Vision-2030 prospective plan is being formulated by Arunachal Government in conjunction with the Niti Aayog. The State Government is formulating this document by taking into account the vital security, developmental and financial imperatives. It was hoped that the NEC will strengthen the effort of the State Government to bring prosperity in every corner of the Frontier State within the overall objective of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

2.9.28 The Hon'ble Governor mentioned that the security aspect of the region should be seen as a whole and Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs should work together for the purpose.

2.9.29 In the end the Hon'ble Governor mentioned that there should be special NEC Meetings on connectivity, power and security.

2.10 Hon'ble Governor, Assam, Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya

The Hon'ble Governor, Assam was also holding charges of the Governors of Nagaland and Tripura. His oral comments are combined with the written speeches as Governor, Assam. His written speeches as Governor, Nagaland and Tripura are summarized separately and placed in sequence.

2.10.1 At the outset, it was mentioned that the Plenary meetings of the North Eastern Council are a significant and important platform where the development strategies for eight North Eastern States can be discussed and fine tuned to meet new challenges emerging from time to time. The main objective of the Council is to ensure a balanced and integrated development of the North Eastern part of the country.

2.10.2 Concern was expressed about the declining allocation of the NEC over the years and substantial increase in the allocation of NEC was urged.

2.10.3 Regarding priorities of NEC it was mentioned that during 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), the focus of NEC funding is mainly on Transport & Communication, Health and Power, as 72% of proposed allocation is for those sectors. However, in this regard, it was suggested that human resource development especially skill development to create employment opportunities in various sectors should also be reflected in the strategies for 12th Five Year Plan and onwards.

2.10.4 It was mentioned that three things are essential for the development of a region. They are – connectivity, power and skill development.

2.10.5 It was further added that North East is a land locked region which needs special attention from Government of India to bring it at par with other parts of the country. This region is a unique mix of natural resources, abundant biodiversity, varied cultural, ethnic and lingual canvass. North Eastern Council is an ideal platform to chalk-out the development path for the region. It was further mentioned that this region as a whole has been receiving its greater attention since last couple of decades owing to Government of India's Look East Policy (current 'Act East Policy'). It was hoped that achieving the lofty goals of NER Vision 2020 will be possible by involving all the stake holders including Central Government, NEC and the North Eastern States.

2.10.6 It was further mentioned that the 12000 crore accumulated in the NLCPR fund should be properly utilized for development of the region. The lion's share of the fund should go for provision of connectivity. In this regard special mention was made about the needs for improvement of water linkages in Assam, rail connectivity in Tripura and road connectivity in Nagaland.

2.10.7 In case of air connectivity happiness was expressed on the introduction of direct flight to Delhi from Dimapur via Kolkata. However, it was opined that there is a need to have some control about the exorbitant fares charged by the airlines.

2.10.8 Emphasis was made on introduction of need based courses in the University in the region depending on the natural resources availability of the States. This will impart requisite skills to the youths of the region and will contain social unrest. It was mentioned that education, electricity and employment (three Es) will bring prosperity to the region.

2.10.9 As regards the State of Assam, it was mentioned that Assam is geo-strategically located in the middle of the NE region and surrounded by all the States, Guwahati being the gateway. Any infrastructural development and improvement of facilities in Assam and

especially in Guwahati directly or indirectly benefits the whole region. Any development projects taken up in Assam would as a natural consequence ensure that the spill-over benefits accrue to all other States as well. NEC and the Ministry of DoNER could do good by giving highest priority to the projects having multi-state impact.

2.10.10 It was lamented that the funds actually made available to NEC have been far lower than the approved outlays. In this regard, the comparative figures for the 11th Plan and 12th Plans were mentioned. Besides, inclusion of NEC and NLCPR allocations in the Annual Plans of the States was also opposed. NEC funds should be in additionality to the State Annual Plan allocations.

2.10.11 Since railways play an important role in providing connectivity, steps taken by Central Government to connect all the North Eastern State capitals with the country's railway network was lauded. However, it was stressed that North Eastern Frontier Railway (NEFR) may be declared as a dedicated zone for North Eastern States only. This move will help in creating employment opportunities for the people of the North Eastern States. Early commissioning of the recently completed Lumding-Silchar Broad Gauge railway was also stressed. Mention was made about early completion/ operationalization of Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road Bridge, Rongia-Murkongselek rail line, Badarpur-Agartala railway section, and Jogighopa-New Mainaguri section line.

2.10.12 Regarding the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), it was mentioned that about Rs. 12,000 crores have got accumulated under this account. It was suggested this fund may be considered for immediate allocation and sanction of the critical, large infrastructure projects for roads, airports, railways, inland waterways, power etc. This would go a long way in implementation of "Act East Policy" of Central Government.

2.10.13 Government of India was also urged for early completion of the portion of East-West Corridor within Assam as well as the branch connectivity of other States to this corridor. Early completion of Bogibeel and Dhola-Sadia bridges over Brahmaputra was also stressed. Long pending and delayed road and railway projects of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Railways will also improve intra-region connectivity. Due to non-availability of good transport facilities in terms of roads and railways the time and cost for movement of passengers and goods from NE region to other parts of the country is extremely high.

2.10.14 To improve air connectivity it was suggested that Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati may be converted into an Integrated Multi Modal Hub. The LGBIA requires night haltage to ease traffic congestion. Lack of night haltage has compressed the Air Traffic flow to very limited period of time due to which there is huge congestion in the Airport. It was mentioned that the Government of Assam in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce has proposed to create a storage facility for cargo for the perishable commodities such as vegetables and products of horticulture and sericulture. An area needs to be earmarked for creating this facility. The Civil Aviation Ministry should collaborate with Government of Assam for creating a State of the Art facility for cargo movement in Guwahati Airport. It was further lamented that the connectivity between Guwahati and Silchar is poor and the situation has been exacerbated due to the withdrawal of ATR services. It was requested that not only ATR services be restored but the services of other aircrafts through various carriers may also be increased. Moreover, the services to Lilabari Airport in Lakhimpur is required to be increased which will benefit Arunachal Pradesh immensely. The Airports at Jorhat, Lilabari and Tezpur also need to be improved and upgraded. The Airport at Rupsi in Dhubri which is currently abandoned may also be revived. In addition to these, the 14 number of idle air strips in Assam could also be revived for development as Green Field Airports either through Airports Authority of India or in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

2.10.15 For giving further boost to air connectivity it was suggested that the existing Route Dispersal Guidelines may be revised in favour of providing more connectivity to North East and also to increase the Tourism Industry in Assam as well as the other States in the North East. To improve Helicopter services, suggestion was made for creation of Heliports in Karbi Anglong, NC Hills, Dhemaji, North Lakhimpur and Margherita. Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities are also the requirement at Guwahati Airport. The funds may be earmarked from NLCPR by the Ministry of DoNER or NEC for this purpose.

2.10.16 The recent emphasis on National Waterways given by Central Government was welcomed. Inland water transportation has tremendous potential for transportation of food grains, coal, heavy machineries and equipments within the North Eastern region as well as promoting tourism. Example of MV Mahabahu was given as pioneer in promoting tourism on waterways. Marine Highway will also reduce transportation cost and road waterways bottlenecks. NEC could give proper emphasis for development of a network of waterways in

NE Region. Besides this, the transit facility to Bangladesh through waterways shall open an alternative and cost effective means to transport bulk cargo from Assam to West Bengal and beyond. NEC could fund projects to improve the existing waterways and to develop proper jetty, night navigation, mechanical cargo handling system and encourage construction of vessels by private sector.

2.10.17 Importance of tourism as creator of employment opportunities was emphasized. Tourism is one of the largest employment generators in the State of Assam as the “Gateway of North East” and it plays a very significant role in promoting inclusive growth and reduction of poverty. Its large biodiversity, rolling hills, green valleys, virgin forest, mighty Brahmaputra and its tributaries, all these make Assam a major hub for Wildlife and Eco-Tourism. Colourful lifestyle of different tribes, handlooms and handicrafts etc make Assam a treasure house for the growth of Rural Tourism. Assam has surged ahead by taking steps towards promoting responsible tourism with emphasis on community based eco-tourism. This would discourage migration to urban areas. It was mentioned that the Prime Segments of Tourism in Assam are – Wild life & Eco tourism, River Tourism, Tea & Golf Tourism, Pilgrimage & Cultural Tourism, Rural Tourism and Heritage Tourism. NEC was urged to fund a number of small projects in these segments which will benefit the whole region by attracting more and more tourists.

2.10.18 In respect of power sector, it was mentioned that the power reforms have gone a long way in improving the power position in the State. In the year 2004, the Assam transmission company could handle hardly 720 MW of transmission. At present the grid capacity has been enhanced to handle more than 1700 MW of transmission and is expected to go up to 2000 MW by the end of 12th Plan. However the state of Assam continues to be a power deficit state. There has been a shortfall of around 200 MW during off-peak and 400 MW during peak hours. In this regards it was mentioned that two projects submitted by Assam Power Distribution Company should be attended by NEC on urgent basis. The projects are (a) construction of 2x5 MVA, 33/11 KV Substation at Bishnupur Panchali in Dhemaji District with an estimated cost of Rs. 10.07 Crore. The location is about 5 KM away from the Assam Arunachal Pradesh Border and the benefit of the project can be passed on to the people across the state boundary (b) installation of 1 MW Grid Connected Solar Photo-voltaic Power Plant at Nilbagan in Nagaon District with an estimated project cost of Rs. 10 Crore. The project is supposed to be the largest one of this type in NE region.

2.10.19 North Eastern region was described as a region unique for its rich natural resources, bio-diversity and varied cultural, ethnic and linguistic population. At the same time it was mentioned that certain common factors are affecting all the states of the region, such as those arising from its land locked character, the closing of natural markets as well as trading routes particularly with Bangladesh. It was further added that the extraordinary ethno-geographic and bio-geographic diversity of this region precludes any uniform solution as different communities are at varying stages of growth. This calls for planning at different physiographic divisions. In Assam the process of such planning has already been introduced for the tribal dominated areas where autonomous councils have been put in place. It was opined that this model needs to be strengthened.

2.10.20 The problem of ongoing inter-state boundary disputes was also highlighted. These need to be settled on priority. Most of the interstate border areas are lacking infrastructure facilities, such as roads, schools, health facilities, power supply, etc. It was opined that a Special Package for Development of all the Inter-State Border Areas should be announced by the Government of India. It was suggested that the Ministry of DoNER and NEC should pay greater attention to funding inter-state and regional projects, particularly for those projects that develop adequate infrastructure in border areas.

2.10.21 It was stated that Assam has approximately 533.30 Km long international boundaries with Bangladesh and Bhutan and approximately 2696.80 Km interstate borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and West Bengal. The Indo-Bhutan border areas are mostly forest areas whereas Indo-Bangladesh border areas are riverine. Due to remoteness of border areas and nature of habitation, the areas have become the hub of various extremist activities. There have been several instances of illegal encroachment by the anti-social elements from the other side of the border due to lack of communication and surveillance. It was suggested that for upliftment of the socio-economic status of the backward border population along inter-state border areas, NEC can fund the infrastructure gaps in terms of the roads and bridges in the inter-state border areas, upgradation of Border Outposts (BOPs) to model Police Stations, improvement of road communication to the BOPs, provision of drinking water facilities through piped water supply schemes, goodwill programmes, solar electrification projects for remote border villages and primary school buildings etc.

2.10.22 In respect of Higher Education in Assam, it was mentioned that at present there are eight State Universities, six Government Colleges, 295 Provincialised Colleges, 43 Non-Government Colleges, 182 Sanskrit Tols & 21 non-Government Law Colleges and four Engineering Colleges in the State. The major issues of Higher Education in Assam are – lack of sufficient academic infrastructure for Universities, infrastructure for Student hostels, requirement of infrastructure in the colleges, infrastructure for Engineering Colleges and introduction of IT. Out of the six universities, Gauhati and Dibrugarh University are more than 50 years old. Most of the buildings of these two universities are very old and are in dilapidated condition. For creation of a congenial academic atmosphere, improvement and augmentation of the existing infrastructure of the universities is urgently required. In the six new universities in the State, (four general and two technical universities), there are huge requirements like infrastructure, proper drainage system, libraries and laboratories. It was opined that to accommodate all the students studying in the universities, a number of boys' and girls' hostel can be funded from NEC.

2.10.23 In case of Engineering Colleges in Assam also, it was stated that they also need development of modern infrastructure, laboratory facilities, modern equipments, work shop building, etc.

2.10.24 In general about the education scenario it was opined that to improve teaching-learning environment, modern IT facilities have to be introduced in all the higher educational institutes of the States so that students of this backward region can interact with the students of other developed areas of the nation as well as abroad.

2.10.25 In regard to skill development it was mentioned that about 20 lakh youths in the State of Assam are still jobless and 80% of them are reported to be lacking in technical skills. Assam has been reeling under a perennial unemployment problem and consequently the problem of militancy as a sequel to it. It was opined that the Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramya Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY) launched by Government of India will go a long way in addressing this unemployment situation. The Assam Government also has taken steps to improve all the employment exchanges by converting them into a modern counselling and training centre. It was hoped that computer devices, audio visual system, internet connections with expert counsellors and IT experts in the employment exchanges would drastically change the scenario in these centres.

2.10.26 It was mentioned that the State Government of Assam had already submitted a proposal to Government of India for establishment of skill development centres in all the 219 development blocks of the State for conducting short-term skill development training under Multi Disciplinary Skill Development Programme (MDSDP). It was urged that NEC could play a great role by financing the incubation centres in the urban and rural areas for skill development, innovations and entrepreneurship among the educated youths.

2.10.27 With reference to financial inclusion it was mentioned that the state Government of Assam has been working closely with the banks & other mainstream financial institutions to substantially increase the physical outreach of families to areas which were hitherto excluded from the formal financial sector. The banking network has increased substantially in last 14 years. Bank branches in the State have increased from 1297 at the end of March, 2001 to 2083 branches as on 1st January, 2015. Besides, Financial Literacy Centres have been opened in all the 27 districts in the State. It was also mentioned that Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, is also being implemented in a mission mode in Assam with focus on rural & urban households and the State Government has constituted the State Level and District level Committee for effective implementation of the programme.

2.10.28 It was further mentioned that the Agriculture advances in the State of Assam have been showing an increasing trend over the years. However, the low Credit Deposit Ratio in the State which stands at 45.43 during December, 2014 is a cause of concern. It was opined that the CDR should be improved to at least 60%.

2.11 Written speech of Hon'ble Governor, Nagaland, Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya

2.11.1 It was opined that the current policy of "Look East", "Act East" and "Make in East", would result in development of North East which would in turn lead to progress of India as well.

2.11.2 It was stated that if the NER remains underdeveloped, whole India would remain underdeveloped. The developmental gaps of NER which have been an issue for a long time should be tackled and addressed with appropriate strategies and policies.

2.11.3 It was suggested that the Universities of the NER should be in the forefront to work out programmes to interact with Universities of Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Myanmar, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Goodwill with our neighbouring countries could be created by

promoting University to University interaction. Unless the neighbouring countries are friendly, there cannot be peace in the NER. Universities have to work out the road map to reach this goal.

2.11.4 The endeavor of North Eastern Council was commended in aptly recognizing areas towards Regional Planning and Strategy for the NER for bridging the developmental chasm and obscurity. The exercise of identification of areas in accordance with the needs of the Region and NER Vision 2020 reinforces the very objectives of the formation of the NEC. It was hoped that NEC will spearhead in fulfilling the objectives of plugging the developmental gaps of the NER in accordance with changing times.

2.11.5 It was mentioned that the NER has more than 5000 kms of international border. It is thus imperative to put a productive strategy into place to reap gains from International Trade and Border trade. To this effect, Special Development Zone for production of agri and allied products, Special Economic Zones / Corridors should be established and appropriate infrastructures; both physical and social should be created.

2.11.6 It was further stated that NE States presently, are substantially dependent on imports for meeting the demands of food items such as eggs, fish, milk, meat, poultry, etc. NEC should put forth a strategy to alter the production scenario of such food items. Given the potential, NER should be transformed from a meat, egg, fish etc importing region into a self sufficient area.

2.11.7 The urgent need to reorient the strategy and policy for NER according to the Region's endowment was stressed. Scenic Natural Beauty and the Vibrant Cultural Heritage is one such area where NER is amply bequeathed with. Promotion of Tourism in the Region should be woven around its core strength.

2.11.8 Another area highlighted was Sports. The Region has produced numerous Sportspersons and has brought laurels to the Nation. It is imperative to build and provide adequate regional sports infrastructures to tap the talents and equip them to compete in international arena.

2.11.9 As regards development of education it was opined that Gyan Kendras should also be Vikas Kendras, i.e. Knowledge Centres have to be Development Centres. Educated empowered youth should not be self-centered intellectuals for their own prosperity but

should be conscious and be ready to address the society's needs to make the country prosperous.

2.11.10 It was mentioned that higher education today in India has four challenges in terms of four Es. These are Expansion, Equity, Excellence and Employability. There is a need to reach the unreached and include the excluded in a continuous sustained manner. To improve Excellence, more money is needed into research, to get much more done in that. It should be ensured that people who come out of the education system are the people which the economy needs and the employer needs.

2.11.11 The need of supplementing the conventional degree courses like B.A, B.Com, B.Sc. with skill was emphasized. The graduates should not be at the mercy of someone for job. They should have self-confidence with their skill to be entrepreneurs or to engage in purposeful wealth creating vocation. Universities should not directly or indirectly be the reason for the big crime of creating unemployable graduates. The Graduates must be an asset to the society and not a burden to society/family.

2.11.12 It was urged that universities should start continuous interaction with trade, industry & commerce of the NER and take into account the availability of natural resources in the region. Resources such as mineral oil (Petrol), tea, lime, waterfalls, bright sunshine, organic food crops, crafts like handloom, handicrafts etc. should be taken into account while formulating courses in the Universities.

2.11.13 It was mentioned that knowledge and skills about day to day consumer needs like – mobile repair, electric gadgets maintenance, motor maintenance and repair, spray painting, carpentry, welding, real estate etc. could be introduced by the educational institutes.

2.11.14 In regard of health sector, the importance of medicinal plants/herbs were emphasized.

2.11.15 Satisfaction was expressed on making NEC Dr. T. Ao Memorial Football Tournament into an annual regional event of NER. Besides this, NEC was urged to take initiative in organizing regional sports events in other sports disciplines such as archery, Polo, boxing and indigenous games etc to harness and mould the talents of the region.

2.11.16 It was mentioned that the NER has tremendous hydro power potential and is aptly referred to as the “Potential Powerhouse of the Nation”. Tapping this potential will redress the energy deficits of the region and the Country significantly. NEC should stress on the development of the power generation in Nagaland and NER as a whole.

2.11.17 Concern was expressed over the large scale exodus of students to mainland India in quest of quality education. In this respect, it was suggested that the Regional Education Institutes in NER should be established and upgraded to impart quality education. Moreover, Facilities of Skill/vocational educational institutes should be upgraded and strengthened for the unemployed youth of the region.

2.11.18 NEC was urged to put emphasis on development of regional institutes in imparting courses in music, IT, Nursing, Paramedic, etc in NER. This will widen the scope of employment of the Youths of NER in India as well as abroad.

2.11.19 In respect of the State of Nagaland, the necessity to establish a few institutes/facilities was emphasized. They are –

(a) Horticulture College: The State with suitable climatic and soil conditions has potential in high value medicinal plants as also temperate crops like apple, kiwi along with traditional crops like orange, guava, peach etc. Rare medicinal plants of the State will permanently extinct if its conservation and cultivation is not taken up. There is need for Research & Development intervention in promoting and developing cultivation technology of indigenous and rare medicinal plants of the State. Hence, it was felt that establishment of a Horticulture college/institute will benefit not only Nagaland but the entire NE Region.

(b) Institute of Aviation in Nagaland: Nagaland has been proposing to set up a Flying Academy at Dimapur since 2010. The academy is being proposed in collaboration with the Carver Flying Academy. The academy will not only train commercial pilots but also air maintenance crews. Such an institute will benefit the other North Eastern States as well; hence, it is suggested to upgrade it into a regional institute.

(c) Cold Storage facility: The trade and commerce of Agri and allied products of the State faces a major setback due to lack of proper storage infrastructure. At present, Nagaland has just one cold storage facility at Dimapur which will not be able

to cater to the demand of the entire State. As a step towards expansion of regional trade and relief from drought and food scarcity, NEC is requested to provide more funds for construction of more cold storages in the State.

2.11.20 In regards to urbanization, it was mentioned that a large number of educated youths are migrating from rural to the urban centers in search of jobs and livelihood. The younger generation with better education exposure has higher aspirations and expectations. There is an urgent need to plan for the future generation's long term urban needs focused on development of urban conglomerates. The State of Nagaland would like to develop urban centers along the foothills. This area also coincides with the mineral belt bearing oil and coal. This will help shift the population from the hills to the foothills for economic activities creating necessary atmosphere to attract private investments into the State. This being crucial aspect of the 12th Plan, it was requested that the four lane foothill highway and the rail line should be provided to the State of Nagaland during the 12th Plan.

2.11.21 It was mentioned that in the absence of large scale industries, tourism can play a pivotal role in socio-economic development of Nagaland. Nagaland with its rich historical, cultural and panoramic landscapes coupled with vibrant and colourful festivals, pristine valleys and exotic flora and fauna, offers the possibility of unique experiences for the tourists. However, the challenge is to make these splendid endowments accessible to the people of India and other countries. The State and the region in general face acute problems of connectivity. Hence, there is a need to develop a regional perspective in tourism development. The key drivers of a tourism circuit are accessibility, connectivity, infrastructure development and marketing. NEC was urged to take initiatives to promote private entrepreneurs in the field of hospitality and other tourism related activities. Considering the potential for development and scope for employability, the fund allocation in respect of tourism sector may also be suitably enhanced. It was further added that the required development for the identified inter-state circuits which include "Dimapur-Kohima-Wokha-Zunheboto-Mokokchung" circuit may be expedited.

2.11.22 In respect of rehabilitation/construction of State Guest Houses at Shillong with NEC funding, it was stated that the concept is innovative. Construction of new State Guest houses and upgradation of existing Guest Houses at Shillong will definitely solve the difficulties of accommodation being faced by the NE States while on official visits.

2.11.23 It was stated that Shillong is the educational hub of the NER and the preferred education center alongwith Darjeeling. It has been strengthened with the establishment of important educational institutes like the Indian Institute of Management, National Institute of Technology, University of Technology and Management, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Shillong, English and Foreign Languages University, Shillong Campus and several other college and engineering institutions. As such, Shillong continues to attract a high number of students from the NER as a destination for education. Hence, it was suggested that NEC may come up with a plan to construct hostels for the ever increasing aspiring students of NER in Shillong.

2.11.24 It was further mentioned that with medical specialization services offered both in Guwahati Neurological Research Centre (GNRC), Guwahati and North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), it would be a tremendous step towards facilitating the poor patients if NEC can also fund construction of State guest houses near these hospitals for the patients.

2.12 Written speech of Hon'ble Governor, Tripura, Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya

2.12.1 The declining budget allocation for NEC was flagged. The proposed outlay of the 12th Five Year Plan of the NEC was Rs. 13027.38 crore and the approved outlay was Rs. 6108.00 crore. But the budget allocation provided during first 4 years is Rs. 3083.00 crores which is only 46.20% of the approved outlay of 12th Five Year Plan. Therefore a judicious look in the matter should be given so that adequate fund is provided to NEC for the development of the region.

2.12.2 It was mentioned that the National Highway (NH-44), which is a lifeline for Tripura is in a very bad shape. Expeditious action is required by the concerned agency of Government of India. Recently, Government of India decided that initially 2-laning will be done and thereafter 4-laning will be taken up. However, there is not much progress so far. Adequate fund sanction for maintenance and up-gradation of National Highway (NH-44) was requested.

2.12.3 Regarding railways, it was mentioned that the network has been extended upto State capital, Agartala. The work of extension of railway line on Agartala-Udaipur and Udaipur-Sabroom sections is also in progress but the implementation is delayed for want of adequate funds allocation by Ministry of Railways for the project. This would require special attention from Ministry of Railways.

2.12.4 On Air Connectivity, upgradation of Agartala Airport as an International Airport with connectivity to Dhaka, Chittagong and other foreign locations was stressed. In addition, it was also felt necessary to operationalise Kailasahar and Kamalpur Airports to improve air connectivity to remote parts of the State.

2.12.5 It was revealed that there was a railway link from Agartala-Akhaura of Bangladesh prior to partition of the country. This link is extremely important not only for Tripura, but for the entire North Eastern Region. The project may be taken up by Ministry of Railways on priority basis.

2.12.6 On teleconnectivity it was mentioned that Tripura is currently connected with rest of the country through OFC link. During natural calamities, disruptions of telecom link between Agartala and Guwahati often happens due to OFC damage. In view of this, it was suggested that Indo-Bangla OFC link is required to be established to have redundancy.

2.12.7 Attention was drawn to NER Vision 2020, wherein it was mentioned that education is vital to growth across all sectors. It was lamented that the standard of education in NER is generally low, and the skills and knowledge base of school and college graduates with few exceptions has not equipped them to compete at the national level for further studies or employment. There is a need for vast improvement in the quality of education in the region.

2.12.8 Request was made to the NEC Secretariat to take immediate action for early sanction of 18 projects for Rs. 606.70 crores submitted by the State Government for the rapid development of the State. Some important projects were highlighted such as –

- i) Quality improvement of Rural Water Supply Schemes in Tripura by way of construction of 10000 GPH capacity modified type iron removal plants (IRP) attached to existing deep tube wells.
- ii) System improvement by renovation & re-strengthening of 66 KV S/C line from 132 KV Gamai Tilla to Gomati Hydel project via Amarapur.

- iii) Improvement of Udaipur-Jampuijala-Khumlung (TTAADC HQ)-Jirania Road.
- iv) Improvement of Bishalgarh(NH-44) - Taksapara Sonamura Road (32 KM).
- v) Improvement of Belonia-Hrishyamuk-Amlighat -Sabroom Road (83 KM).
- vi) Inter State Truck Terminus at Kameswar near Dharmanagar including Cold Storage & Warehouse.

2.13 Hon'ble Governor Manipur, Dr. Krishan Kant Paul

2.13.1 At the outset, appreciation was expressed to the Hon'ble Chairman, NEC for discussing Annual Plan 2015-16 of NEC as early as in the second week of April 2015. The Ministry of DoNER and NEC were lauded for inviting the Central Ministries to make presentations on their Action Plan for North Eastern Region.

2.13.2 It was mentioned that for prosperity of the North Eastern region, opening up of the borders for trade with the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar would be a must. In this regard, he cited the example of import of rice from Myanmar to Manipur and through Bangladesh into Tripura during the Mega Block period of NF Railway in the Lumding-Silchar segment.

2.13.3 Early completion of the Kaladan Multimodal Transport project was also emphasized. This project has envisaged railway, water and road connectivity in a synchronized manner. He cautioned that unless the Government of India takes proper initiative for completion of this project our neighbouring country China will dominate the Sittwe port in Myanmar.

2.13.4 Early construction of a critical bridge in the Moreh integrated check post was also emphasized and NEC was urged to take up this project.

2.13.5 Emphasis was also made on the provision of quality faculty in the Universities set up in the region. NEC should put emphasis on establishment of quality educational institutes in the region. The need for a cultural psychological and emotional integration of the north eastern youth with the rest of the country was emphasized. Unless these aspects are taken care of the true development in the north Eastern region would not take place.

2.13.6 It was mentioned that the State of Manipur needs lots of investment for skill development of the youth as the number of unemployed youth in the State is disproportionately high as compared to other states. He also lamented the two national highways connecting Manipur i.e. Kohima – Imphal Road and Silchar Jiribam Road have

been poorly maintained. In this respect the Government should think of a suitable mechanism for proper maintenance of these two lifelines of the State.

2.13.7 It was also mentioned that technology of construction of road is not upto the mark in the region. In this regard there is a need of proper research for evolving a suitable technology to suit the peculiar climatic conditions.

2.13.8 Emphasis was also made on proper disaster management and precautionary measures for the region as the region is seismically vulnerable. In this regard mention was made about the early warning system of earthquakes developed by IIT Roorkee which could be adapted by the North Eastern States.

2.13.9 In respect of NEC Annual Plan for 2015-16, the continuous thrust given by NEC to the Transport & Communication, Power, Agri & Allied Sectors, Human Resource and Health Sectors was supported. It was stated that the State Government of Manipur has already submitted priority list of projects for the Year 2015-16. NEC was requested to continue giving priority to complete ongoing projects and take up new projects in core thrust areas of NEC in consultation with the State Government.

2.13.10 The request for equitable distribution of NEC funds to member States was reiterated. Overall fund released to Manipur still continue to be around 4% of the total released made so far by NEC, which is the lowest after Sikkim. It was suggested that percentage allocation for Manipur could be enhanced to make it at par with Nagaland, Tripura, and Meghalaya.

2.13.11 On the issue of enhancement of allocation of NEC funds, it was mentioned that the amount budgeted for the NEC is too small to make any meaningful impact on the development of inter-state infrastructure, or human development. There is a large gap between the resources made available and the aspirations of the States. Without a quantum jump in the NEC allocation, it will be difficult for NEC to provide fund for core areas identified for regional planning. Considering the bona-fide requirements of the small States of the NE Region, the Chairman, NEC was urged to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance for enhancement of NEC and NLCPR budget.

2.13.12 Concern was expressed on the fall out of the restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and change in funding pattern for the NE States. The 14th Finance Commission has increased the devolution of central tax from 32% to 42%. However, this may not actually result in bringing down state financial deficit for special category states of NE region. The

State like Manipur hardly has any flexible outlays under the state plan to meet the state share of Flagship and other CSS programmes. With the removal of NCA, SCA, SPA and change in the funding pattern of CSS programmes and also delinking of some of the CSS programmes, it would be very difficult for the State to continue implementation of most of the CSS programmes, except on 100% funding or on 90:10 funding pattern. It was requested that the state financial gap and state matching share for CSS which were earlier being funded from flexible fund and NCA, SCA, SPA etc. could now be provided by the Finance Ministry or the NLCPR pool of GBS. It was further requested for retaining existing funding pattern of 90:10 or 100% for CSS programmes for all Special category states. The Chairman, NEC was appealed to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance on top priority and also urged for restoration of special category status to the NE States.

2.13.13 Appreciation was expressed to the NEC for detailing comprehensive Revised General Guidelines and Revised Sectoral scheme guidelines to the Plenary. Support of Government of Manipur was given for constitution of Executive Committee, Composition of Sectoral Empowered Committee and framing of procedure to be followed by the Standing Committee for retaining of projects in NEC and procedure for NEC- Project Appraisal Committee (NEC-PAC). Support was also expressed for projects designed under Agriculture & Allied Sectors to deal with deficiency in demands for eggs, fish and milk as envisaged in Vision-2020 Document. Proposal for increase in number of seats sponsored by NEC for students in economically poor and backward category for availing good education in the Assam Rifles Public School, Shillong was also endorsed. While endorsing the guidelines of NEC for Dr. T Ao Memorial Football Tournament, NEC was requested to support and frame guidelines for similar sports tournaments organized in the NE region for sports like Polo, which originated from the NE states. The guidelines for holding a North East Cultural Programme showcasing the varied forms of songs and dances of all the NE states in Delhi and other metro cities was also supported.

2.13.14 Support was also given for the NEC proposal for construction of State Guest House at Shillong. Shillong is the hub of tourists and a centre for higher education, regional meetings like NEC Plenary meetings. Regular NEC review meetings are also held at Shillong. There is a need for all the NE States to have a proper Guest House at Shillong to facilitate such meetings at Shillong and also to facilitate tourists and students coming to Shillong.

2.14 Hon'ble Governor, Sikkim, Shri Shriniwas Patil

2.14.1 It was depicted that the strength of the State of Sikkim lies in Buddhism, Tourism, Organic Products, Flowers, Orchids and Honey. If harnessed properly, the state will be full of prosperity.

2.14.2 Emphasis was also put on proper and positive reflection of the NE Region in the national media including All India Radio and Doordarshan. This was necessary to correct misconception about the NE Region in the other parts of the country.

2.14.3 It was stated that the State of Sikkim has great prospects in Tourism. Lots of people are getting employment by running taxi services, providing home stay etc. However, it was felt that the Tourism routes should be properly publicized.

2.14.4 It was hoped that the NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), created in place of the erstwhile Planning Commission would carry out the agenda of National development by incorporating new mechanism. It was commented that there is a need for an alternative approach to promote the Country in terms of targeting a positive growth and to attract global investments into the Country.

2.14.5 It was mentioned that the Government of India has committed to promote cooperative federalism in the Country. For this purpose, everybody was requested to endorse, support and transform the vision of the Prime Minister into a reality.

2.14.6 It was stated that NITI Aayog could play a greater role in ushering greater growth and development in the North Eastern Region with a more focused approach and strategy. There is a need for specific planning for the North Eastern States in view of the difficulties of topography, remoteness and resource crunch in the region. More liberal funding for infrastructure both social and economic is required for the NER. At the same time, the NE States should make judicious use of its abundant natural resources for generating hydro power, promote tourism, encouraging organic farming practices and production of local handloom and handicrafts etc. The region can become the gateway of the Indian Subcontinent to South East Asia.

2.14.7 The various announcements made for the North Eastern Region by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India in the recently concluded Budget Session were lauded. The fact that the DoNER Ministry would get 29.4% higher allocation for 2015-16 was specifically

pointed out. It was noted that over the years the allocation of the NEC has remained static at about Rs. 700.00 crores and the same got reduced drastically to Rs. 579.00 crores for the financial year 2014-15. Hence it was urged that NEC and NLCPR budget should be suitably enhanced.

2.14.8 Mention was made about a general feeling among the North Eastern States that the role of the DoNER Ministry and NEC has been diminishing. There has been a decline in the allocation in real terms to NEC over the years.

2.14.9 It was mentioned that one of the major strength of Sikkim is in Organic farming. This idea was conceptualized by the Government of Sikkim in the year 2003 and the process of becoming Organic was launched in the year 2010. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement to make Sikkim and the entire North East Region an Organic region was lauded. The aim of the Government of Sikkim is to convert the entire State into a totally Organic State by December, 2015. However, it was mentioned that main hurdle lies in proper marketing of the organic produce. The farmers need government support in harvesting, cold storage, packaging and transportation.

2.14.10 It was further added that with the launching of Sikkim Organic Mission, a target of converting 74,303.80 hectares of agricultural land to organic management was set and group certification system is being followed engaging 14 service providers and 6 certification bodies accredited with Agriculture and Procession Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Sikkim is taking initiative to take advantage of the Rs. 100 crore allocation for 2014-15 made in the Union Budget. Sikkim had prepared a project worth Rs. 69.21 crores which was subsequently reduced to Rs. 30.85 crores. However, no sanction was accorded. With the increase in allocation for 2015-16, it was hoped that Sikkim's Organic farming initiative would definitely receive adequate funding.

2.14.11 It was mentioned that the Sikkim Government is working on the Sikkim State Action Plan on Climate Change. This has been done in collaboration with German technical cooperation (GIZ). There is a threat of existence to the unique plants and animals of the State. Extreme fluctuation in temperature, abnormal behavior of plants and animals could be seen as effects of climate change.

2.14.12 It was revealed that the Government of Sikkim has undertaken a number of initiatives to address issues of climate change. They placed a ban on cattle grazing in forests, hunting, ban on use of plastics, ban on use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers etc. Reforestation programmes has also been encouraged. NEC was requested to support activities arising out of the State Action Plan on Climate Change for Sikkim.

2.14.13 Immediate intervention of the NEC was sought in the youth affairs and sports sector. It was stated that the boys and girls of the region are well educated, cultured and they can speak fluent English which is advantage in the global commercial world. The excellent performance of the sports persons of the NER in the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, ASIAN Games and other National and International Competitions was also highlighted. Talent in sports is a major strength of the region and hence the NEC was requested for continued support for sportspersons and sporting events.

2.14.14 In respect of connectivity issues, it was stated that Sikkim continues to suffer on account of lack of air and rail link. The National Highway 10 is the sole lifeline connecting the Himalayan State with the rest of the country. This National Highway is under the charge of the Border Roads Organization. It was further added that though the BRO has initiated the work for double laning this highway from Sevoke to Rangpo, the pace of work is very slow. In this regard, the Ministry of Defence, was urged to strengthen the BRO so that the work on National Highway 10 is expedited.

2.14.15 The historic decision of Government of India for opening the second route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Sikkim was hailed. This route through Nathu La Pass in Sikkim will facilitate comfortable travel by bus through Tibetan Autonomous Region. The pilgrimage tour is to begin in June, 2015. In view of the proposed Yatra, the Government of India was requested for a special package in order to meet the shortfalls in road connectivity. Further, other infrastructure such as dormitories, lodges, medical aid, etc. have to be provided to the pilgrims as the existing infrastructure is inadequate to facilitate the pilgrims.

2.14.16 In respect of air connectivity it was mentioned that once the Pakyong Greenfield Airport is complete, Sikkim would be in the air map of the country. With improved connectivity the tourism potential of Sikkim can be fully harnessed. Till the Greenfield Airport at Pakyong is ready, the Airport at Bagdogra in West Bengal would continue to be of

importance for the State of Sikkim. All works in respect of Pakyong Airport should be expedited.

2.14.17 Regarding rail connectivity, it was stated that the Broad Gauge rail link project connecting Sevoke in West Bengal and Rangpo in Sikkim is declared as a national project. This railway line passes through some important forest reserves such as Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary etc. The field survey through the wildlife sanctuary is completed and works in the remaining areas are held up due to non availability of land. On Sikkim side also there are issues on land acquisition. It was added that a resettlement and rehabilitation package plan is being prepared for the affected land owners by the State Government. Land for resettlement has been identified and assessment is being carried out. The railway authorities were urged for speedy implementation of this project in keeping with vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister to link all the State capitals of the NER by rail and air connectivity by 2020.

2.14.18 It was lamented that an accessible and reliable Telecom/IT infrastructure remains an aspiration and a dream for Sikkim. There is an urgent need for improvement in voice and internet connectivity. The need of the hour is the OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) on power lines, service ducts for utilities along the National Highways and State Highways and provision for solar/ renewable energy solution for all mobile towers. This would require more budgetary support to BSNL. It was also opined that the other crucial National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) is also required to be expedited for providing telecommunication and broad band internet connectivity to the Gram Panchayats in Sikkim.

2.14.19 It was reiterated that the 'Act East Policy' is important to the NER as it is the gateway to the success of this policy. However, a detailed road map would be required to achieve this goal. This policy would involve construction and improvement in connectivity by road, by air and rail as well as power and reliable telecom connectivity. Sikkim could play an active role in the region by strengthening Buddhist Circuit route for pilgrimage tourism, promotion of Organic farming and leveraging horticulture and floriculture.

2.14.20 In the conclusion, great hopes were put on the DoNER and NEC for the accelerated growth of the North Eastern Region with increased flow of funds. It was further added that the changing funding pattern of State Plans may hamper ongoing schemes and project. The DoNER and NEC would have to step in with more funds.

2.15 Written speech of Hon'ble Governor, Meghalaya, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi

2.15.1 It was mentioned that the NEC Plenary is a great opportunity for all the NE States to come together and to introspect on the development initiatives undertaken in each State and in the region. The deliberations in the Plenary will aid in formulating better strategies to address the socio-economic needs of the region.

2.15.2 It was stressed that NEC as a regional Planning Body needs to be backed by adequate resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate. It was noted that during the first three years of the 12th Plan (2012-17), the annual outlay of NEC has been in the range of Rs. 600-700 crores only. For 2015-16 also, a meagre outlay of Rs. 773 crores has been fixed. In this regard, one suggestion made earlier was reiterated regarding the placing of a portion of the Non Lapsable Pool of Central Resources (NLPCR) at the disposal of NEC in view of the substantial accumulation of funds in the NLPCR.

2.15.3 To fulfill the role of NEC as a Regional Planning Body, it was stressed that the NEC Secretariat should be suitably strengthened by equipping itself with experts to formulate a comprehensive regional plan addressing the needs of the region. Towards this end, it was mentioned that the NEC may support the setting up of more regional technical institutions like the Indian Institute of Public Health and Regional Institute for Environmental Studies.

2.15.4 It was further mentioned that the NEC Secretariat could play an active advocacy role with the concerned line Ministries of the Government of India for speedy sanction of inter-state and regional projects like roads, power etc. and to obtain environmental clearance from the MoEF.

2.15.5 Mention was made about the delays in the implementation of projects of the NEC as well as DoNER due to time consuming technical vetting of estimates and issue of sanctions. Hence suggestion was made that suitable technical personnel with adequate powers be placed in the NEC for technical approval of both the NEC as well as the DoNER schemes.

2.15.6 It was mentioned that infrastructure bottlenecks has plagued the North East especially in respect of power and connectivity. The vast potential for power generation remains untapped. Besides, small hydro and non-conventional energy projects could also meet the energy requirements, especially in the rural areas. NEC's continuing support was requested for feasibility studies for such proposals along with investments support in due

course. It was lamented that poor rail and air connectivity coupled with poor condition of roads has hampered commerce and movement of people in the NER. These should continue as a focus area of the NEC.

2.15.7 The relevance of the Act East Policy of the Government of India was stressed. While at the State level, the Government of Meghalaya continues to support cultural exchange, handloom products, handicrafts and trade, the support of the NEC could be helpful in bringing together opinion makers from the region and neighbouring countries. This ought to be done in active collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

2.15.8 It was mentioned that Meghalaya shares a long international border of 443 kms with Bangladesh. There is a need therefore to equip the integrated Check Posts at Dawki, Borsora, Gasuspara etc. in all respects. It was stressed that supplementary services like Banking (ATM facilities), Post Offices and mobile phone networks should be improved immediately. Strengthening of the Indo-Bangla Trade Relations would ultimately benefit the entire region. The NEC could take the initiatives in this regard.

2.15.9 It was observed that Meghalaya with its natural beauty and salubrious climate holds immense potential in the tourism sector. However, a focused attention on the border country of Bangladesh could yield rich dividends. Hence it was stressed on marketing of Tourism products to Bangladesh and target the tourists from the country. Operationalization of the Dhaka- Shillong bus link was also stressed. Shillong also has one of the oldest natural golf courses in the country. Since a lot of investment is required for attracting golfers from South East Asian Countries, the golfers from Bangladesh could be invited by offering better facilities and attractive packages. Tour operator meets and familiarization tours could promote tourism in both Meghalaya and Bangladesh. Packages could be worked for tourists. NEC could support such an initiative of the State.

2.15.10 In case of road connectivity, the importance of two long pending inter-state road projects was stressed. They are (1) Rongram Jangrapara via Damal Asim road to Tikrillilla Jaleswar (Assam) with a total length of 84.00 Kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 114.00 crores and (2) Improvement, widening into double lane including metalling and black topping of Pasyih – Garampani Road (0-48th km.) at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.00 crores. Both the roads are vital to regional connectivity. NEC was requested to expedite early approval for these projects to avoid time and cost overruns.

2.15.11 Reference was made about the current coal mining scenario of Meghalaya. Present unscientific mining of coal in the State has induced ecological imbalance and resulted in environmental hazards like water pollution, soil pollution, threat to natural caves etc. The National Green Tribunal has therefore imposed a ban on coal mining which has resulted in loss of the revenue to the State's exchequer besides reducing the purchasing power of the people. In this regard, it was mentioned that 2 (two) urgent requirements to overcome the problem. Firstly, the State Government is required to prepare a mining plan which addresses both environmental and safety concerns indicating the method of mining that should be adopted given the land holding pattern, the terrain and the geological conditions prevailing in the State. Secondly, it has to take remedial measures to restore the environmental degradation already caused. NEC can explore ways and means for seeking technical expertise from within the country and abroad in assisting the State to ease this problem.

2.15.12 NEC's support was also sought for anti erosion measure in the Umngot river. Part of its catchment area of the river lies in India and part in Bangladesh. The length of the river from its source to Indo-Bangladesh border is about 82 Kms and the total catchment area of the river in Meghalaya upto border near Dawki is 898 Sq. kms. During 2014, heavy soil erosion occurred in the sub-basin and its adopting tributaries resulting in the displacement of houses, livestock and other properties. To prevent further erosion, there is immediate need to take up anti erosion measures like bank protection works, land reclamation works etc.

2.15.13 Emphasis was also put on setting up of cold storage infrastructure in State. Meghalaya is famous for its oranges (khasi mandarin), pineapple, banana, jackfruit and temperate fruits like plums, peaches and pears. The potential for agro-based industries in Meghalaya is phenomenal. These include Agro & Horticulture Processing Unit and Processing of Plantation Crops. These products require proper and careful storage in appropriate godowns. Support from the NEC was requested for setting up of cold storage infrastructure and processing facilities for exporting the horticultural products such as pineapple and banana to Bangladesh and South East Asian Countries.

2.15.14 In respect of disaster management, mention was made about conducting an intensive survey of all Government buildings, in the first instance, to assess the requirement

of retrofitting, if any, in view of the entire State of Meghalaya being in the high seismic zone. The NEC may consider taking up such an exercise in all the North East States.

2.15.15 It was mentioned that the youth of North East including Meghalaya have aptitude and talent for sports and games which need to be nurtured in the interest of regional as well as national integration. Special attention needs to be given to create adequate sports infrastructure in all the districts of the States. Suggestion was made that NEC may consider preparing a master plan for sports infrastructure in the North East.

2.15.16 Mention was made about changing pattern of Plan assistance to the States by Government of India. The States of the North East have hitherto been Special Category States and have been eligible for Special Plan Assistance, Special Central Assistance and 90:10 sharing pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The changes made by the 14th Finance Commission in this dispensation have given greater flexibility to the States in drawing up their expenditure plans in line with their priorities & needs. However, some concerns have been expressed regarding the adverse implications of the change from 90:10 to 50:50 for certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Need was felt in this respect to have an informed discussion on the subject. It was suggested that NEC may take a lead in preparing a status paper on the subject covering all the North Eastern States.

2.16 Written speech of Hon'ble Governor, Mizoram, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi

2.16.1 It was mentioned that Mizoram has an impressive growth rate of 8.46% during 2014-15 with base year 2004-05, which is higher than projected national growth rate. About 60% of the population depends on agriculture and allied activities; hence faster growth in agriculture is necessity for sustainable and inclusive growth in the State. It was mentioned that there are 5 (five) ongoing NEC projects under Agriculture & Allied Sector with estimated cost of Rs. 1571.53 lakhs wherein NEC has released Rs. 1065.83 lakhs to date. However, there has been no release of fund under the sector during 2014-15. It was requested that a higher allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sector could be made in NEC budget.

2.16.2 As regards employment, it was mentioned that Government sector contributes majority of the share of income in the formal sector. There appears to be no future scope for creating more jobs in public sector. Hence creating an environment conducive for private sector investment in the State is one of the top priorities of the Government. It was

expected that more initiatives could be taken up by NEC to create employment opportunities.

2.16.3 It was stated that demographic dividend in Mizoram could be properly exploited through appropriate skill development mission and initiatives. The State doing reasonably well in literacy rate, but the State has to go far beyond in terms of quality and equity. The ratio of the number of Government employees to the total population is already very high in Mizoram. There is hardly any scope for absorbing additional manpower in the Government sector. With an increasing number of educated unemployed, the solution could be meaningful technical education and vocationalization. Hence NEC was requested to focus more on skill development of the NE Youth.

2.16.4 Mention was made about a plan to operate a dedicated Airline exclusively for the North East. It was urged that the proposal could be renewed for materialization in the interest of all the N.E. States. Further, Direct/ Hopping Flights between Aizawl and Delhi could be operated on priority. It was added that this issue was taken up several times without any avail. It was again requested to take up the issue of direct flights to Delhi from Aizawl.

2.16.5 It was further informed that Helicopter service from Aizawl to all the District headquarters has been operating on Wet Lease basis for the past two (2) years. The service has become a lifeline for the people of Mizoram in view of the existing unreliable surface communication system in the hilly State of Mizoram. The Ministry of Home Affairs has provided for 75% of the helicopter Wet Lease charge and the remaining 25% is borne by the State Government. However, even payment of 25% of the Wet Lease charge has become extremely difficult for the State Government since passengers are to be charged a reasonable fare within their reach. Hence it was proposed that the 75% borne by the Home Ministry could be increased to atleast 90%.

2.16.6 It was mentioned that for a land-locked State with little natural resources, the most valuable resource is the human resource. Mizoram has one of the highest literacy rate in the country But the State has to go the extra mile and create a pool of human resource which could provide the backbone of the industry and the economy. The IT Sector and the IT-enabled services offer tremendous potential in this respect. The NEC was requested to allocate more of its resources for furthering efforts on the IT sector.

2.16.7 It was mentioned that in the NE Region, private investors are not interested in infrastructure development initiatives. Investments in infrastructure have to come from the public sector/ government. Due to its strategic location & requirement of massive infrastructures of the NE Region, it was urged to increase the funds allocated to NEC and NLCPR.

2.16.8 Request was made for provision of funds from DONER for monitoring and evaluation of the projects at the State level and also to set up a dedicated Cell under the the Planning & Programme Implementation Department to ensure that project conceptualization and implementation are as per actual requirement for the State.

2.16.9 It was stated that as per the amendment of the NEC Act the NEC has become the Regional Planning Body. So it was opined that Regional Planning formulated by the NEC would have to be the norm for effective growth policy in the coming years for the region.

2.16.10 It was opined that since the NEC budget is divided into several sectors, priority of the State Government has to be adjusted within the system at the cost of some other urgent needs and priorities of the State. It was suggested that NEC should stick to the priorities fixed by the State Governments in sanctioning projects.

2.16.11 It was noted with concern that over the years, the percentage of funds allocated to NEC vis a vis the Gross Budgetary Support has gradually declined. With the restricted role of NEC and limited budgetary support around Rs. 700.00 crores for each year NEC may fail to play its mandatory role of Regional Planning Body. It was urged that the Vision 2020 projection of massive requirement for the NER to catch up with the rest of the country (Approximately Rs. 13,29,891 crores upto 2020) must be actively considered while making allocation for NEC.

2.16.12 In the Telecom Sector it was mentioned that the implementation of the Special North East Telecom plan in Mizoram has been very slow. As a result OFC Connectivity between District and Block Headquarters and from Block to Village level under NOFN scheme has been totally lacking. The concerned Central Agency was requested to take up and complete these projects quickly.

2.16.13 In the case of road construction, problems of maintenance of road in hill areas was highlighted. Due to unstable soil condition on hill State, landslides both major and minor

during rainy season are a regular phenomenon. Huge amount of expenditure has to be incurred for clearance of landslips during rainy season. Blockage of natural drains and side-drains resulting in storm water flowing along the roads also cause extensive damage to pavements and structures. Due to these reasons, allocation of fund for road maintenance for hill States is required to be enhanced many fold. NEC should take measures to address this issue of maintenance of roads in hill areas.

2.16.14 It was stated that the Vision NER 2020 document has recognized agricultural and allied Sector, connectivity and infrastructure development like power as priority areas. But it was lamented that the subsequent measures taken up for operationalising the vision into reality are not adequate. It was urged that NEC (as a regional Planning Body) and Ministry of DoNER should play pro active roles for realizing the goals of the vision document. This would require bridging of gaps particularly in infrastructure – rail, road, air, waterways, telecommunication network, availability of power and extensive irrigation development etc.

2.16.15 In the conclusion, the untiring efforts, concerns and initiatives taken by the DoNER Minister was appreciated. It was hoped that the North East would play the “Arrow Head Role” once again, ready to face the challenge of globalization process as envisaged in the Look East Policy.

2.17 Hon’ble Chief Minister, Tripura, Shri Manik Sarkar

2.17.1 It was stated that inspite of having all resources, the NE Region still remains most underdeveloped region of the country. The region has not been able to tap its resources due to lack of basic infrastructure like rail, road, water and telecom connectivity.

2.17.2 It was further mentioned that availability of power and development go hand in hand. NE region has the potential to become the power house of the country, if properly harnessed. The region would be able to meet $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the country’s demand.

2.17.3 For development of the region, it was emphasized that the agriculture and allied sector should be strengthened. Region is lacking in irrigation facilities, quality seeds and difficulty in accessing markets due to poor connectivity.

2.17.4 Concern was expressed over squeezing of budget of NEC over the years. If adequate fund is not provided to NEC, the relevance of NEC would be lost gradually. In this regard, a suggestion was made for a meeting of the Council with the Prime Minister or the Finance

Minister. Further a request was also made for a small cell in PMO for monitoring the major initiatives in the NE Region.

2.17.5 It was further opined that unless infrastructure position is improved, private capital would not come to the region. The PPP or BOT model operating in the developed States may not be applicable in the region.

2.17.6 It was mentioned that the North Eastern Region is unique in India with rich natural resources, bio diversity and varied cultural, ethnic and linguistic population. But the region is suffering due to its land locked character, closing of natural markets as well as trading routes, particularly with Bangladesh. This region has the maximum amount of international borders. The Region has enormous potential to develop and prosper as one of the developed regions in the Country. It was lamented that this has not happened yet.

2.17.7 It was also mentioned that the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) has not been able to fulfill the expectations of the North East during the decade after its creation.

2.17.8 Ministry of DoNER was called upon to play a larger role in the interest of the region. The Ministry of DoNER should also draw up an action plan on how the North East can position itself as the springboard for India's Act East Policy through engagement with South East Asia and China.

2.17.9 It was emphasized that developing trade, transport and economic links with Bangladesh is very important for most of the States of the Region. The Ministry of DoNER should fully reflect the aspirations of the Government and people of the region in all the forums where such bilateral and multilateral engagements are taking place.

2.17.10 Mention was made about the Chief Ministers Conference organized by Ministry of DoNER on 21-22 August, 2014 wherein 6 working groups were formed, namely (i) Connectivity issues addressing Roads/ Waterways/ Railways/ Aviation/ Telecom, (ii) HRD including education (Primary & Higher) and skill development, (iii) Trade, Commerce and Industrial Development, (iv) Water Supply, Health & sanitation, (v) Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Animal Husbandry/ Sericulture and Minor Irrigation (vi) Power & Tourism for the overall development of the NE Region. It was hoped that the Ministry of DoNER would take positive steps on the assessment made by these working groups.

2.17.11 Some areas for improving the effectiveness of the functioning of Ministry of DoNER were highlighted such as:-

(a) The Ministry of DoNER could develop internal technical capability for evaluation/ appraisal of the Projects for funding under NLCPR and also for coordinating with various Ministries. Effective coordination with various development ministries by DoNER is highly essential for fast tract execution of the projects.

(b) The Ministry of DoNER should set strict timelines for retention, sanction and actual disbursement of the projects within the same financial year. Further, if the projects get delayed due to the procedural formalities followed by DoNER and for other compelling reasons at the state levels, the Ministry of DoNER should fund the entire cost-overrun, without any ceiling. The Ministry should take more pragmatic and practical view in this regard and handle issues sensitively.

(c) The Ministry of DoNER should adopt cost norms consistent with the situation prevailing in the North- East as this will help in avoiding cost overruns. The cost of implementing any Project in the North-East is much higher than in rest of India. Most of the construction materials have to be brought from the mainland States. The working season in the North East is about 6 months, due to prolonged monsoons. However, such realities are often not taken into account while evaluating Project DPRs under NLCPR. The cost of land acquisition, which is quite substantial in infrastructure project, may also be allowed to be included in Project Cost, in view of resource constraints of the North-East States.

(d) The current mechanism for monitoring NLCPR Projects needs strengthening, so that the Projects are completed in time. For close monitoring, the Ministry of DoNER may set up an On-Line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) similar to MGNREGA and other Central Programmes/ Schemes. This will help in eliminating communication gaps between the Ministry and the States, resulting in delays. Further, the Ministry may put in place a robust mechanism of review and monitoring of Project through field visits by officers of the Ministry.

(e) There is a need to delineate roles of the two key organs that is NEC and Ministry of DoNER, in such a manner so that their roles supplement and complement each other and the objective of bridging infrastructural gap in North-East is seamlessly achieved.

2.17.12 Some steps were suggested for improving the effectiveness of the functioning of NEC to play its desired role for development of the Region. They are as follows:-

- (a) The NEC needs to move closer to the States. Instead of functioning in a centralized manner resulting in a lot of correspondence and delays, the NEC officials could consider coming to the States at least twice a year and hold the meetings of Project Approval Committee in the respective States. Then the decisions will be faster and of better quality, since the entire administrative machinery of the States will be available for deliberations on the projects, clarification of doubts, etc.
- (b) The allocation of funds to various States in the North Eastern Region by the NEC has not been equitable. Tripura is the second largest State in the Region in terms of population and is in most disadvantageous position as far as the geographical location and infrastructure development is concerned. Despite these factors, the share of Tripura in the funds allocated by NEC has been very low and declining over the years. The North Eastern Council should work out a mechanism for equitable distribution of resources among the States in the Region.
- (c) The budget allocations for NEC need to be enhanced and organizationally the NEC Secretariat should be strengthened.

2.17.13 Regarding NLCPR projects, it was mentioned that 12 retained projects of Tripura (from 2009-10 to 2013-14) are yet to be sanctioned by the Ministry though it is cleared from the State Government's side. Ministry of DoNER has cleared 8 priority projects (out of 21 projects sent) during 2014-15 for retention and sanction. Early sanction of these projects was urged.

2.17.14 Under NEC, it was mentioned that 2 retained projects of the State (from 2012-13 to 2013-14) are yet to be sanctioned by the NEC though it is cleared from the State Government's side in all respects. Further, subsequent installments are awaited from the NEC against 27 on-going projects. Government of Tripura had sent 18 priority projects during 2014-15 for retention and sanction. The process of sanction is required to be expedited.

2.17.15 Some recent developments having adverse impact on the overall development of the North Eastern Region were highlighted such as:-

- (a) After the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations and the Union Budget for 2015-16, it is appeared that virtually the Special Category status of the North Eastern States is

going to be discontinued. This would be a big blow to the interest of the NE States suffering from the backwardness and utter under-development due to apathetic and neglecting attitude of the earlier Union Governments. This disastrous move could not be accepted. It was urged that the financial facilities used to be availed by the NER states as special category states should be allowed to continue.

(b) The decision taken in the Union Budget 2015-16 for not keeping any provision under Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Plan Assistance (SPA) and Special Central Assistance (SCA) would drastically affect the position of finance of the NE States. This provision should be continued for all the special category states under NER.

(c) So far, the sharing pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) was 90:10 for special category states. However, from the Union Budget 2015-16, the sharing pattern will undergo a change for a number of CSS with states to contribute higher share. Any change in the sharing pattern will add to state's liability which state may not be able to meet. Sharing pattern for CSS for the North-Eastern States should remain, as followed earlier.

2.17.16 It was suggested that all the Chief Ministers of the North Eastern Region should pass a resolution on the issues which might affect Governance and Development of the region, so that NITI Aayog and the Honorable Prime Minister, may intervene suitably. The special privileges of the North Eastern States would have to continue further in the interest of the region. Alternately it was suggested that Chairman, NEC on behalf of all the States of the region should pass on this resolution of the States to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

2.17.17 Attention was drawn to some of the state specific issues pertaining to Tripura requiring intervention of Ministry of DoNER such as:-

(a) **Development of the National Highway No. 44:** The NH-44 (332 kms in Tripura) is the main artery of the State to connect with mainland States. This Highway is of intermediate specification and gets damaged frequently due to landslide, etc. Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Tripura on the 29th October, 2005, realizing its essentiality, announced Four Lane Development of the NH-44 upto Sabroom. However, the physical progress of even 2 Lane is far from satisfactory. Development of 4 lane of this Highway has paramount importance and needs to be done as early as possible.

(b) **Development of Alternate National Highway:** Since there is only one connecting road to the rest of India keeping strategic interests in view, Teliamura- Amarpur – Jatanbari- Silacharri- Gorakappa- Sabroom road (177 Km) may be sanctioned, on top priority, as it will provide an alternate in the event of any damage to the NH-44. This will also connect the tribal dominated areas of the state.

(c) **Development of Railways:** Tripura got a sanction of 110 km meter gauge railway line connecting Agartala, and was operational only in 2008. The present quality of services is extremely poor. There is an urgent need for expeditious completion of the recently started work of broad-gauging of the railway line connecting Agartala (State Capital) and further extension of railway line upto Sabroom, South Tripura District adjacent to Chittagong port (72 km). Adequate resources need to be provided and implementation should be closely monitored for timely completion.

(d) **Rail link between Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh):** Prior to Independence, towns in Tripura were connected by Railway network with erstwhile East Pakistan, present Bangladesh and Agartala itself was serviced by Akhaura Railway Station. Government of Bangladesh may be pursued to take all necessary actions and Railway Ministry may take up this construction work with priority without further delay.

(e) **Indo-Bangladesh connectivity:** For achieving rapid economic development in Tripura and states of North East Region, facility of movement of people and goods through Bangladesh to North-East and Eastern India is a necessity. Prior to partition, Tripura was seamlessly connected to India through Bangladesh, by Road, Rail and Waterways, which needs to be restored and made operationalised. There is an urgent need for Transit/Trans-shipment facility including road, rail and waterways connection through Bangladesh to North-East and Eastern India as well as access to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh. Govt. of India may persuade Bangladesh Government for allowing Multi Modal Transportation of Goods through Bangladesh with Ashuganj as the Port of Call including related Infrastructure Development.

(f) **Development of Power:** The surplus power of Tripura from Palatana and Monarchak plants is required to be evacuated and sold in the mainland. Ministry of Power and Power Grid Corporation may extend necessary assistance for evacuation and sale of this surplus power in the mainland states on priority.

(g) **Development of Agartala Airport:** Airports Authority of India (AAI) may take up development of the Agartala Airport on priority, as per details finalized in consultation with the State Government. Necessary environmental clearance for this project may be accorded expeditiously. Agartala Airport, having the second largest air traffic in the region after Guwahati, may be made an international airport along with required facilities on priority for convenience of passengers travelling between Agartala and Dhaka and Chittagong in Bangladesh and other parts of the South-East Asia.

(h) **Development of other airports:** AAI may start the work for operational of Kailasahar Airport in Unakoti District and Kamalpur (Manikbhandar) Airport, Dhalai District on priority

(i) **Development of Telecommunications:** Telecom connectivity needs improvement with latest equipment and technology and coverage of entire state. The present level and quality of Telecom services is very poor and unsatisfactory.

(j) **Alternate telecom routing:** Alternate telecom routing through Akhuara (in Bangladesh) to Agartala as well as internet connectivity through Cox's Bazar (In Bangladesh) may be pursued with Bangladesh authorities vigorously for improving telecommunication facilities in the North eastern region, including Tripura.

(k) **Banking:** Inadequate banking infrastructure and low Credit Deposit (CD) ratio has been another major obstacle in the economic development of the region. The all India CD Ratio is 77% whereas it is only 39% in Tripura. It is even less in other States of NE Region. This may need to be enhanced at least 50%.

2.17.18 In the conclusion, it was mentioned that the North Eastern Region states are trying their best to make progress. There is however ample scope for a larger investment in creation of infrastructure and sustainable development programme.

2.18 Hon'ble Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh

After listening to the comments of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura, Hon'ble Chairman, NEC made certain observations. They are summarized as follows:-

- (a) North Eastern Region could be developed as power house for the country.
- (b) Private investment to the North Eastern Region is not coming up.

- (c) The allocation to the North Eastern Council is much lower than expected. In this respect the Ministry of DoNER will do the necessary follow up.
- (d) DoNER Ministry will strive for early clearance of vetting of project by all the line Ministries for speedy implementation.
- (e) Cooperation was sought from the State Government for the initiative taken for having camp Secretariat of DoNER in the States.
- (f) Assurance was given to the State of Tripura for speedy development process under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- (g) On the issue of doing away with the Special Category status of the NE Region and other fallouts of the 14th Finance Commission, it was mentioned that NEC Plenary may not be an appropriate forum for passing a formal resolution, however Ministry of DoNER would do the necessary follow up in the matter.

2.19 Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma

2.19.1 Concern was expressed about the gradual decline of allocations to NEC. It was demanded that sufficient funds should be provided to NEC to commensurate with its mandate.

2.19.2 It was mentioned that North Eastern Region still remains underdeveloped and it is also a conflict zone. For development of the region the priority should be on improvement of road and rail connectivity. In this regard, it was urged that NEC should be properly strengthened to enable it to intervene meaningfully in implementation of major infrastructure projects in the region.

2.19.3 It was mentioned that any major investment to the NE Region should take into account the markets of neighbouring countries beyond the landlocked area of the Region.

2.19.4 In respect of infrastructure development of the region, it was demanded that the Ministry of Railways should revive the Jogighopa-Badarpur railway line proposal. Demand was also made for declaration of road 127-B as national highway which connect North Bengal with Meghalaya via Dhubri in Assam. Besides, it was urged for construction of bridge over Brahmaputra near Dhubri.

2.19.5 The initiatives taken by the NEC to review & consolidate its policy guidelines were welcomed. Endorsement were given for constitution of the NEC's Executive Committee,

allowing of overhead costs, provision of VGF/subsidy to air operators, assistance for implementation of Solar/Wind Energy Systems, creation of 'special development zones' in Agriculture Sector, model elite plant multiplication nurseries, establishment of coaching institutes in PPP mode amongst others. It was mentioned that the relaxation in respect of requirements of Audit Certificates before the release of the final instalments and of the Tripartite Agreement between the State Government, the Development Department and the concerned NGOs which would pave the way for faster releases and timely implementation of sanctioned schemes/ projects.

2.19.6 Regarding Annual Plan 2015-16 of NEC, it was mentioned that the revised guidelines of NEC will be meaningless if the resources of NEC are not increased. It was noted that the projected outlay of the North Eastern Council for the twelfth Five Year (2012-17) was Rs. 13027.38 crores and against that the approved outlay was Rs. 6108.00 crores only. But the actual budgeted amount given to NEC in the first 4 years of 12th Plan is far less than the approved outlay. The unilateral budget cut of Rs. 191.00 crores in 2014-15 had made the matter worse for implementation of important projects prioritized.

2.19.7 It was mentioned that the change of funding pattern in respect of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes made by Government of India from 2015-16 has imposed an additional burden on the State with limited resources. Therefore, it was suggested that the NEC as a regional planning body should be backed by adequate resources so that issues having inter-State/regional ramifications could be addressed adequately. It was proposed that the NEC's annual plan (2015-16) should be increased at least to the tune of around Rs. 1500.00 crores as a bare minimum requirement. For this, it was mooted, that a joint request could be made from all the members of NEC to the Ministry of Finance for increasing NEC's budget to Rs. 1500.00 crores for the year 2015-16. NEC could come up with a supplementary budget, once a decision in this regard is made by the Ministry of Finance.

2.19.8 In respect of NEC revised guidelines, it was felt that there might be scope for further improvement. Some points were flagged in this respect:-

- a) Lease of land to the State Government for a minimum period of 50 years** – This provision might not be feasible in Meghalaya. It was felt that many deserving non-

government institutes/ organizations could be deprived of NEC's funding because of this provision. NEC was requested to drop this clause.

b) Submission of DPR within two (2) months of retention – In this regard, it was stated that the selection of consultants, soil testing, surveying etc could not be done within 2 months time. Hence sufficient time (6 months) should be allowed for this purpose.

c) Schemes and projects under MH-2552 – It was felt that the phrase which says that schemes and projects funded under this head will be in “**varying ratios** up to 100% by NEC” is vague and hence required to be reformulated suitably. The corresponding beneficiary institution should bring in requisite counterpart funding on its own.

d) Maintenance of assets built through NEC funds – It was stated that NEC has played a crucial role in building up infrastructure in the North East right from its inception but maintenance of assets is an issue. It was opined that NEC should not only support for rehabilitation of previously funded roads, but also should extend its support to cover buildings and life saving medical equipments funded by NEC in the past.

e) NEC funds will not be used to fund land acquisition costs – It was mentioned that creation of infrastructure predominantly involves land acquisition. In most States of the North East, land is mostly not owned by the State and needs to be acquired. These costs are not covered by NEC/DoNER funding and the States are facing difficulties to meet these costs from their own resources. Hence the NEC was requested to include the cost of land as one of the project components in the DPR funded by the Ministry of DoNER and NEC.

2.19.9 On the issue of financial inclusion, it was mentioned that the Credit Deposit ratio in Meghalaya as well as in NER continues to be much below the National level. In respect of credit especially agricultural credit, the outreach of formal banking has not been encouraging. Expansion of agricultural credit will have a wider effect on the over-all economic growth and income opportunities. It was opined that NEC as a regional planner could play a more proactive role in facilitating a more sensitive approach of formal banking towards the North East Region.

2.19.10 It was also suggested that NEC as a funding agency could play a catalytic role in sending the unemployed educated youths for short-term trainings to the national

agricultural institutes such as the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad and others to sensitize them about the need of bankable projects and their expected returns. This will help in improving CD ratio of the region.

2.19.11 Case was made out for development of new townships in the region. Towns are magnets for population growth as they create jobs, provide opportunities and if planned in a scientific manner, deliver a better quality of life. It was opined that the capital towns of the North East need to grow. Since the region is in seismic zone V and most of the capitals are located in the hills, there are limits to vertical growth. New well planned townships as twins to existing capitals are needed. The New Shillong Township is an example of this. New Urban Townships are crucial but the same involve start up costs and long gestation period. NEC's support was requested for the initiatives of new planned townships.

2.19.12 It was stated that the States of the North East share long borders with each other. There are a large number of roads which originate in one State and connect to villages in the other. Most of these roads are not National Highways and unfortunately, little or no funding support is available from the Government of India for such roads. Upgradation of such roads by the States themselves is not adequate. Therefore, NEC was strongly urged to take up such interstate roads as regional roads and a distinct exclusive and dedicated fund for the purpose must be provided by Government of India.

2.19.13 On the issue of setting up of a Regional Technology Park, it was mentioned that a large number of young boys and girls move out from the North East for jobs in call centres and BPOs in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Gurgaon etc. They lead tough lives and look forward to coming back home. In this regard the NE States should take steps to create suitable infrastructure at least in the IT sector within the region. It was further added that Meghalaya would like to take the lead in this. Land measuring 80 acres have been set aside to create an IT Park as a technology hub for the region. The park would take advantage of the expected improvements in broadband connectivity through Bangladesh and would develop centres all over the North East in a hub and spoke model. The NEC was urged to support this regional endeavour.

2.19.14 The importance of provision of Telephone Connectivity in Rural Areas was highlighted. It was stated that for setting up of Multi-Facility Centres (MFCs), Market Centres, Growth Centres/ Rural Service Centres and other centres require good roads,

telephone connectivity, power connectivity and other forms of linkages. This would ensure regular flow of goods and services in the NER thereby improving the economic condition and purchasing power of the people belonging to the Economically Weaker Section of the society. To actualize this objective, the NEC was requested to prepare an Integrated Action Plan embracing specifically the three Sectors viz., Telecommunication, Power and Roads. Once this exercise is done with, the NEC could take up the matter with the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Roads, Transport & Highways, Government of India for support and implementation in a phased manner by involving all the Member States.

2.19.15 Regarding development of education sector, it was mentioned that cities and towns of the NER function as centres of education. The region still needs more institutes of higher learning especially in technical and professional education to prevent large scale migration of students. In case of Meghalaya it was stated that institutes like NIT and College of Home Sciences have been set up in Sohra and Tura respectively. The NEC was urged to continue support for the setting up of institutes of higher education and professional institutes. This would require predictable and committed multiyear support. NEC had done so in the past e.g. in the setting up of RIMS at Imphal. It was urged to NEC for recreating such a funding mechanism like RIMS for new Regional institutions to be set up in the region. The region needs institutes in the Agriculture, Health and Technical Sector. Meghalaya Government would be happy to provide land for establishment of such institutes.

2.19.16 In respect of Tourism Infrastructure, it was mentioned that the discontinuation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes by the Government of India on Tourism infrastructure from 2015-16 would adversely affect the States of the NER. In this context, the NEC was requested to provide focused assistance for infrastructure, capacity building and publicity for development of tourism.

2.19.17 In the matter of importance of preservation of biodiversity it was stated that the North East is one of the 'Biodiversity Hotspots' of India. For example, Meghalaya is home to many endemic and threatened flora and fauna. Various measures have been initiated in the recent years for protecting and scientifically managing a major part of biodiversity contained in the reserved forests, protected forests, sanctuaries, national parks and biosphere reserves. In Meghalaya, community Reserves have been constituted under the wildlife wing

with the support & involvement of local people. Creating awareness about biodiversity conservation has been given top priority. The NEC was requested to consider funding for biodiversity conservation and research in a focused manner.

2.19. 18 In conclusion, it was suggested that the Ministry of DoNER could take the lead in advocating for a special corpus fund for NEC for taking up interventions suggested in the speech. This corpus would have to be distinct from the amounts kept for State specific projects. Regional projects require a larger kitty and this amount would be spread over a number of years. It was opined that NEC is best placed to take up implementation of regional projects in partnership with the concerned States.

2.20 Hon'ble Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh

After listening to the comments of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya, the Hon'ble Chairman, NEC made certain observations. The same is summarized as follows:-

- (a) Low budgetary allocation to NEC is a common concern of all the Chief Ministers and the same will be pursued at the appropriate level.
- (b) Development is a challenge in a conflict zone like NE Region. However, one cannot wait till the last gun to fall silent. Development and peace process should go hand in hand.
- (c) Inter Ministerial Committee formed by the Ministry of DoNER will help in quick resolution of pending issues with the line Ministries of Government of India. Resident Commissioners of the State Governments in Delhi would also be required to be proactive in this matter.
- (d) Migration of youth from the NE Region is a major issue. The region needs institutions of higher learning particularly in medical education. In this regard, possibility of establishment of private medical colleges could also be pursued.
- (e) For implementation of 'Act East Policy' Ministry of DoNER has already started collaboration with the different chambers of commerce. Association of chambers would also have NE desk in Delhi.

2.21 Hon'ble Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Nabam Tuki

2.21.1 At the outset, the initiative taken by NEC for inviting Central Ministries for power point presentations were appreciated. However it was opined that in the NEC meetings the

senior most officers of the Central Government should be invited so that solutions to various issues could be arrived during the discussion.

2.21.2 It was also suggested that in case of guidelines for implementations of the projects for the NE Region the geographical disadvantage of the region, short working season etc should be taken into account. Delays in technical sanction from the line Ministries should be avoided to prevent cost escalation.

2.21.3 It was stated that in the changed scenario in the country, the North East Council must reinvent to task itself with the challenges of the region and have to chart a workable road map to overcome these challenges. Mention was made about a prevailing perception that the issues of North East Hill States are not taken seriously by the Govt. of India. This may be due to geographical bottlenecks, or less representation from the region. NEC could play a pivotal role for highlighting the issues of the Special Category States of the NER.

2.21.4 Some common issues faced by the NE States were reiterated. They are resource deficit, external funding issues, under development of industries, lack of infrastructure, security aspects, etc. NEC platform should be used for rigorous discussions and possible solutions on these issues.

2.21.5 It was mentioned that after formation of NITI Aayog in place of the Planning Commission, there has been a fundamental shift in the way plan resources are allocated to the States. The most affected States would be the Special Category States (SCS) with their limited scope for resource generation.

2.21.6 In respect of 14th Finance Commission award, the increase in the vertical share of the states from 32% to 42% was lauded. As these funds are untied, the States would be at liberty to frame guidelines for sectoral programs as per requirement of the State.

2.21.7 However, in case of revamping of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, it was mentioned that the NE States would have an adverse impact due to uncertainty about NCA, SCA, ACA and SPA. Further it was mentioned that in many CSSs, the Special Category States would not be able to avail the current 90:10 pattern of funding.

2.21.8 It was stated that after the implementation of 14th Finance Commission recommendations, the member states of the NEC could be adversely affected due to losing

of Special Category status. Due to precarious State finance conditions of the NE States a few suggestions were made for consideration of Government of India such as:-

- (a) Continuation of Special Category Status accorded to NE States
- (b) Restoration of the funding pattern of 90:10 for all CSS in case of the NE States.
- (c) The Critical window of Plan fund (NCA, SCA, SPA and ACA) could be continued in some form or other for some more time for the Special Category States till the States are able to reach a critical threshold of development.
- (d) The NITI Aayog should continue to handhold the Special Category States in their developmental endeavour.
- (e) Since NITI Aayog has provision for Regional Councils, the role of the NEC could be reviewed vis-a-vis the proposed regional councils.

2.21.9 It was further opined that since the NEC has a statutory mandate to function as the Regional Planning Body, this role of the NEC would have to get primacy than anything else.

2.21.10 It was noted that in the NEC, majority of its efforts and time are consumed in the project related issues such as project selection, evaluation, sanction, monitoring etc. The reduced funding to NEC over the years has complicated the matter further.

2.21.11 It was stated that with 8 states to cater to, the funds allocated to NEC are too meagre. Spreading too thin, this limited resource would not result any tangible benefits on the ground. Hence it was suggested that the North Eastern Council must focus on its prime role as the Regional Planning Body, a repository of knowledge for the region and a centre of excellence for research. NEC could give policy recommendations to the Union Govt as well as the member states, engage in periodic analysis of development of each state and have state specific advisor and cell attached to it. The plan fund allocated to the Council could be suitably utilized for capacity building-both Govt officials and private entrepreneurs in the respective sectors and Monitoring.

2.21.12 In respect of development of rail connectivity, gratitude was expressed to the Ministry of Railways for completing the Harmuti-Naharlagun Railway Line and to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for flagging off the 1st train to Delhi on 20th February, 2015. However, it was reiterated that many more rail links are to be made operational in the State

such as the Rangiya-Murkongselek (to be extended to Pasighat), Rupai-Parasharam Kund, Balipara-Bhalukpong etc. Ministry of Railways was assured of proactive assistance from the State Government.

2.21.13 In respect of roads, it was stated that as part of the Prime Minister's Package announced in 2008, a 1600 KM Trans Arunachal Highway and 844 KM District Connectivity is under construction in the State. However, there is a need to put in place a mechanism to fast track these projects with a target to complete by 2016. Further, it was stated that the Inter-State roads (in the case of Arunachal Pradesh-AP-Nagaland ISR, AP-Assam ISR) within the region are a neglected area. The NEC was urged to develop a blueprint and identify a source of fund for development of interstate roads. Besides, the Foothill Road and The East West Frontier Highway were also mentioned as important projects requiring attention of the Union Govt. In this regard a list of roads, referred to as the orphan roads, needing urgent attention of the Govt of India was also submitted. The list is at **Annexure – IV**. It was further mentioned that the Inter-State Roads built by the NEC earlier are in dire need of maintenance. Adequate fund must be earmarked by the Central Government for restoration and maintenance of these vital roads.

2.21.14 In respect of civil aviation sector, it was mentioned that one important project of the Prime Minister's Package announced in 2008, is the Greenfield airport in the state Capital. This project has not made much progress. The Ministry of Civil Aviation was earnestly requested to expedite implementation of this project.

2.21.15 It was further mentioned that many subsidiary Airports are under construction in the State and would be operational soon. The Tezu Airport will be complete by the end of 2015. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Tourism could work out a mechanism for operating ATR fixed wing aircrafts to these airfields. The demand was also made for providing Instrument Landing System (ILS) for all the ALGs to enable civilian operation. The NEC could take up the matter on priority. Regarding resumption of Air Service to Lilabari it was mentioned that since the service is part of a circuit, the people of Arunachal Pradesh are not getting the due benefit. For Arunachal Pradesh, this is the sole mode of air transport. Therefore, it was urged that a dedicated flight for the state must be planned to Lilabari till the Greenfield airport becomes operational. Conversely a regional airline for NER could be made operational.

2.21.16 In respect of power sector, it was stated that the Hydropower potential of the State could cater to 40% of the energy demand of the Nation, if harnessed properly. Most of the Hydro Projects in the State are in advanced stage, but they are stuck with bottlenecks due to the delay in according clearances by the Central Ministries. The work in the Lower Subansiri HEP has been stalled for the last four years because of concerns raised from certain quarters. The Central Govt. was urged to resolve the concerns in the interest of the nation. The State further has reserves of quality coal. In this regard, the Coal Ministry was requested to allow harnessing this resource at the earliest.

2.21.17 It was mentioned that by the decade 2020-2030, Arunachal Pradesh would generate almost 20-25 thousand MW of hydro power. In 2016 the State would have 650 MW installed power generation. The excess power would have to be evacuated to the power deficit states. A Power Transmission Highway could therefore be planned at the earliest.

2.21.18 As regards 'Act East Policy' the transformation in policy from Look East to Act East Policy was lauded. It was opined that there is an urgent need to embark on economic and people to people diplomacy. It was reiterated that Gauhati and Imphal Airports must be designated as Visa Centres for Myanmar and South East Asian Nations for Education and Health. The Indo Bhutan and Indo Myanmar roads could also be opened for Civilian and Tourism purposes. The Indo-Bhutan road has just 12 KM to be connected and therefore it is doable one. It was further suggested that border trade through Pangsau pass, Bleting and through Bumla could be explored.

2.21.19 In respect of Human Resource, it was stated that the Northeast India has talented pool human resource. Lack of facilities and guidance has deprived the youths. It was suggested that a special program could be tailor-made for the youth of North East India for vocational development. NEC should take up skill development programme in a large way.

2.21.20 Mention was made about the Universal Health Insurance Programme taken up by the State of Arunachal Pradesh. In this regard, financial help from NEC was sought.

2.21.21 It was lamented that Arunachal Pradesh is the only State with no access to foreign/ Multilateral Agencies funding for crucial development projects. This aspect has been raised by the State in every possible forum without any avail. NEC was urged to address this issue suitably.

2.21.22 It was mentioned that the state cabinet has declared Arunachal Pradesh as an Organic State. About 85% of the State's production is organic and the effort is on to make it 100%. The State has high potential in Fruits (temperate and tropical), Spices (Large cardamom, Ginger), Tea and Rubber. The NEC was requested to provide financial and technical support for organic farming and its certification.

2.21.23 On the matter of financial inclusion it was stated that the CD ratio of the region is very low and that of the Arunachal Pradesh is one of the lowest in the country. The flight of the capital for the region as investments in other states should be discouraged. It was pointed out that one of the prime reasons for such low CD ratio is the stringent rules for availing credit which the locals find it difficult to comply with. The Land tenure of tribal states, especially Arunachal Pradesh, is very different which makes land documents not acceptable for mortgage. This issue is required to be addressed at the earliest to encourage entrepreneurship in the region.

2.21.24 The issue of suspension of the Northeast Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) was flagged and request was made for revoking the suspension. However, it was felt that a detailed analysis could be done as to why the policy benefited only certain sectors of the economy and only few states. Mechanism must be devised to make the policy more broad based in terms of regional spread.

2.21.25 On the issue of 'Make in North East' NEC was urged to prepare a comprehensive plan to attract investment in the region. The core competence of the region like its unique geography and its people must be adequately projected to bring in private capital into the region – in the area of tourism, pharma, industries, alternate medicine, power intensive industry, food processing, cold storage etc.

2.21.26 It was hoped that with cheap power, raw material availability (food/fruit/spice), abundant water supply, cheap labour, the foothills of the State of Arunachal Pradesh could become an Industrial corridor. Special Economic Zone (SEZ) could be declared in these areas to attract industries from all over the world. This aspect could be suitably aligned with the Act East policy.

2.21.27 On the tourism potential, it was mentioned that the region has been blessed with the best climate and natural beauty. It was opined that North East Council could play a

pivotal role in devising a road map for harnessing this unique product to generate sustained source of income and employment for the locals. Seamless movement of tourists within the region on lines of the schengen visa could be thought out in this regard.

2.21.28 It was stated that the NER has rich potential in mines/minerals/petroleum/gas/wind energy/tourism but unfortunately the same is not properly explored due to lack of research and survey. It was opined that the support of NEC in exploring the resources through research and surveys by engaging world class experts would go a long way in the development of the region.

2.21.29 It was mentioned that the North East Region in general bears the brunt of the protracted monsoon and the associated floods and large scale erosion of quality farmlands each year. The floods also damage vital infrastructure, some beyond repair. It was urged for a separate window of funding with a comprehensive plan to tackle this annual phenomena of floods and erosion.

2.21.30 On the issue of law and order, it was stated that insurgency is affecting the developmental process in the region. Govt of India was urged to take a positive decision in consultation with various stakeholders to resolve this decades old issue once and for all to ensure peace to prevail and developmental activities to take place.

2.21.31 In the end, while supporting the NEC's annual plan 2015-16 proposals, it was reiterated that the Regional Planning is the core role of NEC and it must focus all energy on championing this role. NEC could slowly withdraw from project sanction and utilize the funds on capacity building, policy research, entrepreneurship etc.

2.22 Hon'ble Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh

After listening to the comments of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh, Hon'ble Chairman, NEC made a few observations. The summary is as follows:-

- (a) Each State of the NE Region should develop a success story so that media focus could be brought in for the State. This will help in attracting investment to the State.
- (b) The matter of providing direct flight from Delhi to Lilabari and the issue of neglect of interstate border roads (orphan roads) would be looked into by the Ministry.
- (c) The importance of skill development for the region was emphasized. However it was opined that NEC/DoNER would not have funds to do such programmes in large scale.

The States should take the advantage of the newly created Skill Development Ministry of Government of India.

2.23 Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nagaland, Shri T.R. Zeliang

2.23.1 At the outset, the initiative taken by the Hon'ble Minister for DoNER for holding camp Secretariat of the Ministry in States was lauded.

2.23.2 It was stated that in respect of the promptness in sanctioning the projects for the States, NEC Secretariat is doing slightly better than the Ministry of DoNER. It was opined that the Ministry should be receptive to the problems faced by the States.

2.23.3 It was suggested that the NEC and NLCPR funds given to the States should be considered as special grant and the 10% requirement of the State share should be removed for the benefit of the revenue deficit NE States.

2.23.4 Some issues relating to 14th FC Award and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) pertaining to the State of Nagaland were placed before the Council. They are as follows:-

- a) The recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission were generally welcomed and particularly the increase in devolution of Central Taxes to the State from the existing 32% to 42% was welcomed.
- b) However, it was apprehended that the Govt. of India have not proposed any provision for Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Special Plan Assistance (SPA) which are the main sources of plan financing for the Special Category States. No provision has been made in the Union Budget for 2015-16 for NCA, SCA & SPA. This would drastically affect the pace of development and the finances of the Special Category States in NE region.
- c) It was opined that changing the pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes will enhance the state's share burden. This would be disastrous for Special Category States of the NE Region, particularly Nagaland. Currently, Nagaland is finding it difficult to meet the 10% State's share. So it was urged that in respect of Special Category N.E. States, all CSS may be made 100% central funding. Similarly, the requirement of State share could also be waived for N.E. States in respect of NLCPR, NEC, SPA & ACA funded projects.

- d) It was also apprehended that the status of Special Category States of NE Region would virtually be discontinued and the same would be a big blow to the development of the N. E. Region. It was felt that the Government of India should not abruptly abrogate the status of the Special Category States for the States of NE Region.

On these issues, Chairman, NEC was requested to intervene on behalf of the NE States.

2.23.5 On the agenda items of the NEC revised General Guidelines; few points were highlighted as welcome changes/ additions. They are:-

- a) Constitution of the Executive Committee to review, monitor and recommend measures for implementation of various projects under NEC.
- b) Relaxation of mandatory requirement of AG Audit Certificate for release of final installment for projects implemented by the State Government and audit certificates from an authorized audit firm/chartered accountant for project implemented by other agencies.
- c) Flexibility in allowing for cost escalation not exceeding 10% of the original estimated cost after due approval from NEC.
- d) Increase of overheads for NEC projects in the DPR from existing 2% to 11.50% for hill areas.
- e) Proposed introduction of OASIS Management of Information System (MIS) in NEC will make access to NEC data and information very easy and simple for the beneficiary NE States.
- f) Procedure to be followed by the Standing Committee for Retaining of Projects (SCRP) in NEC for retaining projects/identifying projects having potential for retention costing between Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 15 crore from the priority lists submitted by the NE States.
- g) Laying down procedure for carrying out appraisal and scrutiny of DPRs by the technical experts in NEC.
- h) Procedure for NEC-Projects Appraisal Committee (NEC-PAC) for appraisal and recommending sanction of projects costing between Rs. 2 crore to the Rs. 15 crore.

2.23.6 Regarding NEC's Annual Plan 2015-16, it was observed that the budget for North Eastern Council is even lower than that of the smallest constituent State of the region. Budget allocation to the NEC should be enhanced substantially.

2.23.7 It was mentioned that the 12th Five Year Plan Outlay of NEC was Rs. 6108 crore. However, the budget for Annual Plan 2015-16 has been fixed at Rs. 773.00 crore. With this, the aggregate outlay for the four years of the 12th Five Year Plan would be only Rs. 2822.00 crore, leaving a balance of Rs. 3286.00 crore for the last year of the Plan period. This shows that even the modest 12th Plan target is going to be under-achieved by a big margin. NEC was urged to take up with Government of India for enhancement of the NEC budget for Annual Plan 2015-16.

2.23.8 It was stated that construction and maintenance of road in hill States involve huge expenditure. Due to unstable soil condition, landslides occurring during rainy season are regular phenomenon. Hence, it was requested that adequate fund may be provided by NEC/DoNER for maintenance of roads. The Council should address this issue seriously.

2.23.9 Regarding power scenario in the NER it was mentioned that Nagaland is facing serious power deficit. The State generates only 24 MW against the peak requirement of 115 MW. In order to overcome the shortage, it was mentioned that the State is taking up various initiatives such as 186 MW Dikhu hydro project, 30 MW Tizu and 36 MW Zungki projects. Central assistance was requested for these initiatives.

2.23.10 It was mentioned that the State Government would require NEC's intervention in respect of some projects proposed to Ministry of DoNER. They are as follows:-

- a) **Foothill connectivity:** There is an urgent need to construct the Foothill road in Nagaland to provide an efficient road connectivity to the State Capital- Kohima and the commercial hub, Dimapur for the people dwelling in the Districts of Mon, Longleng, Mokokchung, Wokha and Peren. This would help in exploration of minerals, agro based industries, trade routes for other States and sense of security for people travelling across States without crossing to neighbouring States. The proposed project is for Construction of four lane highway from Tizit-Naganimora-Tuli- Yajang C- Longtho- M. I Project- Sumito- New & Old Wozhi-Changpang (GNGC)- Merapani- Governor's Camp- Rengmapani- Nuiland- Dimapur- Khelma. The project is

envisaged to join the Trans- Arunachal Highway at Khonsa (Arunachal) in the North and the EW corridor at Maibang (Assam) in the South. The total length of the road is 580 kms and the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 6591.00 crore. It was further requested to take up project as a National Project.

- b) **Airport at Ruzaphema:** It was mentioned that the proposal for construction of a Greenfield airport at Ruzaphema was moved in the year 2000 and feasibility project report submitted with a project cost of Rs. 306.71 crore, which is now being projected at Rs. 1200.00 crore during 2014-15. It was further mentioned that the Airport Authority of India has recently conducted pre viability survey of the project at Ruzaphema, which is conveniently located between Kohima and Dimapur. The project is stated to be viable. In this regard, Government of India was requested to expedite preparation of the DPR and hence to sanction the project.
- c) **Dimapur – Tizit Railway (257.19 kms):** It was stated that the cost of the project is Rs. 4275.95 crore. The Ministry of Railways had already undertaken survey. The project covers Dimapur, Wokha, Mokokchung, Longleng and Mon districts. In view of its strategic importance, as well as its importance for socio-economic development, this project was requested to be taken up urgently by the Railways.

2.23.11 It was mentioned that under the 'Act East Policy', Nagaland would not be benefited as major infrastructure projects would bypass Nagaland. For instance road, rail connectivity proposed through Moreh will not touch Nagaland and also one vital section of the road connecting Numaligarh (Assam) to Nagaland would not be converted to 4 lane highway.

2.23.12 In the last, happiness was expressed for starting of the direct flight from Dimapur to Delhi. However, it was mentioned that Dimapur airport needs expansion and Nagaland should have a new Greenfield airport near State capital of Kohima.

2.24 Hon'ble Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh

After the comments of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nagaland, Hon'ble Chairman gave his observations on some points raised by the Chief Minister. They are as follows:-

- (a) On the issue of doing away with the 10% State share requirements perhaps constitutional amendment would be necessary. However, the Ministry would put across the views of the State Government in appropriate forum.

(b) All the issues of the State Governments of the NE Region would be discussed in the Inter Ministerial Committee constituted by the Ministry of DoNER. In this Committee whenever felt necessary the State Government officers may also be included and the Resident Commissioners of the State Governments in Delhi should be proactive in liaisoning with the line Ministries.

2.25 Written speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi

2.25.1 It was mentioned that over the years, the NEC 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.

2.25.2 It was stated that the North Eastern Region is unique in India in its mix of natural resources, bio-diversity, diverse geography and varied population. However, it was pointed out that defining this Region by its geography alone as the "North East" indicates a degree of homogeneity that is actually not fully present. However at the same time, certain common factors affect all the states of the Region, such as its land locked character, the closing of access to the national markets as well as natural trading routes with neighbouring countries at the time of independence and the fact that this vast area is linked with the rest of the country by a narrow strip of land. The Region has the maximum length of international borders. A well thought-out administrative and economic approach is required to overcome these constraints and to ensure that developments goals and objectives are met.

2.25.3 With reference to NEC's role as a regional Planning Body, it was mentioned that there have been several developments in the national approach to strategic planning. The winding up of the Planning Commission and replacing it by the NITI Aayog is purported to be based on the principle of Cooperative Federalism. One of the mechanisms proposed for effective cooperative federalism by the newly formed NITI Aayog is formation of Regional Councils. In this regard, it was added that the North Eastern Region has the advantage of having the NEC in place. It was urged that the NEC should play a much bigger role as an instrument of regional planning and coordination, with larger resources and greater financial autonomy. The role and functions of NEC could be expanded to reflect the importance of regional planning, to bring about greater interstate coordination for

economic development and to act as a link between the Union Government and the NER. This is particularly relevant in the context of the “Act East” Policy.

2.25.4 It was mentioned that the countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand are now showing keen interest in developing travel, tourism, business, economic and cultural linkages. The development of international trade linkages and connectivity through the North East in the form of highways, inland river transport, international air connectivity as well as railway linkages are requested to be developed more rapidly. It was suggested that the NEC and the Ministry of DoNER could be given a larger coordinating and implementing role under the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog, for ensuring that these important linkages are attended to on priority.

2.25.5 Regarding Special Category status of the eight North Eastern States, it was stated that due to various factors, including economic backwardness, poor infrastructure compounded by annual floods and erosion in the Brahmaputra basin, hilly and difficult terrain, isolated geographic location, extensive exposure to international borders, strategic location in the South East Asian Region and non viability of state finances, special efforts are required to bring the NE Region at par with the rest of the country. The Ministry of DoNER and NEC would have to ensure extra public investment in both physical and social infrastructure in NE Region to narrow this gap. In this context, it was strongly urged that the categorization of the states of this Region as Special Category states must be continued. Ministry of DoNER and NEC were urged to press for the continuance of Central assistance for all development activities on the earlier 90:10 pattern.

2.25.6 Reference was also made to low release of funds to Assam under NLCPR and NEC during the last 2 years. In 2013-14, the release to Assam under NLCPR was Rs. 237.14 Crores, while NEC released Rs. 118.11 crores. In 2014-15, Assam has received only Rs. 151.15 crores under NLCPR and only Rs. 71.84 Crores from NEC. The reduction in funds from NLCPR and NEC would adversely impact the State. Ministry of DoNER and NEC were urged to take note of this and ensure the availability of adequate resources for the State.

2.25.7 While advocating the strengthening and revamping of NEC as a body for regional planning, it was further argued that intra region uniqueness of states in terms of problems, population and possibilities should not be lost sight of. While there are common threads that weave a pattern in the North East, there is also a need to see and address each state

individually, given the differences in size and complexities. In this regard, Ministry of DoNER was urged to work closely with NEC and individual states in addressing shared concerns and unique needs simultaneously.

2.25.8 It was mentioned that Assam is a victim of the annual cycle of floods and persistent erosion. It is estimated that Assam loses about 8000 hectares of arable land annually through degradation of flood and erosion. In this way Assam has lost nearly 4 lakh hectares or about 7.4% of its land area in Brahmaputra valley in recent times. The land lost puts additional burden on the remaining scarce land resources with the population density already higher than the national average. Hence, it was urged for inclusion of land erosion in the list of disasters under the SDRF.

2.25.9 It was further added that the annual cycle of floods also causes huge economic loss in terms of damage to roads, bridges, community buildings, agricultural crops, livestock, human habitation and wildlife habitat. The ordinary maintenance expenditure cannot restore the damaged infrastructure. It was urged that this significant factor should be accounted for in determining development assistance for the state.

2.25.10 It was mentioned that flood and erosion problem faced by Assam is required to be tackled in coordination with all the N.E. States as the water catchment area covers the entire Brahmaputra and Barak basins. This requires much more Inter State cooperation. In 2005, Assam had proposed setting up of the North Eastern Water Resources Authority to address these issues. Later on, the Ministry of Water Resources took a decision to set up the Brahmaputra Valley River Basin Authority. It was urged that this institution should be set up at the earliest.

2.25.11 In terms of the investment requirement of the State of Assam it was mentioned that the per capita income (at current prices) for Assam is Rs. 46,354 against the All India average of Rs. 74,920. This gap could be bridged only when investment flows in and additional wealth and capital get generated. Due to its geographical remoteness and other constraints, the Government of India will have to provide incentives to industry. In this regard, it was urged that the incentives provided in the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) should not only continue but should be further expanded in quantum and scope to facilitate industrialization in the state. The suspended status of NEIIPP is impeding industrial growth and job creation. Further, incentives should be given to

the Agriculture and Allied Sector, which has tremendous potential of generating jobs and wealth. It was also suggested that special concessions and incentives should be given to promote Foreign Direct Investment in the north east, which should get at least 5% of the total FDI coming into India.

2.25.12 On the business and trade scenario in Assam, it was mentioned that Assam is poised to provide opportunities to entrepreneurs. Guwahati, in particular, has emerged as a major trading and business hub. It was urged that the offices of the Registrar of Companies, the Regional Directorate of Corporate Affairs and the Bench of National Company Law Tribunal should be established in Guwahati. Along with this, the Central Government institutions in support of the MSME Sector should also open their regional offices in Guwahati. Ministry of DoNER was requested to take action in this regard.

2.25.13 In regard to employment generation, emphasis was put on skill development. There is limited scope for employment outside agriculture in the State. This factor has driven many unemployed youths to militancy and extremism. Besides, lakhs of youths from Assam are working in different parts of the country in diverse occupations. It was opined that adequate investment in skill development could help us provide skilled manpower. Skill Development however, could not be done in isolation. It must be matched by a concomitant increase in industry and entrepreneurship which can absorb the skilled manpower. Hence the pressing need for the continuance of special incentives for industry was reiterated. “Make in India” would be incomplete without “Make in Assam” or the North East.

2.25.14 For development of infrastructure, request was made for allocating sufficient funds for critical, large infrastructure projects for roads, airports, railways, inland waterways, power, etc. This would help in meeting developmental needs and providing a congenial eco system for better ties between India and South East Asia.

2.25.15 With regard to air connectivity, the long standing request for further improvement of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport of Guwahati was reiterated. This airport already handles a huge volume of traffic. There should be better facilities for night parking and maintenance of passenger aircraft in Guwahati, which would facilitate better scheduling of flights for the convenience and optimal utilization of the time of passengers. The air connectivity between Guwahati and Silchar also needs urgent attention. There is also considerable scope for development of Dibrugarh, Lilabari and Jorhat airports along

with small airfields which would help in providing economical and safe air connectivity. There is an urgent need for construction of air cargo complex at LGBI Airport, Guwahati, particularly for perishable cargo along with modern testing and storage facilities. It was further added that the frequency of flights to and from Jorhat has gone down lately, which needs to be restored and increased further.

2.25.16 Gratitude was expressed for the Railways for completing the Lumding-Silchar Broad Gauge Link during the mega-block period (Oct 2014-March 2015) itself. It was urged that the other ambitious project taken up by the Railways, namely the Bogibeel bridge should be completed soon. Railways were further urged to increase the inter-city train services within Assam as these would also serve adjoining NE states. The Government of Assam has also given proposals for introduction of some tourist trains such as the Safari Express and the meter gauge heritage circuit in NC Hills District. These projects would give a considerable boost to tourism in the region. The support of MDoNER was requested for these projects.

2.25.17 The need to tap the potential of inland waterways for transportation of goods and people was also emphasized. The Government of Assam has submitted a proposal for World Bank funding for the comprehensive development of the Inland Water Transport sector in Assam. This needs support from all concerned. To fully develop the economic potential of the North Eastern Waterways, there is a need for dialogue with neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar to establish/ upgrade the existing protocols for handling all kinds of goods and passenger traffic. The Government of Assam has also prepared a project for enabling a long term solution to the problem of floods and erosion in the state through river management with World Bank assistance. The project is supported by the Ministry of Water Resources. In this regard Ministry of DoNER's support was requested for speedy clearances in the Central Government level so that the project can be taken up expeditiously.

2.25.18 Regarding infrastructure development, it was mentioned that Government of Assam has prepared a 20 – year Perspective Infrastructure Development Plan to be implemented with an estimated investment of Rs. 3,60,000 crore. The core sectors of development viz. Roads & Transportation, Industrial Infrastructure, Power and Urban Infrastructure are covered under the PIDP. 200 projects have been identified out of which 40 pre-feasibility reports will be prepared for initiating implementation. It was mentioned that aligned with

the overall vision for the State, sectoral visions have been formulated and a comprehensive infrastructure development plan has been worked out for those core sectors by 2035. Effective and efficient execution of the physical, policy level and institutional interventions in the different sectors will lead to development of a multi modal transport corridor, development of urban roads and industrial growth centers along the transport corridors and augmentation and strengthening power infrastructure. Request was made for Ministry of DoNER/NEC support in financing the Perspective Infrastructure Development Plan, as better infrastructure in Assam would lead to accelerated growth of the NE Region as a whole.

2.25.19 Regarding projects for external assistance, it was mentioned that Assam has been developing such projects in the roads, power and agricultural sectors over the last two decades. Help and support of Ministry of DoNER was requested for leveraging External Assistance from Multi Lateral Banks such as the Asian Development Bank & World Bank in various sectors such as Flood Control and Erosion, River Transportation etc. World Bank projects in these areas have been prepared and are pending with the Central Government (Ministry of Finance). The support of Ministry of DoNER will go a long way in ensuring speedy approvals for these projects.

2.25.20 In respect of higher and professional education sector, it was mentioned that the Government of Assam has invested heavily in medical education by setting up several medical colleges, which would serve the need of not only Assam but also the North East. Many of these institutions have become functional but they still require financial support for better infrastructure in the form of student hostels, better laboratories and facilities for specialized care. Mention was made about the urgent need to set up institutions for training and capacity building for nursing, paramedics and medical technicians.

2.25.21 In respect of higher and professional education, it was stated that a large number of students move to other parts of the country for higher and professional education. There is a need for better educational and professional institutions in Assam which could be set up in the government and in the private sector. Setting up educational institutions, engineering and medical colleges and other professional institutes is required to be incentivized. The Ministry of DoNER and NEC was urged to take up schemes in Assam to meet a part of the cost of such projects or to assist in capacity building of the faculty.

2.25.22 Ministry of DoNER was specially urged to take up schemes for strengthening the Social Welfare infrastructure, particularly for woman empowerment, protection of the Girl Child, the Aged and persons with disabilities.

2.25.23 In respect of the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) under the Ministry of DoNER, it was stated that the objective of the NLCPR was to ensure speedy development of region through development of infrastructure projects. Over the years, however, it was observed that the intended objectives could not be fully achieved due to various reasons including the multi stage procedure adopted in the Guidelines.

2.25.24 Happiness was expressed for the revision of the NEC guidelines. This could help in achieving the objectives of the NEC. However, some issues regarding NEC/NLCPR funding were highlighted. They are as follows:-

(a) The existing procedure of sanction of projects and release of NEC & NLCPR fund was found to be cumbersome. After retention of a project by MDoNER/NEC, the State Government is required to submit Detailed Project Report (DPR) comprising soil testing, survey, land procurement, detail drawing, design etc. for which no fund is provided.

(b) Further, delay in sanction of NLCPR projects by the MDoNER (typically 2-5 years) leads to substantial cost escalation resulting in unworkable estimates unless revised, inviting litigation in cancelling tender and re-tender and re-allotment etc. By the time, Ministry of DoNER sanctions the project, the Schedule of Rates changes resulting in extra burden on the state exchequer to complete the project. Ministry of DoNER should simplify the procedure so as to make the process of decision making/ sanction of the projects speedier. Further, the cost of preparing DPR may be included in the project cost.

(c) Most projects have a precondition that the land should be made available by the State Government. However, with increasing pressure on land, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the state to fulfil this criterion from government land. Most times, the government land is available at unviable locations. Ministry of DoNER/ NEC should allow incorporating the land cost in the DPR.

(d) As the Ministry of DoNER has no full-fledged Technical Wing of its own, the DPRs of the project are forwarded to the concerned Line Ministries. Examination of projects both by Line Ministry as well as Ministry of DoNER consumes much time. The power of Technical

vetting of DPRs should be delegated to State Government for NLCPR/ NEC projects where the State Government has requisite engineering departments with adequate technical personnel. Alternately, DoNER could hire expert Central Public Sector organizations to carry out technical vetting in a time bound manner.

(e) Since 2010-11, no contingency amount was sanctioned by the Ministry of DoNER against NLCPR projects. The contingencies approved by Ministry of DoNER are claimed through a reimbursement procedure subject to submission of documentary evidence (in original) like APRs/ vouchers etc. after completion of the project. Normally, miscellaneous works are carried out from the contingency amount during implementation of a project, especially at the initial stage. Claiming contingencies post facto is quite cumbersome. Ministry of DoNER could provide the contingency amount as a percentage and a part of the project cost to be provided to the implementing agency upfront.

(f) After approval of the projects, fund is released in three instalments on a 40:40:20 basis in case of NLCPR projects while in case of NEC projects, it is mostly released on a 40:30:30 basis. After release of the first instalment, the subsequent instalments are released on submission of Utilization Certificates (UC) and other documents including Work Order. Though the UCs and documents are submitted with the signature and countersignature of competent authorities, there is still some delay in release of funds, which leads to cost and time overrun of the projects. Ministry of DoNER/NEC should release fund in two instalments including the contingency amount i.e. first instalment along with the Administrative Approval and Financial sanction of the project and the balance fund on submission of utilization certificate of the first instalment.

(g) In case of NEC projects, State Govt. has to submit the AG's Audit Certificate for each project which is a time consuming process. A Chartered Accountant's report could be accepted instead of AG's audit certificate.

(h) The availability of fund for a particular year could be intimated to the State Government well in advance in order to make adequate budget provisions and for framing of projects accordingly, to avoid delay in implementation.

2.25.25 In respect of maintenance arrangements, it was mentioned that a large pool of assets has been created under NEC/ NLCPR funding, but there are problems of

maintenance. Presently, the practice is to immediately transfer the asset to the State Government which finds it difficult to make immediate provision for maintenance. It was urged that Ministry of DoNER/NEC should provide a five year maintenance fund for their projects. This provision would provide the necessary cushion to the state government to take over the project gradually.

2.25.26 In respect of Capacity Building, it was mentioned that there is a need for improving the capacity of the manpower engaged in conceptualizing, planning and implementing projects in vital infrastructural sectors in Assam. Towards this end, several institutions have been set up in Assam such as the Assam Administrative Staff College, the Assam Water Research and Management Institute (AWRMI), the Assam Road Research Institute (ARRTI), the Assam Institute of Management etc. Further, to enable proper understanding of development initiatives for the disadvantaged and backward classes, the State Government is strengthening the Assam Research Institute for Tribal and Welfare of SC and Other Backward Classes (The Tribal Research Institute). Ministry of DoNER's support was urged for development and strengthening of these institutions.

2.25.27 Ministry of DoNER was called upon to play a larger role other than the monitoring and releasing funds for NLCPR and NEC projects. The Ministry of DoNER could also draw up an action plan on how the North East can position itself as the springboard for India's Act East Policy and the new engagements with South East Asia and China. Developing trade, transport and economic links Bangladesh is also important for the region needs greater focus. It was further urged that the Ministry of DoNER should fully reflect the aspirations of the Government and people of the North East in all the forums where such bilateral and multilateral engagements are taking place. In this regard, meaningful consultations and involvement of all the State Governments in the North East is also desirable.

2.25.28 It was mentioned that Assam as a state with shared physical boundaries with almost all the NE states will have to play a key role. Guwahati has become the gateway to the greater North Eastern Region. All major institutions and trade & industrial organizations within the region have a base in Guwahati. The North Eastern States have received benefits, directly and indirectly, from existing infrastructure and other facilities in many parts of Assam and more especially in Guwahati. It was urged that the Ministry of DoNER could have a look at funding projects in health, education and other social sectors in Assam which

would benefit the region as a whole. Similarly, developing road, rail & air transport, power, industry, waterways and tourism in Assam will benefit the whole region. It was reiterated that a special effort should be taken to develop Guwahati airport as a full-fledged international airport connecting South East Asia, China and Bangladesh. The Ministry of DoNER should take up these issues within the Government of India with other Ministries.

2.26. Written speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur, Shri O.Ibobi Singh

2.26.1 On the issue of allocation of funds to NEC, it was mentioned that the same has been found to be grossly inadequate to take up meaningful development of inter-state infrastructure or human development of the North Eastern Region. Concern was expressed at the budget cut affected to the tune of Rs 191 crores during 2014-15. NEC is statutorily mandated to act as a Regional Planning Body and has identified core areas for regional planning of the NER based on NER Vision 2020. However, it was felt that with meager plan funds provided to NEC it would be difficult to achieve its objectives. Hon'ble Chairman, NEC was urged to take up with the Ministry of Finance for enhancement of allocation for NEC and NLCPR.

2.26.2 Under the 14th Finance Commission Award, it was mentioned that there has been an increase in devolution of central tax share to the States from 32% to 42%. However, it was felt that the NE States would lose out on NCA, SCA, SPA on which the NE states and Manipur in particular, heavily depend on to meet the fiscal deficit and financing of state matching share. States would be burdened with more state share requirements on most of the CSS schemes. A change in the sharing pattern of existing CSS would impose fiscal burdens on the special category states. NE States would most likely get penalized for their internal inability to provide matching contribution for accessing central funds, resulting in reduction of CSS allocation and non completion of ongoing projects/schemes in time.

2.26.3 It was felt that there is an immediate need for restoration of special category status to the NE states along with other financial allocations. Request was also made for providing financial gap and state matching share for CSS, which was earlier provided from flexible fund and NCA, SCA, SPA by the Finance Ministry or from NLCPR pool of GBS. Fervent appeal was made for retaining existing funding pattern of 90:10 or 100% for CSS programmes for all Special Category States. Hon'ble Chairman was requested to take up the concerns of the NE

States with the Ministry of Finance on top priority so that fiscally poor NE states and Manipur in particular would not deviate from the path of development.

2.26.4 The equitable distribution of NEC fund issue was reiterated. It was mentioned that the overall fund released to Manipur continues to be the lowest after Sikkim; around 4% of the total releases made so far by NEC. Percentage allocation for Manipur could be enhanced to be at least at par with Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya.

2.26.5 Regarding Annual Plan 2015-16 of NEC, continuous thrust given by NEC to the Transport & Communication, Power, Agri & Allied Sectors, Human Resources and Health Sectors was supported. It was also stated that the budget allocation for NEC is meager to even meet committed liabilities. NEC was requested for early sanction of a few of the priority sector projects proposed by the State of Manipur under NEC for early sanction. They are as follows:-

- a) Installation of 2x5 MVA, 33 KV Sub-station along with associated 33 KV line & related works at Mao- Rs. 9.12 crores.
- b) Installation of 2x5 MVA, 33KV Sub-station along with the associated 33 KV LI-LO line & related works at Mayangkhang- Rs. 8.97 crores
- c) Construction of Yatri Niwas and Bus Parking at Dimapur under Tourism sector – Rs 14.48 crore
- d) Construction of Manipur State Yatri Niwas at Shillong under Tourism Sector- Rs 14.54 crore.

2.26.6 NEC was lauded for coming out with comprehensive Revised General Guidelines and Revised Sectoral schemes guidelines as agenda for the Plenary. Constitution of Executive Committee of NEC chaired by the Chairman, NEC, Composition and function of Sectoral Empowered Committee, framing of procedures to be followed by the Standing Committee, for retaining of projects in NEC and procedure for NEC-Project Appraisal Committee (NEC-PAC) were specifically supported. Some of the specific suggestions were mentioned in this regard:-

- (a) Flexibility could be given to the State to identify priority areas for distribution of funds sector wise and equitable fund distribution to member states could be ensured within the ambit of the regional ramification.

- (b) Change in the order of priority of projects given by State may be done in consultation with the State Govt.
- (c) Part-release of first installment of fund of 5% of project cost upon sanction of the project was not supported. NEC was requested to continue the existing pattern of release of fund of 40%, 40% and 20%.
- (d) It was also suggested that the second installment of fund may be released on submission of UC of 80% of NEC funds and equivalent state share instead of 100% utilization.
- (e) The proposal of NEC for relaxing the conditionality for submission of Audit Certificate from the Accountant General of the State concerned for release of final installment of fund was endorsed.
- (f) NEC proposal for restoration of providing overheads for NEC projects in the DPR and support for proving overhead charges of 10.5% for plains and 11.5% for hill areas was endorsed. However, difficult areas within a plain district may also be considered for 11.5% of overhead applicable for hill areas.
- (g) Projects designed under Agriculture & Allied Sectors to deal with deficiency in demands for eggs, fish and milk as envisaged in Vision- 2020 Document were also endorsed.
- (h) The proposal to increase in number of seats sponsored by NEC for poor students for availing good education in the Assam Rifles Public School, Shillong was also endorsed.
- (i) The guideline for NEC Dr. T Ao Memorial Football Tournament was also endorsed. NEC was further requested to support and frame guidelines for similar National and International tournaments organized in the NE region in the sports like Polo which originated in the NE Region.

2.26.7 NEC's proposal for construction of State Guest Houses at Shillong was supported. Manipur does not have a proper State Guest House at Shillong. Shillong is the hub of tourist and centre for higher education and regional meetings like NEC Plenary meetings, review meetings are also held at Shillong. Hence, request was made for construction of a Manipur Guest House at Shillong to facilitate tourist, students and officials coming to Shillong.

2.26.8 Regarding power transmission, it was mentioned that Manipur is suffering from both inter-state and intra-state transmission constraints. In Manipur, the inter-state power

transmission is operated at 132 KV voltage system through the existing Dimapur –Imphal & Leimatak – Jiribam 132 KV lines of PGCIL. State cannot draw more than 100 MW even in peak monsoon though the allocation is 150 MW. With the coming up of Pallatana & Bongaigaon Power Plants, PGCIL has taken up a 400 KV Double Circuit line from Silchar to Imphal initially chargeable to 132 KV system voltage as an associated transmission system of the above projects. This line, once completed will definitely remove the inter-state transmission constraints for the State. But for better system reliability and benefit of all NER States, it is necessary that the 400KV line be extended up to Misa in Assam to have a 400KV ring main consisting of Misa – Balipara – Bongaigaon – Azara – Byrnihat – Silchar – Imphal – New Kohima – Misa. The Empowered Committee of Government of India has agreed to implement Imphal (PG) – New Kohima (Nagaland) 400KV Double Circuit (D/C) line, to be initially operated at 132 KV, through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding. The same is required to be extended upto Misa. This would give benefit to Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.

2.26.9 It was stated that Electricity Act 2003, mandates the establishment of State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) in every State. Manipur is in the process of establishment of SLDC. This will improve power supply service in Manipur at par with other States.

2.27 Written speech of Hon’ble Chief Minister, Mizoram, Shri Lal Thanhawla

2.27.1 At the outset, reference was made to the Honourable Prime Minister’s statement where he said that ‘the Centre is pro-active about Northeast and will initiate measures to bring the region’s development on par with other developed parts of the country’. This statement outlines the goal of the North Eastern Council as regional planning body. The gaps would have to be identified and efforts are to be made to enable North Eastern Region to catch up with developed parts of the country. It would call for larger investment for creation of credible infrastructure and sustainable development plans.

2.27.2 It was lamented that the past funding patterns of the Centre for NEC has been very discouraging. For instance, the 12th Five Year Plan allocation of the NEC was given by the Planning Commission at Rs. 6108.00 crore as against the projected investment requirement of Rs. 21507.41 crore. Against the approved outlay of Rs. 6108.00 crores, the aggregate of the 12th Five Year Plan provision for NEC so far works out to Rs. 2822 crores only leaving a balance of Rs. 3286 crore (57.76%) for the remaining 12th Plan period. It is doubtful that NEC would be provided with the GBS promised during the 12th Plan period. In this regard, the

Central Government was requested to put its action in commensurate with the announcement made by the Honourable Prime Minister to be pro-active about Northeast in real terms.

2.27.3 The Hon'ble Prime Minister's observation that the Northeast could become a major centre for organic farming was supported whole heartedly. When it comes to organic farming, this region has the competitive edge over other regions of the country as the region has by default already been more or less organic. However, a lot needs to be done to help organic products from the Northeast to access the national and international markets. In this regard, the recent scheme of the Government of India i.e., "Scheme for Organic Farming in the North Eastern Region" through Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) was welcomed. However, it was mentioned that the Scheme was started with a very discouraging performance in its first year of inception. Ministry of DoNER was requested to work out both short term and long term development strategies for organic farming in the Region. Mizoram would earnestly support the Government for the success of this initiative.

2.27.4 The long term development programme of the Central Government through better connectivity in rail, road, air and waterways for the region was lauded. It was mentioned that Aizawl, the Capital of Mizoram has no direct flight service to New Delhi. A lot needs to be done in the region to ensure good connectivity.

2.27.5 The urgent need to harness the immense hydropower potential of the North East Region was stressed. The North Eastern States has an identified hydro power potential of 63257 MW, but just a little more than 3 per cent of this potential has so far harnessed. The development of hydro power plants requires huge amount of funds and at present there is shortage of funds at all levels for such projects. The other constraints are the long gestation period, forest and environment clearance, land acquisition problem, rehabilitation and resettlement, difficult terrain and poor accessibility, shortage of skilled/ unskilled manpower and delay in supply of material for different reasons etc. It was further added that the requirement for payment of Net Present Value of diversion of forest area makes most of the hydro power projects unviable. In order to tap the huge hydro power potential in the region, the Central Government would have to make necessary provisions in terms of financial assistance as well as policy measures to squarely address the constraints.

2.27.6 On the matter of as Act East Policy, it was stated that Mizoram could provide a major economic links with the fast growing South East Asia. But it was cautioned that a policy like this could not be implemented in a vacuum. Certain prerequisites like developed infrastructure, a detailed products and market specific realistic study of the region's export potential, development of a competitive production base in the hinterland and, importantly, making the local communities involved and informed stakeholders, would have to be met. The existing rudimentary infrastructure for border trade would require a major overall for the NE State to break out of the landlocked borders and engage in cultural, economic and tourism related interactions with international neighbours.

2.27.7 The importance of urban development for the region was highlighted. The intervention of the Ministry of DoNER and NEC was sought for addressing gaps in core physical infrastructure across cities in the North East Region under the Smart Cities initiative. North Eastern States have been among the most urbanised in the country, and if not well managed, these increases in urban population in the region will place enormous stress in the future. It was proposed that all the Capital Cities of the North Eastern States should be included as part of 100 smart cities being developed and all the district headquarters in the region should be included among 500 others under smart city vision.

2.27.8 "Revised NEC General Guidelines" including "Policy Framework and Scheme Guidelines" was endorsed. However, it was reminded that the whole purpose for the Council is to work for economic and social development of the North Eastern Region and as such any guidelines or procedure should give due regards to the peculiar needs of a specific state of the region. The guidelines should facilitate rapid development of the region.

2.27.9 Mention was made about the project 'Upgradation of Khedacherra-Damcherra-Zamung-Kawrthah-Tuilutkawn Road in Mizoram'. The issue was highlighted again for favourable consideration by the Council and Ministry of DoNER. The first instalment for the project amounting to Rs. 18 crores was released on 8.3.2013 but approval of revised estimate on the basis of lower bidders' rate was accorded only on 20.2.2015. However, the Ministry of DoNER's insistence on the Mizoram Government to complete the work within the original time schedule, would not be practicable as two years have already elapsed from initial sanction date. Ministry of DoNER, through the Council was requested to review the terms and conditions regarding completion period for the project.

2.27.10 It was noted with happiness that the release of subsequent instalments of NEC Projects under the new general guidelines would depend upon the progress – both in financial and physical. Doing away with the requirement of Audit Certificate from the Accountant General of State concerned for release of final instalment was lauded. Further, it was proposed that release of fund for the projects should be made in two instalments only, 80% first and then 20% subsequently to facilitate better financial space for implementing agencies. Moreover, it was requested that since NEC projects are fully funded by the Central Government, the State Share position could be waived for the poor State like Mizoram.

2.27.11 The scheme for the rehabilitation and construction of State Guest Houses in Shillong as a one-time measure by the Council was welcomed. This would facilitate accommodation during Council Meetings and other meetings for regional planning and review of projects held in NEC Headquarters Office in Shillong.

2.27.12 It was noted that in recent times drastic structural changes have been introduced in the process and system of planned development at the national level. The formation of NITI Aayog was welcomed. However, it was mentioned that the States are not clear as to how North Eastern Council will fit into the new system. Clarity is needed whether NEC would maintain status quo or get it transformed structurally as well as functionally as a Regional Council as envisaged in the resolution constituting the NITI Aayog.

2.27.13 The issue of giving well defined roles for NEC and Ministry of DoNER in the matter of ensuring faster socio economic growth of the region was flagged. It was felt that the respective roles of both the organization should be reviewed properly to avoid overlapping.

2.27.14 In the end it was mentioned that since its inception, the NEC has played a crucial role in harnessing the potential of the North-Eastern States and it was hoped that it would continue to shoulder its responsibility with vision and vigour in the years to come.

2.28 Written speech of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sikkim, Shri Pawan Chamling

2.28.1 It was noted with happiness that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given maximum focus to the North Eastern States and has promised to link up all the State Capitals of the NER by good roads, air and rail connectivity by the end of 2020.

2.28.2 Hon'ble Minister, DoNER and Chairman, NEC was lauded for increased allocation of 29.43% in the budget 2015-16 for the NE Region. The reason behind this increase in the

budget allocation for the NER is to bring it within the mainstream and give special priority in terms of development.

2.28.3 The Government of India's initiatives to boost the development in the region was lauded. Mention was made about the budget announcement to set up a Centre for Film Production, Animation and Gaming in Arunachal Pradesh and a new AIIMS like institution in Assam. Reference was also made to two visits of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the region.

2.28.4 It was noted with happiness that action has been taken with regard to financial inclusion, health and hygiene of the common man, girl child education and employment for the youth among others. It was further mentioned that the Government of India has focussed on welfare of labour, agricultural productivity, and increasing farm incomes, power, digital connectivity, skilling of youth, and efficient and better work culture in Government.

2.28.5 It was also noted with gratitude that organic farming sector in the North East has seen an increase in allocation of Rs. 125.00 crores for the year 2015-16. The organic farming initiative started in Sikkim from the year 2010 and the Sikkim Organic Mission target was set at 74,303.80 hectares. It was added that for conversion of the entire agricultural land to organic management, group certification system has been followed by engaging 14 service providers and 6 certification bodies accredited with Agriculture and Processing Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Sikkim is working continuously to make the State a total organic state by December, 2015.

2.28.6 However, it was mentioned that in 2014-15, after the announcement of a package of Rs. 100 crores for promotion of organic farming in the NE region, the State Government approached the Central Ministry with Detailed Project Report amount to Rs. 69.21 crores but no fund was released. The Central Ministry was requested to speedily sanction and release the amount to the State of Sikkim.

2.28.7 Mention was made about the Government of India's announcement of Rs. 1000.00 crores for rail connectivity and Rs. 2000.00 crores for road connectivity in the North Eastern Region. It was hoped that Sikkim would be a beneficiary of this announcement as equal partners.

2.28.8 It was announced that the foundation stone for Sikkim Textile Industry was laid by the Union Minister for State for textiles Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar in Gangtok on 25th March, 2015. With this initiative Sikkim would find a place in the apparel and garment manufacturing sector. The State of Sikkim is coming up with three garment manufacturing centres at Namchi in South Sikkim, Makha in East Sikkim and Barfok in West Sikkim, at a cost of Rs. 18.18 crores. Each centre is estimated to generate direct employment for 1,500 people. This initiative is part of the announcement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the Eight North Eastern States will have textile and apparel centres.

2.28.9 It was stated that the Government of Sikkim would eagerly look forward to the opening of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in June, 2015. This historic initiative to open up the second route through Nathula Pass would be much more convenient and comfortable for the yatris who can travel by bus from the Tibetan Autonomous Region to Kailash Mansarovar. However, in this regard it was mentioned that a lot of background work and many new infrastructure such as dormitories, hostels and medical centres etc. have to be created at Sherathang and Nathula.

2.28.10 It was mentioned that the first batch of 50 Indian Pilgrims accompanied by 5 support staff and 1 liaison officer would pass through Nathula Pass in June, 2015 and is to be welcomed at the International border by Chinese Officials. The pilgrims will be guided by the Chinese on their side and the return trip will also be coordinated as per the Government to Government monitoring protocol. However, it was noted that there is still a lot of coordination to be done between Government of Sikkim, MEA Government of India, the Ministry of Defence, Army and BRO etc. to make the opening of this second route a success. The State Government has already done some of the ground work, and are looking forward for Government of India's initiative in the matter including the assistance to build up the required infrastructure for this historic occasion.

2.28.11 In regard to NEC schemes in Sikkim it was mentioned that the NEC has funded a total of 146 schemes for the State of Sikkim amounting to Rs. 58080.15 lakhs. Against the total sanction amount of Rs. 58080.15 lakhs, the Government of Sikkim has utilized a sum of Rs. 42963.43 lakhs. All the schemes were reported to be progressing well.

2.28.12 On the matter of 'Act East Policy' it was mentioned that Sikkim would like to play a role by leveraging their natural advantage such as Horticulture, Floriculture, Pilgrimage

Tourism, the Buddhist Circuit Route and Organic Farming etc. In order to act east, the country has to look to the North Eastern borders.

2.28.13 The major initiative taken up by the DoNER Minister regarding holding of Camp Secretariat Office of DoNER by rotation every month in each of the eight States of the Northeast was appreciated. This initiative is sending a message to the people of the NER that they do not need to travel to New Delhi every time when they have a grievance.

2.28.14 Other initiatives taken by the Hon'ble DoNER Minister was also lauded. They are:-

(a) In line with the Make in India initiative, a concept paper titled Make in Northeast has been prepared and industrial houses has been appealed to promote organic farming and food processing to generate revenue as well as employment in the region.

(b) Indian Chamber of Commerce has been appealed in becoming active partners in this initiative and to inspire the potential investors and entrepreneurs to supplement the DoNER Ministry's efforts in the region.

2.28.15 It was mentioned that the initiatives taken by the DoNER Minister are indeed exemplary for the betterment of the North East Region. These would bridge psychological barriers to bring the NER closer to the mainstream India and would help in achieving the goals of NER Vision 2020 document.

2.28.16 In terms of road connectivity it was stated that the crucial infrastructural gap in respect of Inter State connectivity should be the top priority for the North Eastern Region. For Sikkim it was mentioned that the National Highway 10 is the only lifeline which connects the landlocked State with rest of the country. National Highway 10 besides serving the people of Sikkim also serves the border needs of the Defence forces. The road is under BRO. In this regard appeal was made that the BRO should be further strengthened by the Defence Ministry.

2.28.17 Early completion of the upcoming Pakyong Greenfield airport was stressed. This would bring Sikkim to the air map of India. Improved connectivity would boost the economy of Sikkim and the tourism potential of the State would be fully harnessed. However, the Bagdogra Airport in West Bengal would be of importance for Sikkim till such time the Pakyong Airport is complete.

2.28.18 Demand was made for an accessible and reliable Telecom/ IT infrastructure for the State. It was stated that better communication links for Sikkim should be a top priority in view of the strategic importance. This would require improvement in voice and internet connectivity. The OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) needs to be strung on power lines, service ducts for utilities along the National Highway and State Highways with provision for solar and renewable energy solution for all mobile towers. It was further requested that the work on the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) be expedited for providing telecommunication and broad band internet connectivity to the Gram Panchayats in the State.

2.28.19 It was mentioned that there is still a large scope for providing more infrastructure and reliable physical connectivity in the NER. The initiative of the Government of Sikkim is in harmony with that of the Government of India with emphasis on human development, capacity building, elimination poverty and inclusive sustainable growth.

2.28.20 It was mentioned that due to low crime rate and the peace loving people in Sikkim, the pendency of cases in the courts is the lowest in the country. In spite of sharing three international borders with China, Bhutan and Nepal, Sikkim has proved to the country that a border State could be most peaceful. This is the state's contribution to the process of nation building.

2.29 Discussion on the Agenda Points and Decisions thereof

2.29.1 The detailed written agenda papers were shared in advance with the Hon'ble Members and State Governments and hard copies were also distributed in the meeting. The agenda items were as follows:-

- (a) Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 63rd Plenary of NEC held on 2nd January, 2015
- (b) Approval of the Action Taken Report of the 63rd Plenary.
- (c) Approval of the Draft Annual Plan 2015-16 of NEC.
- (d) Approval of the Revised NEC General Guidelines.
- (e) Approval of the scheme for Rehabilitation/ Construction of State Guest Houses at Shillong with NEC funding.

2.29.2 Approval of the Council was given for all the agenda items listed above. In case of first 3 items (a), (b) & (c) there were no discussion. The last 2 items were deferred agenda items of

the 63rd Plenary which could not be taken up due to paucity of time. In the meanwhile, the deferred agenda items were circulated to the Hon'ble Members of the Council, State Governments and Ministry of DoNER for comments. The comments, so received were incorporated in the agenda papers put up for the 64th Plenary.

2.29.3 Before approval of the NEC Revised General Guidelines, some technical points raised by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya and Secretary, DoNER were clarified by the Secretary, NEC. The approved Revised NEC General Guidelines would be formally notified by the NEC Secretariat and during its operationalization any modification required would be brought to the Council's approval in the next Plenary. It may be mentioned that on 12th May, 2015, NEC received a letter from Ministry of DoNER regarding 'observation on the agenda items of 64th Plenary' in the form of photocopy of a few pages of internal notesheet. This was received after one month of the Plenary. These observations have come after the formal approval in the Plenary, the observations alongwith NEC's comments are placed at **Annexure – V**. The same could be discussed in the next plenary i.e., the 65th Plenary.

2.29.4 The Scheme for Rehabilitation/ Construction of State Guest Houses in Shillong was also approved. During the discussion on this agenda item, Hon'ble Governor, Assam, Tripura & Nagaland Shri P.B. Acharya requested for extension of such scheme to include guest houses for patients and their attendants going for treatment in the cities like Mumbai or even in Shillong. The matter would be looked into by NEC Secretariat.

2.30 In his concluding remarks, the Hon'ble Chairman, NEC reiterated that the Ministry of DoNER would play the role of facilitator for the NE Region by following up with all the line Ministries of the Union Government. It was also opined that NE States should learn from each other and also to learn to agree or disagree with each other.

2.31 After that the Hon'ble Chairman concluded the Plenary by offering thanks for all the Hon'ble Members of NEC, State and Central Government officials.

2.32 The list of participants is at **Annexure – VI**.



**64th PLENARY OF THE
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**

**ADDRESS OF
DR. JITENDRA SINGH
HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE (I/C)
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
AND
CHAIRMAN, NEC**

On

9th & 10th April, 2015

At the

**SCOPE AUDITORIUM,
SCOPE COMPLEX,
7-LODHI ROAD,
NEW DELHI – 110003**

Address of the Chairman, NEC to the 64th Plenary of NEC in Delhi (in bullet points)

- Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Hon'ble member, NEC and distinguished invitees
- I welcome you all to Delhi today for the 64th NEC Plenary Meeting. During the last 63rd Plenary held in Shillong, the consensus emerged that the Plenary meeting should be of longer duration. Hence this time we will be devoting two full days on the developmental issues of the NE Region.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister has given due emphasis on the development of North Eastern Region. Your advice and guidance will strengthen our hand in our joint effort to bring the North East at par with the rest of the country.
- During the last Council Meeting, an announcement was made that the Ministry of DoNER officials from Delhi will regularly be visiting the States on rotation for more close interaction with the State Government and the stakeholders in the ground. I am happy to announce that the same is happening and already States like Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram etc have been covered.
- The Hon'ble Prime Minister has also directed the Union Ministers to tour North Eastern States every fortnight for understanding the issues concerning each of the States. Valuable inputs have been gathered through this exercise which started in the month of February, 2015.
- For boosting air connectivity, three hangars with NEC support has been constructed and made functional at Guwahati airport. This airport has now been facilitated to become a regional hub for flights to originate from Guwahati.
- As announced in the Union Budget 2015-16, the proposed manufacturing hubs to be set up through Indian private sector participation in South East Asian countries will boost trade and commerce between the landlocked North East and neighbouring countries.
- Announcements have also been made for setting up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Assam, an Indian Institute of Science Education and

Research (IISER) in Nagaland and a Centre for Film Production, Animation and Gaming in Arunachal Pradesh.

- A comprehensive review of existing NEC General Guidelines has been proposed and is placed as agenda for consideration and approval of the Council. Operationalization of the revised guidelines is expected to further streamline the functioning of the NEC.
- Some sector-wise achievements and issues are highlighted below:-

a. TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION SECTOR

- The low and static annual plan allocation during the 12th Five Year Plan has made it difficult for NEC to accommodate the 12th Five Year Plan road projects.
- SARDP-NE Phase-A and Arunachal Package are presently under implementation. The progress is only around 25%. I urge upon the MoRTH to expedite the same. This year the budget has been increased by 25% of last year for this scheme and I hope that the States will take full advantage.
- It is a matter of concern that vital National Highways leading to Silchar, Imphal and Agartala by MoRTH are still not completed and we would pursue the matter.
- The construction of the rail-cum-road Bogibeel Bridge is now targeted to be completed by 2017. The bridge at Dhubri which would link the western part of Meghalaya with East-West Corridor will be commenced soon by MoRTH.
- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has proposed for declaring Barak river as National Waterways No. 6. This will help in development of waterways through the rivers of the North Eastern States.
- IWAI has also identified more than 1500 kms of navigable routes in different States in the region for further development as identified by the States. I request the States to send proposals to IWAI for developing these routes for navigation as well as for tourism.
- Construction of Inter State Bus Terminus, Kohima in Nagaland and 28.53 Kms long Silchar-Kalain Road in Assam have been completed under NEC funding.

- EFC clearance has been obtained for a new inter-state road between Assam & Arunachal Pradesh under NEC funding i.e., Pakke-Seijosa-Itakhola (86.16 Km) road for Rs. 179.92 crores.

Improvement of Airports in the NE Region

- I am also happy to announce that critical land acquisition issues have been resolved in case of Dibrugarh Airport in Assam and Imphal Airport in Manipur. This will pave the way for expansion and modernization of these airports.
- During 11th Five Year Plan period, the Tezu Airport in Arunachal Pradesh was sanctioned for Rs.79 crore and expected to be completed by December, 2015.
- The upgradation of infrastructure at Umroi (Barapani) in Meghalaya; Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Guwahati in Assam and Imphal in Manipur have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs.141.17 crore. The work of Jorhat and Guwahati are completed.
- Work at Umroi is held up due to land acquisition issues for which I request the State Government concerned to expedite the process.

Telecommunications in the NE Region

- Connecting sub-divisional head quarters by broad band needs to be taken up urgently particularly in the hill areas. The quality of cellular (mobile) services needs improvement. I urge upon the States to accord the approval to use their power lines for laying OPGW by BSNL to ensure connectivity.

b. POWER SECTOR

- There are several projects under implementation for generation of power, both hydel and thermal, in the region. With the commissioning of these projects, the north eastern region will soon have surplus power and the same would need to be evacuated outside the region. The 800 KV HVDC line will assist in evacuation of 6000 MW of power from the region which will be ready soon.
- I am happy to announce that the projects for evacuation of power and other transmission lines in this regard are started with external assistance in 6 States of the region and in case of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim the projects will be

financed solely by the Power Ministry and rest of the States through World Bank for which the scheme have been approved.

- State Load Dispatch Centres (SLDC) are important for efficient management of power supply system to and from the grid. As a Regional Planning Body, NEC has decided to facilitate establishment of SLDCs in the states which do not have such centres.
- SFC clearance has been obtained for installation of 2x20 MVA 132/133 KV sub-station at Thoubal in Manipur under NEC funding at a cost of Rs. 35.62 crore.

c. AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTOR

- Agriculture & Allied sector has processed and sanctioned various projects of regional relevance in the field of horticulture, animal husbandry, fishery, sericulture, etc.
- As observed in the NER-Vision 2020 document that the region is dependent on import of eggs, fish and milk. NEC aims to achieve self sufficiency for the region in production of these items including meat, fruits and vegetables by making regional plans.
- The highly successful livelihood project of NEC i.e., NERCORMP Phase III has already been extended to the districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding in Arunachal Pradesh and also to Chandel and Churachandpur districts in Manipur. Total estimated cost of NERCORMP III is Rs. 540 crores.
- In the NE Region, the absence of infrastructure for preservation like cold storages and marketing of agricultural and horticultural produces are major issues. NEC would like to help the State Governments in this aspect.

d. INDUSTRIES & TOURISM SECTOR

- Under the Industries Sector, NEC is focusing on development of Industrial infrastructure like Industrial Estates and Export Promotional Parks. The other thrust areas have been the handloom & handicraft, cane & bamboo and cluster development programme covering skill development, production and marketing.

- Under the Tourism sector, the main focus is to implement the recommendations of the Integrated Tourism Master Plan prepared by NEC. I would request the States to prioritize their projects for submission to Ministry of Tourism and NEC along the lines of the recommendations of the Tourism Master Plan.

e. MEDICAL & HEALTH SECTOR

- NEC is supporting the transformation of B. Borooah Cancer Institute in Guwahati, an autonomous organization under the Govt. of Assam, into a premier regional center for cancer treatment and research in partnership with the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India and Govt. of Assam.
- NEC is supporting the setting up of North Eastern Regional Multi-disciplinary Paramedical Institute at Dimapur in Nagaland at an estimated cost of Rs.49.81 crores. The institute will reduce the scarcity of skilled manpower in the paramedical sector.
- There is also a proposal for establishment of a Regional Nursing College at Hapania (Agartala) to cater to the huge demand of the nursing care professionals.

f. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT SECTOR

- To bridge the infrastructure gaps in the educational sector, NEC has been providing financial assistance for provision of hostels, science labs, provision of equipments etc. to the States.
- To address the issue of large scale migration of students outside, it would be important to focus on providing infrastructure to selected existing educational institutions in cities/towns and transform them into premier educational centres.
- In order to improve the faculty especially at university level, NEC would like to explore the possibility of introducing a scheme in consultation with the Ministry of HRD to attract good faculty from the mainland to universities in the NER by providing them monetary and non-monetary incentives.
- For mitigating the hardships and problems faced by the students studying in metro cities, the proposal for construction of a 269 seater Girl's Hostel in the Bangalore University for students from the North East has been approved.

Hostels are also being considered for JNU, Delhi University, South campus and Hindu College.

g. IRRIGATION FLOOD CONTROL & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SECTOR

- NER being located in the highest rainfall zone of the world has immense potential so far as natural water resource is concerned. The need of the hour is an Integrated Water Resource Master Plan with phase-wise implementation plans so that the water potential is used optimally for power generation, flood control and increasing agriculture productivity.
- NEC is providing support for minor water related schemes for flood control, water supply, minor irrigation, survey and investigation.

h. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

- Popularization of science and maths for school children to promote science and technology related professional courses have been identified as one of the thrust Areas for NEC.
- Utilization of Information KIOSK and GIS data packages developed by NESAC, Shillong for the NE States have been identified as reference tool for preparation of development plans by constituent States.
- The promotion of IT education in schools for students, supplementing the efforts of disaster management in the region etc are the other thrust areas.

i. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SPORTS) SECTOR

- NEC is continuing its efforts of supporting the State Governments of NER in creating sports infrastructure facilities like indoor & outdoor stadium, sports complex, play grounds etc.
- Under the scheme of 'Chairman's Sports Award for excellence in International and National Sports', NEC is providing cash awards to the medal winning athletes. I am happy to announce that in the recently concluded 35th National Games in Kerala, the Sportspersons from the NE Region won 109 medals and they will be suitably awarded by NEC.

j. INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SECTOR (Including Culture)

- Under this sector, I propose to have cultural festivals in the metros on the diversity and vibrancy of the region from time to time. On 11th April, 2015 we will be having a festival of Songs and Dances from North East in the I.G. Indoor Stadium, Delhi. This festival will showcase the rich culture and traditions of the North East and will help in strengthening the social fabric of the nation. I invite all of you to the daylong event.

k. EVALUATION & MONITORING

- Monitoring and evaluation of NEC funded projects is a continuous exercise in the NEC Secretariat. Both physical and financial achievements of these projects are regularly monitored.

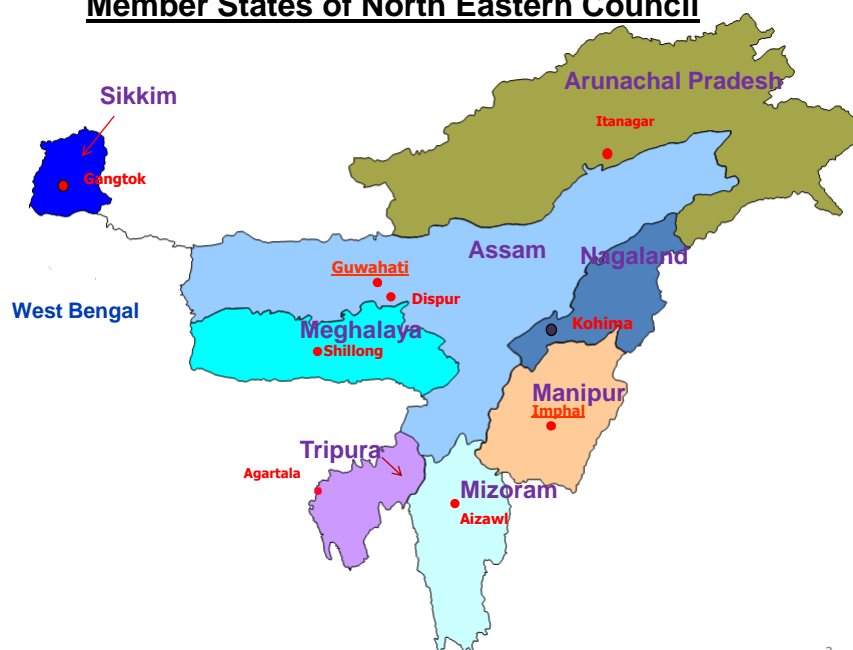
l. Conclusion:

- I look forward to a fruitful and meaningful discussion during the Plenary today and I hope that important decisions would be taken based on inputs and interventions from the Members of this august house.

64th NEC PLENARY DAY - 1 (9.04.2015)

Power Point Presentation: Secretary, NEC on the Major Issues

Member States of North Eastern Council



2

MANDATE OF THE COUNCIL

- NEC was set up in 1972 as a Statutory body under NEC Act, 1971 and after amendment in 2002 functioning as the **Regional Planning Body** for NER.
- Minister-in-charge of DoNER nominated as Chairman by the President of India
- Has Governors and Chief Ministers of all north eastern States as members.

3

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

- In the Council meetings the important developmental issues concerning the 8 NE States are discussed.
- Review of the various schemes implemented by the important Central Ministries are also done in the Council meetings.
- The Council is apprised of the new developments taken up by various Ministries in the region.

4

Developmental concerns in NER

Rail connectivity

- 1. Connectivity to all State Capital by broad gauge:** 5 capitals yet to be connected. (Imphal, Aizwal, Kohima, Shillong, Gangtok).
- 2. Providing connectivity for trade with neighbouring countries:** Rail line from Agartala to Akhaura and Chittagong (Bangladesh) and from Imphal to Moreh.
- 3. Delay in completion of Bogibeel bridge over Brahmaputra** a cause of concern.

5

Developmental concerns in NER

Road Transport & Highways

1. Completion of the East-West corridor by 2012 – now Dec 2015.
2. Connecting all State Capitals by four lane road by 2012 now??.
3. Connecting all Districts by double lane road- only 50% connected.
4. Completion of SARDP-NE Phase 'A' by 2017 be ensured. and Arunachal Package by 2018.
5. Starting of the SARDP-NE phase "B" delayed for want of funds.

6

Developmental concerns in NER

Air connectivity

1. Making Guwahati as a regional Hub envisaged in 2012.
2. All State Capitals to have an Airport (Itanagar, Gangtok, Kohima yet to get).
3. To have night Landing facilities in Aizwal and Shillong Airports.
4. To have all the non-functional Airports of the region activated by 2017.
5. To have a regional Airlines for the NER envisaged in 2012.

7

Developmental concerns in NER

Inland Waterways

1. To declare 14 major river routes in the NER as National Waterways.
Declaration of Barak River as NW already over delayed.
2. Connect Haldia with Sadia for a draft of minimum 2.50 Meter.
3. Have long term arrangement of Protocol with Bangladesh instead of yearly extensions to enable the user to plan effectively.
4. Kaladan Multi modal Project to be activated by Dec 2015.
5. Feeder routes of Brahmaputra and Barak be also developed for navigation.

8

Developmental concerns in NER

Power Sector

1. Develop Minimum 50% hydro potential in the NER by 2020.
2. PGCIL to Complete transmission system for evacuation and transmission of power in the NER by 2017.
3. To develop Storage projects to control floods in Brahmaputra and Barak.

9

Developmental concerns in NER

Telecommunication

1. To have a reliable and quality service for telecom.
2. To have broad band connection upto block level by 2017.
3. Develop a failsafe network for the region by 2017.
4. OPGW link to all Districts by 2016 for ensuring quality service.
5. Solar backup for all towers in remote areas not connected by power backup

10

Developmental concerns in NER

Look East/ Act East Policy

1. Have Container enabled Trilateral, BCIM and Asian Highway No 1 by 2017
to have effective land trade with ASEAN Countries.
2. Develop the Stillwell road, Moreh to Mandalay, Rih to Tiddim road, Awankhu to Layshi and link the Sittwe port with road from Aizwal.
3. Develop the Major Highways of the region as Economic corridors in the NER.
4. Develop Common Economic Zones with neighbouring Countries.
5. Speedy implementation of integrated Check posts.
6. Easing of Visa processing.
7. Improvement of infrastructure of land custom stations and border haats.

11

Developmental concerns of NER

Tourism

1. Tourism Master Plan for NER prepared by NEC already accepted by M/o Tourism- Implementation road map not known.

Financial Services and Banking

1. Improvement in CD ratio.
2. Opening up of more bank branches for financial inclusion
3. Implementation status of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

Developmental concerns of NER

Human Resource Development Issues

1. Establishment of Institutes of Excellence in the NE Region.
2. Prevent large scale migration of students from the NE Region.

Skill Development

1. Empowerment of the youth of the NE Region through job oriented training.
2. Creation of employment opportunities in the region.
3. High expectation from the newly created Ministry of Skill Development.

THANK YOU



**POWER POINT PRESENTATION ON
REPORT OF SECRETARY, NEC**

FOR THE

64th MEETING OF NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

9th and 10th April, 2015

SCOPE Auditorium
SCOPE Complex, 7 Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003

STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION

- Outlay of 12 FYP
- Annual allocation of NEC during 12 FYP
- Decreasing annual plan allocation for NEC
- Sector-wise fund requirement
- Highlights of 2014-15
- Action Plan of major projects for 2015-16
- Revision of NEC General Guidelines
- Challenges faced by NEC

YEAR-WISE ALLOCATION DURING THE 12TH PLAN

Rs. in Crore									
Sl. No	Sector	12th FYP (2012-17) Distribution of GBS	Allocation for the Annual Plan				Total	% of 2015-16	6108 Crore
			2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16			Balance for 2016-17
1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
I	Agri & Allied	425.99	80.00	80.18	98.18	94.00	352.36	12.16%	73.63
II	Power & RRE	1135.98	74.00	74.00	41.00	70.00	259.00	9.06%	876.98
III	IFC & WSM	227.20	39.50	33.00	30.00	32.00	134.50	4.14%	92.70
IV	Industries	341.64	11.00	24.61	9.23	31.00	75.84	4.01%	265.80
V	Tourism	142.00	24.90	28.05	5.22	30.80	88.97	3.98%	53.03
VI	Trpt. & Com.	2732.04	396.80	324.05	291.97	341.05	1353.87	44.12%	1378.17
VII	Health	454.39	47.00	38.50	29.82	44.77	160.09	5.79%	294.30
VIII	HRD & E	454.39	70.50	73.50	43.12	87.50	274.62	11.32%	179.77
IX	S & T	129.50	17.50	17.93	23.29	26.60	85.32	3.44%	44.18
X	IPR	56.80	6.30	5.40	5.29	13.27	30.26	1.72%	26.54
XI	E & M	8.07	2.50	0.78	1.88	2.01	7.17	0.26%	0.90
GRAND TOTAL		6108.00	770.00	700.00	579.00	773.00	2822.00	100.00%	3286.00 (53.80%)

3

YEAR-WISE EXPENDITURE DURING 12TH FIVE YEAR PLAN

Sl. No	Sectors	Releases made during (In Rs. crore)					
		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
		Alloc	Expdn	Alloc	Expdn	Alloc	Expdn
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
I	Agri & Allied	80.00	77.34	80.18	81.98	98.25	98.25
II	Power & RRE	74.00	66.50	74.00	73.65	40.43	40.43
III	IFC & WSM	39.50	36.19	33.00	45.84	30.00	30.00
IV	Industries	11.00	11.50	24.61	24.16	9.23	9.23
V	Tourism	24.90	21.99	28.05	30.64	5.58	5.58
VI	Trpt. & Comm.	396.80	368.40	324.05	319.84	292.54	292.53
VII	Health	47.00	45.92	38.50	26.81	29.82	29.82
VIII	HRD & E	70.50	76.82	73.50	69.70	42.69	42.69
IX	S & T	17.50	17.44	17.93	17.69	23.29	23.29
X	IPR	6.30	8.89	5.40	7.05	5.29	5.29
XI	E & M	2.50	1.76	0.78	0.69	1.88	1.87
	Total	770.00	732.75 (95.16%)	700.00	698.05 (99.72%)	579.00	578.98 (99.99%)

§ Budget for 2014-15 was cut by 25% resulting in RE figure of Rs.579 crore.

4

DECREASING ANNUAL PLAN ALLOCATION

Rs. in Crore

Financial Year	Alloc.	Amount Released			% of Released	
		New	Ongoing	Total	New	Ongoing
2012-13	770	280.54	452.22	732.76	38.29%	61.71%
2013-14	700	136.78	561.27	698.05	19.59%	80.41%
2014-15	579	71.37	507.61	578.98	12.33%	87.67%
2015-16	773	-	-	-	-	-

1. Decreasing Annual Plan allocation
2. Decreasing availability of funds for new projects
3. Non availability of sufficient funds for taking up new road projects. No roads taken up of the 12th FYP recommended roads.

5

SECTOR-WISE FUND REQUIREMENT OF NEC

(Rs. In Crore)

Sl. No	Sector	No. of Projects	Approved Cost	Release Break-up	Utilization Break-up	% Utilization	Status of State Share released	Committed Liability
1	AGRI & ALLIED	78	1066.77	354.33	259.66	73.28%	5.01	681.44
2	POWER	54	476.65	279.61	216.31	77.36%	9.26	149.38
3	IFC & WSM	80	356.10	223.26	163.33	73.16%	14.53	97.73
4	INDUSTRIES	23	113.23	65.13	38.13	58.54%	0.90	38.70
5	TOURISM	37	146.14	89.18	56.59	63.45%	3.26	43.49
6	TRPT. & COMM.	53	3334.60	1983.88	1695.61	85.47%	147.00	1005.02
7	HEALTH	55	404.84	211.26	143.76	68.05%	9.30	110.74
8	HRD&E	98	416.76	226.07	123.70	54.72%	5.81	158.07
10	S & T	38	145.58	87.19	63.13	72.40%	2.07	51.61
11	IPR	11	48.31	20.43	5.90	28.88%	0.37	23.27
	TOTAL	527	6508.98	3540.34	2766.10	78.13%	197.50	2359.45

6

Highlights of 2014-15

- **Completed 3 Hangars at Guwahati airport. Guwahati can be a regional hub once aircrafts are stationed by airlines.**
- **Apron extension at Jorhat Airport completed.**
- **Runway of Tezu Airport completed.**
- **Night landing facilities available at all operational airports of AAI.**
- **VGF with AA started in 2014-15 and extended for 2015-16.**

7

Highlights of 2014-15 (Contd-2)

- **One major inter-State roads listed in the 11th FYP namely Pakke Seijusa – Itakhola road (length 83 km inter-state with Assam and Arunachal Pradesh) approved for Rs.190 crore.**
- **Completed 5 road projects having total road length of 96.71 kms.**
- **Completed 8 power projects having 60 MVA sub-station capacity and 120 CKms.**

8

Highlights of 2014-15 (Contd-3)

- Setting up of Girls Hostel in Bangalore University for North Eastern Students at the cost of Rs.13.85 crore. Sanctioned and first instalment released.
- Completed more than 50% of identification of target groups under North Eastern Regional Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP) Phase III.

9

Action Plan of major projects for 2015-16

AIR CONNECTIVITY

CREATION OF AIRPORT HUBS:

Two Hangars for accommodating in Boeing A-321 aircraft each at Dibrugarh and Imphal is under consideration. The cost of Rs. 56.75 crore would be shared between NEC and Airport Authority of India in the ratio of 60:40.

EXTENSION OF RUN WAY: This work at Umroi Airport in Shillong will cost Rs.175 crore. Revised DPR awaited from AAI. Land acquisition to be cleared by State.

10

Action Plan of major projects for 2015-16 (2)

IMPLEMENTATION OF TOURISM MASTER PLAN:

The Integrated Tourism Master Plan prepared by NEC to be implemented by M/o Tourism and State Governments. 33 regional circuits have been recommended. Nine (9) regional circuits are to be taken up in the first instant. States have been advised to propose the regional circuits to M/o Tourism. **NEC will fund the critical infrastructure gap wherever required.**

11

Action Plan of major projects for 2015-16 (3)

NE REGIONAL PARAMEDICAL INSTITUTE IN NAGALAND:

Sanctioned a project for Setting up of North East Regional Multi Disciplinary Paramedical Institute at Dimapur in Nagaland for Rs.49.81 crore. Rs.14.14 crore released so far. **For 2015-16, Rs.6.43 crore to be released.** Total expected seats on completion will be 300 in 15 courses. Seats to be shared between host State and other 7 NE States in the ratio of 40:60.

Dr. BB Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati:

Supported by DAE, Govt. of Assam and NEC for Rs.77.64 crore. NEC share is Rs.27.03 crore, of which Rs.14.14 crore released so far. **For 2015-16, Rs.12.89 crore to be released.**

Establishment of Regional College of Nursing at Hapania, Tripura: In-principle approved. Revised DPR awaited.

12

Action Plan of major projects for 2015-16 (4)

HOSTELS IN METROS:

- Construction of Hostel for the NE Students at JNU, Delhi. Draft SFC Memo to be circulated by Ministry of DoNER.
- Construction of Hostel for the NE Students at DU, South Campus to be situated in Ramanujan College.

REVISION OF ESTIMATES FOR ROADS:

- Kynshi-Mirza road (50 Km), Meghalaya at the cost of Rs.92.56 crore under process for sanction. **Comments of MORTH awaited.**
- Rymbai-Bataw-Borghat-Jalalpur (46.60 Km), Meghalaya at the cost of Rs.97.91 crore. **Held up due to border dispute over land.**

13

Action Plan of major projects for 2015-16 (5)

INTER-STATE TRUCK TERMINUS:

Inter-State Truck Terminus at Shillong was approved in-principle Shillong at the cost of Rs. 26.00 crore. State advised by SFC to revise DPR. **Revised DPR awaited.**

POWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT:

Construction of SLDC at Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland retained. **DPRs awaited.**

14

PROPOSED REFORMS IN SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES OF NEC

Revision of NEC General Guidelines of 2010 (Approved in the 58th Plenary):

The proposal was placed in the 63rd Plenary and as advised it was circulated to all concerned.

- Comprehensive revision of NEC General Guidelines and Policy Framework and Scheme guidelines.
- **New provisions included in revised guidelines for -**
 - (a) Constitution of an Executive Committee for high level monitoring
 - (b) Preparation of Regional Plans on identified areas
 - (c) Having Shelf of Projects
 - (d) New schemes and guidelines for sectors

15

Major challenges faced by NEC

- Support from the Government for enabling NEC to function as a Regional Planning Body –
 - Filling up senior posts lying vacant;
 - Speedy processing of projects requiring SFC/EFC approval.
- Providing adequate funds to NEC for completion of ongoing projects and taking up of new projects of regional character.

16

THANK YOU





**REPORT OF
SECRETARY, NEC**

FOR THE

64TH MEETING

OF

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

(15th Meeting as the Statutory Regional Planning Body for the NER)

On the

9th & 10th APRIL, 2015

At the

**SCOPE AUDITORIUM, SCOPE COMPLEX
7- LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI**

REPORT OF SECRETARY, NEC TO THE 64th COUNCIL

SECTION – I

General Issues

Hon'ble Chairman, Hon'ble Governors, Hon'ble Chief Ministers, Ministers and other Members of the Council, senior officials of the Union Ministries and Member States of NEC, I welcome all of you to the 64th Meeting of the North Eastern Council.

I am privileged to be a part of this august gathering for the third time and I convey my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairman and all the Hon'ble Members of the Council for the guidance and support that have been extended to the NEC Secretariat.

2. Structure of the Report:

The report of Secretary includes important events and initiatives, major projects and schemes that have taken place during 2014-15 upto 31st March, 2015, some concerns for the attention of the Members of the Council, review of the annual plan 2014-15, major challenges faced by NEC and sectoral allocation for annual plan 2015-16. Section – II of the report deals with the performance during the 12th FYP under Annual Plan 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.

(i) Important events and initiatives:

(a) Regional Plan meetings

NEC has been mandated under the Act to work as a Regional Planning Body. During May and June 2014 a series of meetings on Regional Planning was held under the Chairmanship of the nominated Members concerned in NEC for all the sectors, i.e. agriculture & allied, education, skill development, sports and youth activities, industries, tourism, irrigation & flood control and water management, power and health. State Government officials, representatives from the Ministries and Central organisations, experts, NGOs etc participated in these meetings. An indicative list of areas for proposing projects towards common regional objectives to be included in the Annual Priority list of the NE States have been communicated to the States.

(b) Review meetings held at NEC, Shillong:

Meetings were held under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, NEC during and June 2014 to review the progress of works in all the sectors, i.e. agriculture & allied, education, skill development, sports and youth activities, industries, tourism, transport & communication, irrigation & flood control and water management, power and health. The meetings were attended by State Government officials, representatives from the Ministries and Central organisations. The progress of various projects, utilization certificates to be submitted, funds required for release during the financial year, completion dates of projects, State share contribution, implementation problems etc. were discussed and reviewed in these meetings.

(c) Meetings for short listing of projects from the priority lists of 2014-15 with the State Governments:

From the year 2013-14, the Planning Commission started a new procedure of allocating the funds under NEC budget to the 8 NE States. It was found that the aggregate of NEC funds allocated to the NE States exceeded the budgetary provision by Rs.167.46 crore in 2013-14 and by Rs.258.13 crore in 2014-15. Further, the divisible funds available with NEC is smaller than the budgeted provision as NEC provides funds for regional services like Viability Gap Funding to Alliance Air for the regional air services and for setting up regional institutes which cannot be allocated to the State Governments. Furthermore, since 2013-14, there has been cuts in the NEC budget which went down from Rs.770 crore to Rs.700 crore in 2013-14 and from Rs.770 crore to Rs.579 crore in 2014-15 reducing the availability of divisible funds for the States even further. Compounding the problem further is the static size and the reducing of plan allocation during each year of the 12th FYP period. As a result of the low availability of funds, NEC has no option but to give priority to the demands for release of funds for ongoing projects which has been increasing steadily every year. The share of funds released against NEC's budget for ongoing projects were 61.71% in 2012-13, 80.41% in 2013-14 and 87.67% in 2014-15 leaving hardly any funds for taking up new projects. The situation faced by NEC was explained in meetings with each State Government attended by the Chief Secretary / senior officers and they were requested to short list a few projects from the priority list of 2014-15 to make the task of the Standing Committee for Retention of Projects in NEC easier and this was done by a few States.

(d) 63rd NEC Plenary held in Shillong:

After a gap of about ten years, a NEC Plenary meeting was held in Shillong in the NEC Auditorium. The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of NE States. One of the recommendations of the Plenary was to hold a two day meeting of the Council and this has been done for the 64th NEC Plenary.

(e) Revision of NEC-General Guidelines and Policy Framework and Scheme Guidelines:

It has been five years since the NEC-General Guidelines and Sectoral Guidelines which was approved in the 58th Plenary held in 2010 has been in operation. The NEC Secretariat has carried out an exhaustive exercise of revising and redrafting the guidelines. These Guidelines contain Policy Framework and Scheme Guidelines of all the sectors in NEC and the same was placed as an agenda in the 63rd Plenary. However, as Hon'ble Members wanted more time for examination and consideration of the agenda, the same was circulated again to all concerned inviting comments and suggestions. The suggestions and comments received have been taken into account and the agenda is being placed for consideration and approval in the 64th Plenary. The details are in the Agenda Note.

(f) Seminars, Conferences and consultations towards preparation of regional plans:

- A two days conference was held on 17-18th Feb, 2015 at the NEC Secretariat, Shillong in association with NERIWALM, Tezpur. Participants from all the States of the NER, except Tripura and Arunachal participated including important institution like - IIT Guwahati, NIT Manipur & Shillong, Officers from Central Water Commission, Shillong, North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam and other representative of various Implementing Agencies of the States of NER were present. The Conference covered a wide range of sub-themes - like drinking water, investigation, modeling, national water mission, river basin planning, hydropower, etc. - within its two days deliberations and finally in its concluding session worked out a draft recommendation.
- National Seminar on Improving Learning Outcomes at School Level: Issues in Policy Planning and Implementation was organized by North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE), Shillong. In the seminar major issues and challenge associated with school education of the country in general and that of N.E. Region in particular were discussed and the stakeholders such as teachers, students, teacher educators,

administrators and NGO representatives participated. The report of the seminars will be used by NEC for making a Regional Plan for improving the standard of education at the school level.

- NEC also supported an International Conference on Quality of Higher Education in India and Global Context organized by the Department of Education, North Eastern Hills University (NEHU) in Shillong. The challenges and bottlenecks of higher education sector including issues of North Eastern Region were discussed in the seminar and will help NEC towards developing an action plan for higher education sector in the region.
- LOOK EAST BUSINESS SHOW – 2015 was held from 26th - 28th February 2015 at Shillong, Meghalaya. North Eastern Council was an event partner in the Look East Business Show – 2015 which was organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Govt. of Meghalaya. NEC had set up an NEC Pavilion which showcased the projects assisted by NEC in the North Eastern Region. A total of ten NEC assisted projects participated in the event. The event was highly successful and was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Dr. Mukul Sangma and was attended by Hon'ble Minister Tourism, Cambodia, Tith Chantha, Dr. Edmund Chia, Deputy High Commissioner of Singapore and others. Parallel business sessions & panel discussions were also held on Education and Skill Development, Tourism and Connectivity,
- NORTH EAST SPORTS CONCLAVE held in Imphal, Manipur, North Eastern Council had supported the North East Sports Conclave which was a seminar on scopes and potential of North East India in sports. The seminar saw participation of sportspersons, sports administrators and Government officials where the issues of developing sports in the region for improving medal prospects as well for employment generation were discussed.
- Meeting was held with NESAC for taking up projects for mapping of areas suitable in the NER for plantation of nut bearing trees such as almond, walnut, chestnuts, cashew nuts etc.; fruit trees like apple, kiwi, apricot, oranges, pineapple, etc.
- Meeting was held with ICAR, Shillong for designing a programme for intensification of cultivation of nuts like almond, walnut, chestnuts, hazelnut, cashew nuts etc.; fruit trees like apple, kiwi, apricot, oranges, pineapple, etc. by supporting nurseries for multiplication and distribution of planting materials through KVKs.

(g) Geographical Indications (GI) tag for unique crops:

NEC had taken up an innovative project through NERAMAC for Geographical Indications (GI) tag of ten unique crops of North East. Out of this, nine crops have been given GI registration by the GI Registry Authority. These nine crops are Tezpur Litchi and Assam Karbi Anglong Ginger (Assam); Khasi Mandarin (Meghalaya); Kachai Lemon (Manipur); Mizo Chilli (Mizoram); Arunachal Orange (Arunachal Pradesh); Tree Tomato (Nagaland); Large Cardamom (Sikkim) and Queen Pineapple (Tripura). These crops were identified by the respective State Directorate of Horticulture. With these GI registration tag, farmers and clusters of the produces will get a huge momentum in branding their product for marketing both in domestic and international markets.

(ii) Major Projects and Schemes taken up

(a) Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for air connectivity in NER

A scheme for providing the Viability Gap Funding in improving the air connectivity in the region by the Alliance Air has been approved for period upto 31 March 2016. The Viability Gap Funding scheme will be for an amount of Rs 124.02 crore on “Cost minus Revenue” formula as recommended by the B K Chaturvedi Committee. The scheme shall include connecting the Airports of Silchar, Tezpur, Lilabari, Shillong and Dimapur. Initially Alliance Air has provided connectivity to Shillong, Lilabari, Tezpur and Silchar. Other sectors which are not connected by any other airlines can be considered once the second aircraft is inducted for the NER by the Alliance Air since the scheme permits adding of other sectors depending on the availability of funds. However, due to low allocation of funds for NEC, difficulties are being faced for payment of existing liabilities and it may not be financially viable to add more sectors. Suggestions have been made to Ministry of Civil Aviation to improve air connectivity in the region within their own resources and by implementation of the Route Dispersal Guidelines.

(b) Operationalising Guwahati airport as a Regional Hub:

Hangers at Guwahati Airport jointly funded by NEC and AAI in the ratio of 60:40 have been completed. Alliance Air has been requested to station its aircraft at Guwahati so that flights originate from Guwahati instead of Kolkata.

(c) Construction of Hangars for airports in NER

Two hangars for accommodating one Boeing A-321 aircraft each at Dibrugarh and Imphal are under consideration. The cost of two Hangars is Rs 56.75 crore and it will be shared between NEC and Airport Authority of India in the ratio of 60:40. These hangars would enable parking and maintenance facility to aircrafts at Dibrugarh and Imphal Airports which will enable them to become hubs. The SFC proposal is with the Ministry of DoNER.

(d) Roads recommended in the 11th FYP to be taken up during 12th FYP

In view of the low annual plan allocations during the first three years of the 12th FYP, no new road projects have been taken up by NEC. Even for the 4th year of the 12th FYP, the annual allocation has not improved. Only four new roads from the 11th FYP period list of roads have been proposed for implementation during the 12 FYP. Of these, Pakke in Arunachal Pradesh to Seijosa - Itakhola in Assam, connecting the NH-52 with the Trans-Arunachal Highway with road length of 86.16 KM for an amount of Rs 179.92 crore has been approved for implementation. One road namely Kynsi – Mirza with a road length of 50 kms for Rs.98.80 crore connecting Meghalaya with Assam is with the Ministry of DoNER for consideration of EFC. Two other roads namely (i) Rymbai – Batwa – Jalapur with road length of 46.6 km connecting Meghalaya and Assam and (ii) Teliamurah - Amarapur – Jatanbari of 64.97 km in Tripura have been circulated for inter-ministerial consultation.

(e) Implementation of NERCORMP-II

NERCORMP Phase - II which is implemented in two districts each of Manipur, Meghalaya and Assam has reached the final year of implementation. In the final year, the gains made will be consolidated by formation of federations and associations at the district level so that the activities of the projects are sustained through them.

(f) Implementation of NERCORMP-III

NERCORMP Phase – III is under implementation from January, 2014 in two more districts in Manipur and three districts in Arunachal Pradesh for covering a total of 1177 villages benefiting 58,850 households. The project has been approved for Rs.540 crore with Rs.100 crore from beneficiaries/financial institutions and Rs.40 crore from M/o RD under NRLM. The project has completed the activities of establishing SHGs and Narmgs including release of revolving funds to SHGs and recruitment of Partner NGOs in the first set of

villages. These activities will be started for the next and final set of villages in 2015-16. NEC has released Rs. 26.00 crore during 2014-15 and has provided funds for 2015-16. Ministry of Rural Development is yet to release funds and it is crucial that their share is released during 2015-16 to sustain the momentum.

(iii) Some concerns for attention of the Members of the Council

(a) Decline in FYP outlays of NEC

It was noted with concern that the approved outlay for NEC of Rs.6108 crore for the 12th FYP was lower than the approved outlay of Rs.7394 crore for the preceding plan i.e. 11th FYP. Again, it has been observed that the funds allocated during the Five Year Plan period falls short of the approved outlays. The table below shows that there have been consistent shortfalls in release of allocations to NEC against the approved outlays for each of the FYPs since the 4th FYP.

(Rs. in crore)

Five Year Plan	Approved Outlay (GBS)	Actual Allocation	Shortfall (%)
i	ii	iii	iv
4 TO 9 FYP	2450.00	2114.00	13.71%
th 10 FYP	3500.00	2511.50	28.24%
th 11 FYP	7394.00	3248.00	56.07%
th 12 FYP	6108.00	2822.00 (first four years)	57.76% (Balance available for release in the last year of 12th FYP is Rs.3286 crore)

(b) Static annual allocations for NEC during three years of the 12th Five Year Plan

Against an outlay of Rs.6108 crore approved for NEC for the 12th Five Year Plan, the annual allocations for four financial years have been Rs.2822 crore leaving a balance of Rs.3286 crore for the final year of the 12FYP. It may be observed that the shortfall against pro-rata annual allocation has been very high as a result the balance amount left for the final year of the 12 FYP is as high as Rs.3286 crore i.e. 53.8 % of the 12 FYP outlay. The table below shows the position:-

(Rs. in Crore)				
Years	Allocation	Expenditure	Percentage of annual plan released	Shortfall against pro-rata yearly allocation of Rs.1221.60 cr.
2012-13 (RE)	770	732.76	95.16 %	451.60
2013-14 (RE)	700	698.05	99.72 %	521.60
2014-15 (RE)	579	578.98	99.99%	642.60
2015-16 (BE)	773	-	-	-
Total	2822	2009.79		
Balance available for release in the last year of 12th FYP	3286			

(c) Decreasing fund availability for new projects during the 12th FYP:

Due to the low annual allocation of plan funds during the 12 FYP period, emphasis has been given for completion of on-going projects and their share has been steadily rising. The table below gives the position:-

Year	Amount Release (Rs. in Crore)			Percentage (%) of Released	
	New	Ongoing	Total	New	Ongoing
2012-13	280.54	452.22	732.76	38.29%	61.71%
2013-14	136.78	561.27	698.05	19.59%	80.41%
2014-15*	71.37	507.61	578.98	12.33%	87.67%

It may be observed from the above table that (i) the Annual Plan allocation has been decreasing and (ii) the availability of funds for new projects is dwindling as the demands for releases for ongoing funds have to be given priority leaving a small balance for taking up new projects as there has been no increase in the annual allocations.

(d) Non-filling up of crucial senior level posts in NEC:

Two senior level posts in NEC recruited under the Central Staffing Scheme through the Ministry of DoNER namely the post of Director (Administration) and Planning Adviser have been vacant since February and October, 2014 respectively and have still not been filled up. Regional Planning is an important activity for NEC Secretariat to be organised and coordinated by the Planning Adviser. Director (Administration) is required to look into the

management of the staff and the assets of NEC. In-charge arrangements in NEC have been continuing for several years due to difficulties in filling up vacant posts and such arrangements have affected the functioning of the sectors and needs to be stopped by filling up the vacancies.

(v) Brief review of Annual Plan of NEC for 2014-15

During 2014-15, NEC was allocated plan fund of Rs.770 crore but the Ministry of Finance imposed a 24.80% budget curtailment and the allocation now stands at Rs.579 crore. NEC has achieved an expenditure of Rs.578.98 crore (99.99%) in 2014-15.

The table below shows the State-wise releases made during 2014-15 including the number of outstanding Utilization Certificates and unspent balances with the State Governments.

State	Amount released during 2014-15	(Rs. in crore)	
		No. of Outstanding UCs	Amount of Unspent Balance
Arunachal Pradesh	62.21	50	51.94
Assam	46.05	67	92.41
Manipur	48.03	36	57.93
Meghalaya	56.11	24	58.33
Mizoram	36.81	28	42.10
Nagaland	93.03	30	68.92
Sikkim	33.97	25	39.95
Tripura	61.79	11	7.23
Other agencies	140.98	13	11.09
GRAND TOTAL	578.98	284	429.90

The efforts for the States should be to reduce the amount of unspent balance with them, furnish utilization certificates for release of the subsequent instalment for completion of ongoing projects.

(vi) Major challenges faced by NEC:

NEC Secretariat needs to be supported by the Government for enabling it to function as a Regional Planning Body. These will include strengthening of NEC Secretariat by facilitating filling up senior posts lying vacant; speedy processing of projects requiring SFC/EFC approval

and providing adequate plan budget to NEC for enabling release of sufficient funds for completion of ongoing projects and for taking up new projects of regional character.

(vii) Sectoral allocation under Annual Plan of NEC for 2015-16

(a) Sector-wise distribution of resources for 2015-16

A separate agenda for approval of the annual plan of NEC for 2015-16 is placed before the 64th Plenary. The annual plan of NEC for Rs.773 crore for 2015-16 is proposed to be allocated as follows:-

Sl. No	Sectors	Budget 2015-16 (Rs. in crore)	Percentage
1	AGRICULTURE & ALLIED	94.00	12.16
2	POWER & RRE	70.00	9.06
3	WATER DEVELOPMENT	32.00	4.14
4	INDUSTRIES	31.00	4.01
5	TOURISM	30.80	3.98
6	TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION	341.05	44.12
7	MEDICAL & HEALTH	44.77	5.79
8	HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT	87.50	11.32
9	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	26.60	3.44
10	INFORMATION, PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS	13.27	1.72
11	EVALUATION & MONITORING	2.01	0.26
	Total	773.00	100.00

SECTION – II

Performance during the 12th FYP under Annual Plans of 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15:

The expenditure incurred by NEC in the first year of the 12th FYP (2012-13) was Rs.732.76 crore against the RE budget provision of Rs.770 crore. Of this, the total release for ongoing projects was Rs. 452.22 crore (61.71%) and Rs.280.54 crore (38.29%) for new projects. For the second year of the 12th FYP (2013-14), an expenditure of Rs.698.05 crore was made against RE budget provision of Rs.700 crore and 561.27 (80.41%) was for ongoing projects while Rs.136.78 crore (19.59%) for new projects. In respect of the third year of the 12th FYP (2014-15) as of 31.3.2015 an expenditure of Rs. 578.98 (99.99%) crore is made so far against RE budget provision of Rs.579 crore of which 87.67 % is for ongoing projects and 12.33 % for new projects.

Financial Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Amount Release (Rs. in Crore)			Percentage (%) of Released	
		New	Ongoing	Total	New	Ongoing
2012-13 (RE)	770	280.54	452.22	732.76	38.29%	61.71%
2013-14 (RE)	700	136.78	561.27	698.05	19.59%	80.41%
2014-15 (RE)	579	71.37	507.61	578.98	12.33%	87.67%
2015-16 (BE)	773	-	-	-	-	-

Sector-wise releases of funds under NEC Plan during the first three years of the 12th Five Year Plan i.e. Annual Plan for 2012-13, 2013-14 and for 2014-15 is at **Annexure-I**.

The details of projects with NEC are given in the table below:

STATE-WISE STATUS OF ONGOING NEC PROJECTS (Rs. 2 CRORE & ABOVE) (28-02-2015)

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No	Sector	No. of Projects	Approved Cost	Release Break-up	Utilization Break-up	% Utilization	Status of State Share released	Committed Liability
1	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	103	78043.26	52896.15	43248.39	81.76%	2822.62	17371.18
2	ASSAM	64	77453.28	52718.93	41838.91	79.36%	2940.90	17052.00
3	MANIPUR	71	67806.01	30434.77	20672.83	67.93%	1574.16	30900.86
4	MEGHALAYA	57	63929.72	39230.16	31404.25	80.05%	3252.49	18500.70
5	MIZORAM	50	69663.99	32247.62	24908.45	77.24%	2030.34	30652.18
6	NAGALAND	81	83310.76	48530.43	36540.87	75.29%	2930.80	26722.25
7	SIKKIM	47	33339.75	21729.36	16034.42	73.79%	1087.21	8360.28
8	TRIPURA	24	40318.22	30576.40	26956.18	88.16%	3111.03	5730.00
9	OTHER AGENCIES	30	137032.68	45670.44	35006.19	76.65%	0.00	80655.65
#	TOTAL	527	650897.67	354034.26	276610.49	78.13%	19749.55	235945.09

SECTOR-WISE STATUS OF ONGOING NEC PROJECTS (Rs. 2 CRORE & ABOVE) (28-02-2015)

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No	Sector	No. of Projects	Approved Cost	Release Break-up	Utilization Break-up	% Utilization	Status of State Share released	Committed Liability
1	AGRI & ALLIED	78	106676.52	35433.46	25965.84	73.28%	500.53	68144.39
2	POWER	54	47665.25	27960.68	21630.72	77.36%	925.61	14938.05
3	IFC & WSM	80	35610.07	22325.90	16332.82	73.16%	1453.34	9773.16
4	INDUSTRIES	23	11322.91	6512.88	3812.79	58.54%	90.43	3870.27
5	TOURISM	37	14614.41	8918.17	5658.56	63.45%	325.56	4349.34
6	TRANSPORT. & COMM.	53	333459.99	198388.02	169560.88	85.47%	14699.69	100502.27
7	MEDICAL & HEALTH	55	40483.73	21125.75	14375.96	68.05%	929.91	11073.55
8	HRD&E (EDU. & SOCIAL)	48	20905.15	10672.33	5663.08	53.06%	249.62	8645.99
9	HRD&E(SPORTS)	50	20771.01	11934.88	6706.95	56.20%	330.90	7160.84
10	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	38	14557.58	8719.04	6312.89	72.40%	206.96	5160.63
11	IPR	11	4831.05	2043.15	590.00	28.88%	37.00	2326.60
	TOTAL	527	650897.67	354034.26	276610.49	78.13%	19749.55	235945.09

Sectoral Achievements during 2014-15

I. AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTOR

After the last Council meeting of NEC, Agriculture & Allied sector has processed and sanctioned projects that have regional relevance and to visualize the vision 2020 documents. A number of proposals on development of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry (piggery, duckery, and poultry), Fishery, Sericulture etc. have been received from the member States and other autonomous institutions located in the NER.

Given, the potentiality of the NER in the areas of promotion of Agriculture, Horticulture and its allied areas, NEC has released funds to the following projects in 2014-15. These are

- (a) Establishment of Hi-Tech Garden of Mandarin Orange, guava and Large Cardamom Garden under Tegiso, Naya Happa of Pech village in Papumpare District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- (b) Promotion and Development of Cash Crop in Arunachal Pradesh.
- (c) Implementation of Community based Plantation of Large Cardamom, Walnut, William pears, Ginger and Chilly at Lazu and Dadam Circle under Tirap District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- (d) Beekeeping and Honey Development in Nagaland Phase-II project of Nagaland was sanctioned following the successful implementation of Phase-I project. The project is implemented by the Nagaland Bee and Honey Mission (NBHM).
- (e) NEC has supported another project viz. Establishment of Bee-Keeping Unit and processing units of honey in Various District of Arunachal Pradesh

As regards Agriculture Marketing, Sector has sanctioned and released 1st installment fund towards the project.

- (a) Organizing 11th State level Orange Festival & Craft Exhibition at Tamenglong District HQ, Manipur.
- (b) Under this scheme NEC has released the 2nd installment of the project viz. Setting up of 1000 MT Capacity Multipurpose Cold Storage at Amarpur, Tripura

Under the Scheme of Animal Husbandry and fisheries, NEC has been funding various ongoing projects to the member States to meet the demand of meat, milk, eggs and fish products. This step will minimize the dependence of NE states on fish imports from outside/ neighbouring States in the near future. In view of the region's huge gap between demand and supply in the

areas of Animal Husbandry & Livestock products, NEC has sanctioned and released the 1st installment towards the following projects during 2014-15. These are

- (a) Strengthening of Central Hatchery, Nirjuli, Arunachal Pradesh.
- (b) Development of Paddy cum Fish Culture, Nagaland.
- (c) For tapping the vast potential of Sericulture and as a promotion of Sericulture in the region, NEC has sanctioned one project viz. Up gradation of Sericulture institute Titabor, Assam during 2014-15.

NERCORMP, a joint livelihood project of NEC and IFAD is implementing various Agricultural and Allied activities in the States of Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya. Seeing the success of NERCORMP-II livelihood project, NERCORMP –III project has been approved by the Govt. of India and launched in January, 2014 in 3 districts of Arunachal Pradesh and 2 districts of Manipur.

NERCORMP-III has already been approved and launched with a total approved cost of Rs 54000.00 lakhs during 2014-15, NEC has released Rs 26.00 Cr towards the NERCORMP-III projects.

II. POWER

Achievements made during 2014-15 after the 63rd Council Meeting:

- Sanction of the project “Installation of 2X 20 MVA, 132 kV Sub-Station along with associated 132kV LILO lines & related works at Thoubal, Manipur “accorded by the M/o DoNER vide OM F No.1/1/2011-DONER (NEC), dated 28th January, 2015 at an estimated cost of Rs.3561.58 lakhs. The formal Administrative Approval was issued by NEC vide letter No. NEC/POW/565/MANI/2013-14/5020, dated 05th February, 2015 along with release of Rs.100.00 lakhs as 1st installment vide letter No. NEC/POW/565/MANI/2013-14/5021, dated 05th February, 2015.
- 1 (one) No. of System Improvement project in Nagaland has been completed and commissioned successfully.

Financial Year 2014-15:

- (a) An amount of Rs.4042.54 lakhs has been made available to the North Eastern States for completing the ongoing projects and for taking-up new projects out of the allotted budget BE Rs.7400.00 lakhs (RE- Rs.4100.00 lakhs).

- (b) A total of 8 (eight) projects (Meghalaya-3, Mizoram-4 and Nagaland-1) has been completed and commissioned leaving no liabilities from NEC.
- (c) 3 (three) new power projects has been taken up in the State of Manipur (2 Nos.) and Tripura (1 No.).

III. IRRIGATION, FLOOD CONTROL & WSM SECTOR

Introduction:

IFC&WSM Sector is looking after the water related schemes of the NEC such as Flood Control & Anti-Erosion works, Minor Irrigation Projects, Water Supply, Survey & Investigation of HEP and others Multi-Purposes River Valley Projects, Water Shed Management and other River Management works. All these Schemes have been classified within the following four approved Schemes under the MH-3601 and the respective Object Head with the allocation as mentioned below for 2014-15:

1. Implementation of Anti-erosion/Flood Control & River Management and Water Related Schemes	Rs.19.98 Crores
2. Survey & Investigation of HEP/MPP and Water Supply related Schemes	Rs. 2.00 Crores
3. Implementation of All Types of minor/micro Irrigation Schemes	Rs. 7.13 Crores
4. Implementation of Watershed Management Schemes	Rs. 0.88 Crores

Under the IFC&WSM Sector the total expenditure in the current FY-2014-15 is Rs. 29.99 Crores i.e., the total allocation for the Sector. The budget provision for the Sector during this year 2014-15 after revision has been reduced to Rs. 29.99 crores out of its original approved allocation of Rs. 33.00 crores. During 2013-14 FY, the total expenditure under the IFC & WSM Sector was Rs.45.84 Crores.

II. New projects which have been sanctioned under the following approved scheme of the sector this year: -

- A. Implementation of Anti-erosion / Flood Control & River Management and Water Related Schemes:
 - (i) Anti-erosion measures at different reaches on both bank of river Pomra, Assam
 - (ii) Water Supply Scheme for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Lambui and its surrounding Villages, Ukhrul District, Manipur.
- (III) Composite Water supply scheme at Oklong, Manipur.

III. Inspection of the projects done by the sectoral head, after the 63rd Council Meeting:

A. In Sikkim (spot assessment visit during the month of January, 2015)

1. Anti-erosion work outside the defined boundary of Namchi, South Sikkim;
2. Augmentation of Dentam Water Supply Scheme in West Sikkim Phase – I;
3. Augmentation of Dentam Water Supply Scheme in West Sikkim Phase – II;
4. River Training Work along Ranikhola below Adam Pool Rumtek in East Sikkim;
5. Storm Water Drainage System Jorethang Bazar South Sikkim ;
6. River Training Work along Sipchu Jhora & Teesta River at Sinotar in South Sikkim in East Sikkim;

Out of the 6 Nos of projects where spot assessment has been made by the Sector, 5 Nos will be completed in all respect by this Dec-2015.

B. In Assam (spot assessment visit during the month of January, 2015)

- 1 Dhankunda Flow Irrigation Scheme under NEC;
- 2 Modernisation & Extension of Langparpan Irrigation Scheme in Karbi Anglong District;
- 3 Ram Enghee Irrigation Scheme, Karbi Anglong District ;
- 4 Bio-Diversity Conservation of Basistha Bahini Watershed in South West part of greater Guwahati ;

Out of 4 Nos of projects where spot assessment have been made by the Sector, 4 Nos will be completed in all respect by this Dec-2015.

C. In Manipur (spot assessment visit during the month of March, 2015)

- 1 Construction of Cross-Regulator across Choukidarkhong Stream and improvement/Re-sectioning of parent channels, komlakhong, thoubal dist ;
- 2 Construction of a Concrete Dam across Heroik Litan Makhong, in Heroik River in Thoubal District ;
- 3 Water Supply Scheme at Laisoipat, Yenapat and Awangsoi (Pre-investment visit to verify the viability and sustainability of the project proposal);
- 5 Anti-erosion Scheme of Koite Stream, U/S of Tiddim road crossing, Churachandpur Dist.;

- 6 Improvement and Up gradation of Water Supply for Churachandpur town, Zone-III;
- 7 Anti-erosion Scheme on Langdangkong stream, Ukhrul Dist., Manipur ;
- 8 Construction of buffer water reservoir at Shirui village for Ukhrul town. (Pre-investment visit to verify the viability and sustainability of the project proposal);
- 9 Anti-erosion Scheme on Sippi river, Saitu Gamphazol Sub-division, Senapati Dist., Manipur;
- 10 Scheme on development of Naga Nallah Drainage system ;
- 11 Scheme on development of Weisel Drainage System.

Out of 10 Nos of projects where spot assessment has been made by the Sector, 5 Nos will be completed in all respect by this Dec-2015;

V. Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

A two days conference was held on 17-18th Feb, 2015 at the NEC Secretariat, Shillong in association with NERIWALM, Tezpur. Participants from all the States of the NER, except Tripura and Arunachal participated including important institution like - IIT Guwahati, NIT Manipur & Shillong, Officers from Central Water Commission, Shillong, North Eastern Space Application Centre, Umiam and other representative of various Implementing Agencies of the States of NER were present. The Conference covered a wide range of sub-themes - like drinking water, investigation, modeling, national water mission, river basin planning, hydropower, etc. - within its two days deliberations and finally in its concluding session worked out a draft recommendation. A few of those are listed hereunder:

1. Sub-catchment level planning for IWRM or River Basin Principle should be adapted for optimal use of water resource for taking up projects in the North East Region. Participative management of the stakeholders should be encouraged in the planning, implementation and operational stages of the projects for sustainable management. The indigenous traditional knowledge (ITK) of different tribal/local communities should be kept in view for local level water resource management.
2. The Catchment treatment plans should be prepared for all sub-catchments incorporating the information on detailed hydrology of the catchments, socio-economic parameters of people and the present situation on existing water resources projects and future

possibilities for uses like hydropower, irrigation, flood control, drinking water, tourism, fisheries, wetland management, etc.

3. State level apex bodies like State Water Resources Management Boards/Authorities should be constituted by State Governments of the NER States on similar lines as existing in other states where sufficient advances on WRM have taken place.
4. State Action Plan for implementation of National Water Mission (NWM) may be formulated in tune with prescribed five goals. The state action plans for climate change documents already approved by MoEF&CC could serve as the reference document for preparation of action plan.

Bench-marking/demonstrative projects may be taken up by concern departments in the State governments of the NER for creating success stories/best practices aiming to promote efficiency in water use.

IV. INDUSTRIES SECTOR

The salient issues that could be reflected in Secretary's Report for the 64th Plenary Session of the NEC are given below.

- During the financial year 2014-15, the budget allocation for the Sector was only Rs. 922.92 lakhs in the RE stage due to the budgetary cut imposed. The Sector has utilized the entire outlay. Due to resource constraints, the sector could take up only a few new projects which are highlighted below:
 - (i) A project titled "Setting up of a Handmade Paper Unit at Melli, South Sikkim" at an estimated cost of Rs. 398.96 lakhs.
 - (ii) Capacity Building Training on Bamboo Trades by CBTC at a cost of Rs. 121.31 lakhs.
- Another initiative taken by the sector was setting up an NEC Pavilion at the **Look East Business Show – 2015** held at Shillong during 26th February to 28th February, 2015 where nine NEC supported projects showcased and marketed their products. The NEC Pavilion was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya in presence of several dignitaries from the ASEAN countries. The event was very successful with many visitors getting a glimpse about the interventions taken up by the NEC in creating livelihood opportunities for the rural poor in the region.

V. TOURISM SECTOR

- As Hon'ble Members of the Council are aware, the Integrated Tourism Master Plan for NER was prepared in 2011. The Ministry of Tourism and the NEC have requested the State Governments to prioritize their projects in line with the recommendations of the Master Plan. A few State Governments have responded and it is expected that remaining States would do the same so that the recommendations of the Tourism Master Plan can be implemented in order to boost the tourism industry in the region.
- As in the case of the Industries Sector, the Tourism Sector also witnessed a budget cut during the year and at the RE stage, the fund allocated to Sector was Rs. 525.37 lakhs. The amount has been fully utilized. The new projects taken up were (i) Construction of a Convention Centre at Reiek Tourist Resort in Mizoram with an estimated cost of Rs. 255.17 lakhs, ii) Manipur Sangai Festival, 2014 (iii) Thalfavang Kut, 2014 in Mizoram, Hornbill Festival – 2014 in Nagaland.

VI. TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION SECTOR

(a) Roads & Bridges

During the 10th Plan, 35 Nos. of road projects were taken up, out of which 98% of the works have been completed. 25 roads have been completed in all respect and more than 89% works were completed for the other 10 nos. roads.

Similarly 25 road No. projects were approved during the 11th FYP by the Planning Commission, out of which 21 Nos. have been sanctioned by the competent authority. The length of 21 Nos. road projects is 1376.73 Kms out of which overall 67% progress has been achieved and other works are in progress. During the year 2014-15 alone 153.05 Kms of Formation and 90.79 Kms of Pavement have been completed.

The Transport & Communication Sector has been able to release the final installment for three (3) road projects during 2014-15. The Transport & Communication Sector has fully utilized Rs. 251.84 crores provided in the year 2014-15. Rs. 280.30 crores has been allotted to the Transport & Communication Sector, for financial year 2015-16 under Head of Account "3601".

NEC Working Group has finalized the 12th FYP and it was circulated to the Planning Commission and other Line Ministries on 3rd August, 2011. The in-principle approval is yet to be

accorded. The Working Group has recommended 3659.00 Kms of road at an estimated cost of Rs.7282.00 crores to be funded during the 12th Five Year Plan.

As more than 2 years have already been over, NEC has taken initiative for considering rehabilitation of all the 12th FYP road projects instead of improvement/ new construction. Out of these 12th FYP, some of the projects were taken up under different plan like SARDP-NE, Asian Development Bank, etc. Finally 68 Nos. of road have been identified with 3221.00 Kms length Rs. 30.00 lakhs/ KM has been considered for rehabilitation of these projects. The estimated cost would be amount Rs. 966.00. The proposal has already been sent to the 14th Finance Commission for needful.

In case of road, ISBT/ISTT projects, there is a committed liability of Rs. 958.77 crores as on 31st March, 2015. The Outlay provided during the current year 2015-16 is Rs. 280.30 crores for roads and ISBT/ISTT project which is not adequate to meet the committed liability. This is likely to delay the PDC approved by the EFC/SFC ultimately compelling in time and cost overrun in each of these ongoing projects, leading to revision of project cost.

Roads under BRO: There is only 1 No. road projects undertaken by BRO at an estimated cost of Rs. 98.02 crore, out of which `84.93 crore was already released till date. During the year 2015-16 under the head of Account “4552” `10.00 crore was kept as an outlay. The committed liability against BRO is Rs.13.09 crore.

(b) Improvement of Airports in NER:

An MoU was signed between AAI and NEC for improvement/up-gradation of 10 Nos. of airports of the Region on 07-04-2000. The funding pattern for these works is 60% by NEC and 40% by AAI The estimated cost of all these works as per the MoU is Rs. 558.79 crores and NEC's share for which is Rs. 335.27 crores, against which a sum of Rs.307.49 Crores has so far been released to AAI. The works has since been completed for all the airport during 11th Five Year Plan itself. During 11th Five Year Plan period, the Tezu Airports in Arunachal Pradesh was sanctioned for Rs. 79.00 crores out of which Rs. 40.69 crores has been released till date and the works are in progress.

During 12th Five Year Plan, upgradation of infrastructure at Barapani in Meghalaya, Dibrugarh, Jorhat Guwahati in Assam and Imphal in Manipur have been taken up for funding at an estimated cost of Rs. 141.17 crores and all the works are in good progress.

During the current year 2014-15 Rs. 20.50 crores has been kept as an outlay under the Head of Account “4552” for improvement of Airports in NER and there is liabilities of Rs. 81.21 crore.

(c) Air connectivity:

During the 10th plan, with a view to improve the Air Connectivity in NER, an arrangement was made with Alliance Air after being approved by the Competent Authority at an estimated cost of Rs. 175.00 crores. Four numbers of 50 seater ATR aircrafts were introduced in the Region for improving the intra region air connectivity. After expiry of the initial arrangement on 31.12.2007, this arrangement with Alliance Air was extended thrice as under:

- i) For the calendar Year 2008 at an estimated cost of Rs. 38.50 crores
- ii) For the Calendar Year 2009 at an estimated cost of Rs. 38.50 crores, and then revised to Rs. 47.07 crores.
- iii) For the Calendar Year 2010 and 2011 at an estimated cost of Rs. 94.14 crores.

The services of the alliance air were terminated on December, 2011 since the Alliance Air services was not satisfactory.

A Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed between NEC and Alliance Air on 24th September, 2014 by bringing out the details terms and conditions of the services including the schedule of operation and payment details.

During the year 2015-16 under the Head of Account “2552” (subsidies) Rs. 27.73 crores was kept as an outlay for Air connectivity in NER. For providing Air Connectivity in NER by Alliance Air on the cost minus revenue formula, initially for the following Sector (i) Shillong – Kolkata & back (ii) Kolkata-Guwahati-Lilabari & vice versa (iii) Kolkata-Silchar-Tezpur & vice versa was approved for Rs. 124.12 crores. Out of this Rs. 10.12 crores was already released for the services provided in Kolkata-Shillong Sector for the period from 10.07.2013 to 31.05.2014.

VII. MEDICAL & HEALTH SECTOR

1. Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Assam.

Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati an autonomous organization under the Govt. of Assam and a Regional Centre for Cancer treatment and research recognized by the Ministry of Health & FW, Govt. of India is being funded under a Tripartite Agreement between NEC, Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India and Govt. of Assam. The Agreement for the

Revitalization Plan Phase-IV of the Institute was signed by the three parties on 30th January, 2011 which is operational from 1st April 2012 to 31st March, 2017. As per the Agreement, the recurring expenditure is borne by NEC at 70% and Govt. of Assam at 30% and the non-recurring expenditure is borne by NEC and DAE, Govt of India at 50% each. While the total cost of the RPP-IV project is at Rs 197.49 crores, as per decision taken in the EFC Meeting by the Ministry of DoNER regarding Revitalisation Plan Phase- IV of the Dr. B. B. Cancer Institute, Guwahati, an amount of Rs. 7763.63 lakhs has been recommended for sanction as recurring expenditure for the Phase-IV duration or by taking over the Institute by DAE. Non- recurring cost proposed in the EFC note has not been recommended. An amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs as recurring expenditure has been released by NEC to the said Institute during the Financial Year 2013-14. The total liabilities of NEC for the 12th Plan period is Rs. 2703.84 lakhs, out of which NEC has already released Rs. 886.53 lakhs in 2012-13, Rs. 50.00 lakhs in 2013-14, and Rs. 477.50 lakhs in 2014-15 and remaining balance of Rs. 1289.81 lakhs will be released in a phased manner during 2015-16 to 2016-17.

2. Setting up of North Eastern Regional Multi-disciplinary Paramedical Institute, Dimapur, Nagaland.

An MOU was signed between NEC and the Govt. of Nagaland for establishment of a Regional Multi-disciplinary Paramedical Institute at Dimapur, Nagaland. The total cost of the project stands at Rs 49.81 crores. The project proposal has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee on 13/01/2014 at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.81 crores. As approved in the Standing Finance Committee NEC has already released Rs. 5.00 crores as 1st installment during the year 2013-14 and Rs. 1500.00 lakhs as 2nd installment during the year 2014-15.

3. Setting up of Regional Nursing College, Hapania (near Agartala), Tripura.

During 59th NEC meeting held on 28th September, 2010 setting up of a Regional Nursing College at Hapania (Agartala), Tripura was discussed and endorsed. The Govt. of Tripura has submitted the DPR for the project at a total cost of Rs 53.21crores and the Planning Commission has conveyed 'in-principle' approval recognizing the need for increasing paramedical manpower in the region. The DPR as submitted by the Govt. of Tripura is in phase-wise manner. Government of Tripura has been advised by NEC to submit the DPR in a comprehensive manner for referring it to the Ministry of DONER for consideration by SFC. The DPR is still awaited from the State Govt. of Tripura.

VIII.A HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT (EDUCATION, SOCIAL & SKILL DEVELOPMENT) SECTOR

With a view to bridge the infrastructure bottlenecks in the educational sector and its related areas (like provision of hostels, science labs, etc), improve the skills, capacity of the youths of the Region so that their employability in the labour market is enhanced, the NEC has been providing financial assistance to the States to strengthen the physical infrastructure, provide equipments and such other facilities, and sponsor the training / skill enhancing programmes for the youth of the Region in a big way. Another area of crucial importance is the social welfare aspects which include the welfare of the orphans, the aged, the differently able children/ youths who are otherwise are being left out from the mainstream development process. The schemes of the NEC are fine tuned to meet the development objectives which are all encompassing and inclusive of all sections of the society of the NER. However, at the same time, the States of the NER should lay emphasis on taking the benefits of the various existing Schemes of the Ministries of the Government of India like the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, etc.

a) Infrastructure Development of Educational Institutes in NE Region:

Infrastructure Development for educational institutions was taken up as a separate scheme from the financial year 2010-11 onwards. However, there is a need to set up more specialized higher and technical institutes for imparting the necessary education and skills to the youth of this region so that they can be made more employable or they are better equipped to start their own enterprises. During 2014-15 total sum of Rs. 943.66 lakhs was released for new projects. These are (i) Infrastructure Development of Government Residential School at Totpu under Sagalee Sub-Division, Papum pare /Dist. Arunachal Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 378.23 lakhs, 1st installment of Rs. 136.16 lakhs was released ii) Construction of Auditorium Hall at Chamata Higher Secondary School, Nalbari, Assam at a cost of Rs. 205.00 lakhs, 1st installment of Rs. 73.80 lakhs was released (iii) Construction of Chandranath Sarmah H.S.School at Bihaguri Sonitpur District, Assam at a cost of Rs. 318.30 lakhs, 1st installment of Rs. 62.24 lakhs was released. iv) Construction of Tribal Boys & Girls Hostel at Mayoyrumtang (Green land), Ukhrul District, Manipur at a cost of Rs. 527.89 lakhs, 1st installment of Rs. 190.00 lakhs was released. (v) Construction of Govt. High School Auditorium/Multi-utility hall at Longsa, Nagaland at a cost of Rs. 326.17 lakhs, 1st installment of Rs. 117.42 lakhs was released (vi) Infrastructure Development at Mayangnokcha Govt. H.S.School,

Mokokchug, Nagaland at a cost of Rs. 744.29 lakhs, 1st installment of Rs. 267.94 lakhs was released and vii) Providing double seater desk and bench to various schools in Sikkim at a cost of Rs. 266.95 lakhs, 1st installment of Rs. 96.10 lakhs was released. A total sum of Rs. 666.36 lakhs was released for on-going projects of North Eastern States. There are also other projects from the other States which have been retained during 2014-15 for sanctioned.

During 2014-15, Construction of Girls hostel for the students of North Eastern Region at Bangalore University was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1385.00 lakhs and 1st installment of Rs. 554.00 lakhs was released.

As a pilot project, the NEC is currently supporting students studying at the Assam Rifles Public School, Shillong. A total of 23 students (every year at the entry level of Class VI and supported upto Class X) from the NER are supported starting from the year 2011-12. The financial support is inclusive of school fees, exam fees, hostels, books, etc. Till 2014-15, a total of 85 students have been sponsored by the NEC.

Employment oriented training programmes for the NE Youth are being sponsored by the NEC from 2002-03 onwards with the objective of facilitating gainful employment for the unemployed youths of the Region and to lessen their dependence on government oriented jobs. The NEC is fully aware of the fact that the NER is starved of private investments and hence employment opportunities are much less here as compared to other regions of the country. The potential of the NE Youths must be explored to provide skills and knowledge for leveraging their inherent talent for better employment opportunities in the private and government sectors or for self employment and admission into premiere institutes. Various job oriented training courses and coaching programmes for entrance exams and other government exams are being sponsored by the NEC.

During 2014-15, a sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs was released for various training programme on CAD/CAM applications using CATIA, Pro/Engineer, Auto CAD for the uneducated youth of NER by CIPET, training on CAT/MAT exams by Time, Agartala, Bank PO exams, T.I.M.E, Agartala, PGDRDM, NIRD (Batch VI), Training programme for Capacity building amongst Heritage Managers of the NER and Sponsorship of education for the students of the North Eastern Areas in Assam Rifle Public School.

b) Financial support to students in NER:

Financial support to students of the NER was started during the year 1981-82 with the aim of enabling and encouraging the students of the North Eastern Region to pursue higher studies. The stipends and book grants are given to the students of the NE Region during the entire duration of their course of study on merit basis. From financial year 2003-04, financial support to the meritorious students of NE Region was implemented through the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education of the respective State Governments of the NER. It is decided that from Financial Year 2013-14, the minimum marks obtained by the students will be 70% for general and 60% for the SC/ST students. During 2014-15, scholarships amounting to Rs. 720.00 lakhs were released to the NE states to support the students for this proposes during 2014-15. State-wise distribution was (i) Rs. 108.27 lakh to Arunachal Pradesh (ii) Rs. 223.856 lakh to Assam (iii) Rs. 247.574 lakh to Manipur (iv) Rs. 18.80 lakh for Meghalaya (v) Rs. 22.99 lakhs to Mizoram (vi) Rs. 8.00 lakh to Nagaland (vii) Rs. 58.39 lakhs to Sikkim and (viii) Rs. 32.12 lakh to Tripura.

c) Development & Promotion of Education and Social Sector:

Proposals relating to social welfare especially for women, children and the elderly like establishment of crèches, old age homes, orphanages, children homes, etc are being taken up under this scheme. During 2014-15, a sum of Rs. 99.26 lakhs was released as 1st installment for the project “Upgradation of Protective Home at Maumual, Aizawl District, Mizoram” at a cost of Rs. 275.00 lakhs. There are also other projects from the other States which have been retained during 2014-15 for sanctioned. However, the States would also have to take the benefit of the various Schemes of the Ministries under the Govt of India like the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, etc.

VIII.B HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT (SPORTS) SECTOR

- During FY 2014-15, the following five (5) projects assisted by the NEC have been physically completed:

- (i) Construction of Football Stadium at Nari, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- (ii) Upgradation of Khuman Lampak Sports Complex, Imphal, Manipur.
- (iii) Construction of Playground cum Gallery at Purul Sub-Division, Senapati District, Manipur.
- (iv) Establishment of Regional Sports Training Centre at Saidan, Kolasib.
- (v) Construction of Multipurpose Indoor Stadium at Sanis SDO HQ, Wokha District, Nagaland.

- During the recently held 35th National Games 2015 held in Kerala from 31st January to 14th February 2015, sportspersons from the North East excelled and won a total of 219 medals (97 Gold, 50 Silver and 72 Bronze). Under the NEC Scheme titled “Chairman’s Sports Award for excellence in International & National Sports Meets by Sportsmen/Sportswomen of NE” cash awards of Rs. 463 lakhs are to be awarded to the sportspersons which will be done in FY 2015-16.
- The list of projects sanctioned during FY 2014-15 are :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Date of Sanction	Approved Cost (Rs in lakhs)
1	Construction of Outdoor Stadium at Tezu, Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh.	Arunachal Pradesh	17.12.2014	221.15
2	Construction of Mini Outdoor Stadium at Rijo Ground, Daporijo under Upper Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh	-do-	17.12.2014	358.08
3	Construction of Outdoor Stadium at Sagalee, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh.	-do-	17.12.2014	358.67
4	Construction of Outdoor Stadium and Boundary Wall at Government Higher Secondary School, Kanubari, Longding District, Arunachal Pradesh	-do-	9.2.2015	243.03
5	NEC Dr. T. Ao Memorial Football Tournament at Guwahati, Assam during 2015.	Assam	2.2.2015	60.00
6	Construction of Outdoor Stadium in Phugoboto, Sub-Divisional Hq, Zunheboto District, Nagaland.	Nagaland	17.12.2014	619.82
7	Construction of Outdoor Stadium at Mon District Headquarters, Nagaland	-do-	17.12.2014	557.63

IX. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

1. Regional Management Information System (RMIS):

Regional Management Information System is an ongoing scheme which is basically for promoting IT infrastructure in the NEC for effective management of day to day office works. Under this scheme IT work culture within the NEC have been promoted for effective functioning, planning and execution of different projects. Under this scheme the B.E allocated amount of Rs. 141.94 lakhs has been utilized during 2014-15 for In-house computerisation, e-office automation, networking, etc.

2. State Remote Sensing Applications:

The ongoing Remote Sensing Application/infrastructure schemes are completing in the States of Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland and Meghalaya. The BE allocated amount of Rs.400.00 lakhs during 2014-15 under the relevant Major sub Head “2552” has been fully utilized for ongoing schemes.

3. R&D Programme (Consultancy, Training, S&T Application Oriented Programme and R&D):

Science & Technology (S&T) has always been an integral part of the Indian culture. Science and Technology can be the twin tools that would help bring about social equity and economic development to enable North East to join the mainstream of the Indian community. R&D activities would primarily be based on natural resources to boost the socio-economic condition of the NER i.e. the rural productivity of the region including Sikkim.

The BE allocated amount of Rs.70.00 lakhs during 2014-15 under the relevant Major sub Head “2552” has been fully utilized for ongoing projects.

4. S&T Cell, NEC - Disaster Management Programmes:

Science and technology has an important role in any general strategy to address the problems of mitigation and management of the impacts of natural hazards. A concerted action plan to enhance predictive capabilities and preparedness for meeting emergencies arising from floods, cyclones, earthquakes, drought, landslides and avalanches is being drawn up by GOI. Measures are also being undertaken to promote research on natural phenomena that lead to disasters and human activities that aggravate them. This will be with a view to developing practical technological solutions for pre-disaster preparedness, and mitigation and management of post- disaster situations. The BE allocated amount of Rs.60.00 lakhs during 2014-15 under the relevant Major sub Head “2552” has been fully utilized for ongoing project on Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Major Cities in North Eastern India by (NEIST) Former RRL-J, Assam.

5. IT Applications Related Schemes:

The BE allocated amount of Rs.172.64.00 lakhs during 2014-15 under the relevant Major sub Head “2552” has been fully utilized for ongoing projects in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim as well as for project on Extension / Enhancement of Oasis by NICSI .

6. Information Technology Education Programme for North Eastern Region:

The BE allocated amount of Rs.140.00 lakhs during 2014-15 under the relevant Major sub Head “2552” has been fully utilized for ongoing project on IT Education Programme at 100 schools in Meghalaya.

7. Public Awareness of Science & Technology (Science Centres, Science Awareness, Campaign):

The BE allocated amount of Rs.90.00 lakhs during 2014-15 under the relevant Major sub Head “2552” has been utilized for ongoing project on IT Education and Science & Technology Awareness Programme at 100 schools in Mizoram.

UNDER – “3601”

8. Following projects were taken up for support during financial year 2014-15

Delineation of Urban Development Zones with special reference to Landslide Risk & Spine Stability of Aizawl City, Mizoram at a total cost of Rs. 238.10 lakhs

The BE allocated amount of Rs.1254.61 lakhs during 2014-15 under the relevant Major sub Head “3601” has been fully utilized for 9 Nos. of ongoing in the state of Arunachal Pradesh -3, Mizoram – 1, Nagaland – 3 and Sikkim – 2 and 1 new project in the state of Mizoram.

Sl. No	State	Amount Released for the year 2014-15
	MH-2552	
	Arunachal Pradesh	121.64
	Assam	80.00
	Meghalaya	390.04
	Mizoram	90.00
	Nagaland	90.00
	Sikkim	150.00
	Tripura	10.96
	Total	932.64
	MH-3601	
	Arunachal Pradesh	415.88
	Mizoram	165.00
	Nagaland	349.23
	Sikkim	324.50
	Total	1254.61

X. INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATION SECTOR

1. North Eastern Council has set up Centre for North East Culture (CNEC) at CCRT, Dwarka, New Delhi. The functions of the Centre is mainly to (i) bring about cultural integration and facilitate the expansion of awareness about the rich and diverse cultural heritage and tradition as well as modern expression of creativity of the North Eastern States; (ii) Provide a platform for youth from the North Eastern States and other States of India to interact and share creative ideas and other cultural forms; and (iii) Provide content relating to dissemination of the culture of the North Eastern States for training of teachers in CCRT. Presently, 3(three) staffs have been appointed, 1(one) Consultant, 1(one) General Duty Executive and 1(one) Multi Tasking Staff at the office in CNEC at CCRT, Dwarka, New Delhi.

IPR Sector has initiated the process to organize the festival “Songs and Dances of North East,” at New Delhi”. The Art and Culture Department Govt. of Meghalaya will organize the event. The cost of the project is Rs. 2,18,09,718.00 and Rs.119.67 has been released as a first installment.

2. Under “**Preservation and Promotion of Art and Culture in the NER**”, reputed State Government, National and Regional Organizations related to Art and Culture are given project specific financial assistance for promotion of Art and Culture in the region. There are 8(eight) ongoing projects taken up under this scheme includes:

- Protection/Preservation of the Archaeological Park at Itafort, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh for Rs. 370.00 lakhs. This project is going to be completed.
- Don Bosco Community Information Centre, Museum, Shillong for Rs. 399.00 lakhs
- Construction of Cultural Centre-cum-Auditorium at Vaivakawn, Mizoram for Rs.619.10
- Protection/Preservation & Infrastructure Development of Archaeological Museum & Monument, Malinithan, for Rs. 495.00 lakh
- Renovation of Auditorium & Classrooms of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy for Rs. 402.29 lakh
- Support for Musical Instruments & Teaching of Music to School Children, Manipur for Rs. 264.08 lakh
- Tai Educational and Cultural Centre” Assam for Rs. 333.49 lakh
- Construction of Regional Multi-Utility and Town Hall and Cultural Centre Tinsukia for Rs. 798.00 lakh

3. To preserve ethnic Tribal Culture, establishing of Tribal Museums in the States are encouraged. Projects being taken up under the scheme **“Viability gap funding for establishing Tribal Museums in the NE States”**, include

- Deori Tribal Cultural Complex, Assam for Rs. 497.00 lakh; and
- Extension and Modernization Galleries of J.N. State Museum, Arunachal Pradesh for Rs. 495.00 lakh.

XI. EVALUATION & MONITORING SECTOR

Monitoring and evaluation of NEC funded projects is an on-going work in the NEC Secretariat. Both physical and financial achievements of these projects are regularly monitored. The State Governments and other implementing agencies were instructed as per terms and conditions of administrative approvals and sanctions to regularly submit their progress reports and the same were duly scrutinized and analyzed so that the NEC Secretariat could intervene appropriately whenever and wherever required to ensure as far as possible the smooth progress and timely completion of those projects. For this purpose, there was always a very close contact and interaction between the NEC Secretariat and the Planning Departments of all the State Governments of the North Eastern Region, including Sikkim. On the basis of feedback thus provided by the States, the NEC officials carry out from time to time their mandatory inspections of the different projects which are at various stages of implementation throughout the NE Region and then submit their inspection reports including their advice on the next course of action that is required to be taken by the concerned Divisions/Sectors.

The NEC Secretariat strengthened the monitoring and inspection mechanism by appointing on contractual basis Consultants in the fields of Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Managerial Economics who are likely to continue to be engaged during the current financial year (2015-16) also. Out of 81 site visits/ inspections undertaken during the financial year 2014-15 (up to 18.02.2015), 80 were performed by the contractual Consultants.

NEC has started engagement of regional level monitors (RLMs) for monitoring of NEC funded projects. The RLMs are retired Government servants. The empanelment of Regional Level Monitors (RLMs) was initiated during 2013-14 and up to March 2015, eight RLMs for Sectors like Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, Road, Power and Industries are in place at the moment but more

are expected to respond to the open-ended empanelment notice that had been put in the NEC website. The response has, however, been less than anticipated.

Due to the absence of middle level officers to assist the Sectoral Heads, the NEC has also started engaging Young Professionals and attached them with the various Sectors in NEC to assist the Sectoral Heads on various matters like collation of information including QPRs received from State Governments and other agencies, preparation of notes and drafts, etc.

As mentioned above, physical inspections of the project are carried out by the officials of NEC from time to time. The Evaluation & Monitoring Sector carried out inspection of 81 (eighty-one) ongoing projects in different locations of the NE Region during the last financial year (2014-15). Details are at **Annexure**. The inspection reports were then prepared and forwarded to the concerned Sectors in NEC for necessary follow up action.

The NEC has also been providing financial assistance in the form of gap funding to various institutions like Universities, Colleges, etc., for organizing seminars/ symposia/ workshops on the themes/topics which are related to issues of socio-economic development of the North Eastern Region. During 2014-15, due to meager budget allocation, financial assistance could be extended to only 8 (eight) proposals for conducting seminars/ conference, etc. as on 01.03.2015. The seminar papers and recommendations/proceedings were sent to the Planning Departments of all NE State Governments and to other concerned agencies/organisations for necessary follow-up action. They were expected to be of use and relevance to the States for formulating their developmental plans, policies and strategy.

In an effort towards the formulation of regional plan, the NEC has identified/ is identifying certain national level/ regional level institutions like ICAR, NERIE, NEIGRIHMS, etc. to conduct seminars on its behalf so that recommendations of the seminars can be incorporated as inputs in the regional plans of various sectors. However, so far, only NERIE could conduct the regional seminar on school level education.

As part of the recommendation in the Vision 2020 document for bringing about accountability and provide information to the general public at large, the Sector had collected information on NEC schemes/projects implemented during the last five years and uploaded the same in the NEC website for eliciting the feedback from the general public in the NER.

In compliance with the directives received from the Performance Management Division of Cabinet Secretariat, the NEC Secretariat also prepared its Results Framework Document (RFD). The

RFD for 2014-15 was placed before the Council for ex-post facto ratification during its 63rd Plenary. No instructions have as yet been received for preparation of RFD for 2015-16.

Problems:

The Sector does not have permanent technical manpower to ensure that monitoring of the projects is carried out on a regular basis. Contractual personnel are engaged to carry out this job. However, it is felt that the Sector should have permanent officials at an appropriate level, especially engineers, to ensure that the monitoring of projects is carried out more efficiently.

LIST OF PROJECTS INSPECTED DURING 2014-15
(as on 18.02.2015)

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
1.	Ideal Fish and Fish Seed Production Farm and Multipurpose Development Project at Ichamati Village, Shella Bholaganj Block, Sohra Sub-Division, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya	Meghalaya	Agri & Allied	09.05.2014	Adv (Horti.) & Dir(E&M)
2	A/E work on Pare river at Midpu area under Papum Pare District.	Arunachal Pradesh	IFC	20.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
3	Anti Erosion Work on Right and Left Bank of Kolma river at Nirjuli to protect Kolmajuli village in Arunachal Pradesh, Papum Pare District	Arunachal Pradesh	IFC	20.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
4	Development of Health Information and Hospital Management System in Papumpare District.	Arunachal Pradesh	Medical & Health	20.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
5	Online connectivity of Schools & Process Information Management Systems for Department of School Education, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	S&T	21.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
6	Research Development, Conservation of Wild Edible, Aromatic and Medicinal Plants of Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	S&T	21.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
7	Studies on Diversity Taxonomy and Population Status of Endemic & Rare Medicinal Plants for Promotion of conservation in Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	S&T	21.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
8	Anti-Erosion Work to protect Parang, Pullung, Tatpu, Yaya, Nguriangbung and Totpo Village at Papum Pare District	Arunachal Pradesh	IFC	22.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
9	Establishment of 30 bedded hospital at Pareng, Sagalee administrative circle, Papumpare District.	Arunachal Pradesh	Medical & Health	22.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
10	Infrastructure Development of Leel Middle School, Sangram, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	HRD&E	24.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
11	Integrated development of Community Sericulture Garden at Solungyar village under Koloriang CD Block, Kurungkumey District	Arunachal Pradesh	Industry	24.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
12	Construction of mega water treatment plant at Koloriang township, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	IFC&WS M	24.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
13	Infrastructure Development of 50 bedded Hospital (Phase-II) at Palin, Kurung Kumey District.	Arunachal Pradesh	Medical & Health	25.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EE)
14	Improvement of minor irrigation	Arunachal	IFC	26.05.2014	Con(ME) &

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
	channel & C/o FC work at Pyuchi Siigang at Supyu Ziro Lower Subansiri District.	Pradesh			Con(EF)
15	Organic cultivation of Kiwi and Large Cardamon at Ziro, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Agri & Allied	26.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EF)
16	Anti-Erosion Scheme on Tazang siya and Sikhe river (lower Subansiri Dist.)	Arunachal Pradesh	IFC	26.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EF)
17	Integrated Horticulture Development in Ambam area of Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Agri & Allied.	27.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EF)
18	C/o of 50 bedded hospital at Pistana, Lower Subansiri District	Arunachal Pradesh	Medical & Health	27.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EF)
19	Double cropping in Changlang, Lower Subansiri and Upper Subansiri Districts	Arunachal Pradesh	Agri & Allied	27.05.2014 & 28.05.2014 (Lower Subansiri and Upper Subansiri Districts)	Con(ME) & Con(EF)
20	Construction of Boys' and Girls' Hostel-cum-Boundary Wall and Water Supply at SSA ME School at Dipu Gongo-II, Upper Subansiri District	Arunachal Pradesh	HRD&E	29.05.2014	Con(ME) & Con(EF)
21	J.J.M. Nichols Roy, Jaiaw" sanctioned under "Development of Sports & Youth Activities in NE Region to 4 registered Sports Club, NGOs in Meghalaya	Meghalaya	Sports	18.06.2014	Con(EF)
22	Sponsoring Education for 100 Children from NE States in Assam Rifles Public School, Laitkor, Shillong	Meghalaya	HRD&E	22.07.2014	Consultant (EF)
23	Lengpui Town and Lengpui Airport Water Supply Scheme (Pumping)	Mizoram	IFC	18.08.2014	Cons(ME)
24	Construction of 132 KV khumtung-I Bay at Melriat, Mizoram.	Mizoram	Power	19.08.2014	Cons(ME)
25	Construction of 132 KV khumtung-II Bay at Melriat, Mizoram.	Mizoram	Power	19.08.2014	Cons(ME)
26	Support for procurement of CT Scan (16 Slices) machine at Civil Hospital, Aizawl	Mizoram	Medical & Health	19.08.2014	Cons(ME)
27	Strengthening of Cardiology Department at Civil Hospital, Aizawl	Mizoram	Medical & Health	19.08.2014	Cons(ME)
28	Upgradation of Mizoram Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd.	Mizoram	Industry	19.08.2014	Cons(ME)
29	Construction and establishment of Sports Centre at Phulpui, Aizawl, Mizoram	Mizoram	Sports	20.08.2014	Cons(ME)

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
30	Upgradation and expansion of Govt. Khawpuia memorial Higher Secondary School, Dawrpui Vengthar	Mizoram	HRD&E	20.08.2014	Cons(ME)
31	Establishment of Integrated Horticulture Training Centre at Chite, Aizawl	Mizoram	Agri & Allied	20.08.2014	Cons(ME)
32	Phaibuang Pumping Water Supply Scheme in Mizoram, Aizawl	Mizoram	IFC	21.08.2014	Cons(ME)
33	Cultivation of Aloe Vera in Chhanchhuhna Khawpui in Darlawn RD Block, Mizoram	Mizoram	Agri & Allied	23.08.2014	Cons(ME)
34	Sangau Water Supply Scheme (pumping) Phase-II in Saiha District, Mizoram	Mizoram	IFC	26.08.2014	Cons(ME)
35	Sangau Water Supply Scheme (Pumping) Phase-I in Mizoram, Saiha Dist.	Mizoram	IFC	26.08.2014	Cons(ME)
36	Bhaulpui "NG" & Lunzarhtum Combined Water Supply Scheme, Saiha District, Mizoram	Mizoram	IFC	26.08.2014	Cons(ME)
37	Hill terrace construction at degraded jhum land under Mara Autonomous District Council (MADC) in Mizoram	Mizoram	Agri & Allied	27.08.2014	Cons(ME)
38	Development of School Information Management System in selected High/Higher Secondary Schools in Nagaland	Nagaland	S & T	13.10.2014 (Two schools in Dimapur) 14.10.2014 (two schools at Peren Dist) 16.10.2014 (one school in Phek) 18.10.2014 (Meeting Plg Dept at Kohima) 20.10.2014 (three schools at Mokukchung)	Cons(ME)
39	Upgradation/Modernisation of classrooms for Govt. colleges at Nagaland	Nagaland	HRD&E	13.10.2014 (Dimapur Govt College) 14.10.2014 (Peren Govt College) 15.10.2014 (Kohima Govt. College, , Kohima Science college, and Nagaland)	Cons(ME)

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
				College of Teacher Education, Kohima) 17.10.2014 (Phek Govt College) 20.10.2014 (Fazl Ali College, Mokokchung and Mokokchung B.Ed. College, Yimyu) 21.10.2014 (Mt. Tiya Govt. College, Wokha)	
40	Installation of modern equipments at all Govt. Colleges, Nagaland	Nagaland	HRD&E	13.10.2014 (Dimapur Govt College) 14.10.2014 (Peren Govt College) 15.10.2014 (Kohima Govt. College, , Kohima Science college, and Nagaland College of Teacher Education, Kohima) 17.10.2014 (Phek Govt College) 20.10.2014 (Fazl Ali College, Mokokchung and Mokokchung B.Ed. College, Yimyu) 21.10.2014 (Mt. Tiya Govt. College, Wokha)	Cons(ME)
41	State pig breeding farms at Medziphema and Jalukie, Nagaland	Nagaland	Agri & Allied	13.10.2014 (Medziphema, Dimapur)	Cons(ME)

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
				14.10.2014 (Jalukie at Peren Dist.)	
42	Construction of community based fishery project at Beiswampui, Peren District	Nagaland	Agri. & Allied	14.10.2014	Cons(ME)
43	Construction of NBCC Convention Centre at Kohima	Nagaland	HRD&E	15.10.2014	Cons(ME)
44	Upgradation and maintenance of science laboratory in science colleges in Nagaland	Nagaland	HRD&E	15.10.2014 (Kohima Science College, Jotsoma) 17.10.2014 (Phek Govt College) 20.10.2014 (Fazal Ali College, Mokokchung)	Cons(ME)
45	Development of Pfutsero Lake at Pfutsero in Phek District	Nagaland	Tourism	16.10.2014	Cons(ME)
46	Geo-resources of Kohima and Dimapur urban areas of Nagaland (study report)	Nagaland	S & T	18.10.2014	Cons(ME)
47	Preparatory Equipments under Management of Natural Calamities for the State of Nagaland, Home Guard	Nagaland	S&T	18.10.2014	Cons(ME)
48	On-line connectivity of Schools with Nagaland Board of School Education (2 nd Phase), Nagaland	Nagaland	S&T	18.10.2014	Cons(ME)
49	Remote Sensing application for Nagaland	Nagaland	S & T	18.10.2014	Cons(ME)
50	Development of Sungkotenem Lake at Mopungchuket in Mokokchung District, Nagaland	Nagaland	Tourism	20.10.2014	Cons(ME)
51	Hyali integrated agriculture & allied development, Wokha District	Nagaland	Agri & Allied	21.10.2014	Cons(ME)
52	Nursing School at Naga Hospital, Kohima	Nagaland	Medical & Health	22.10.2014	Cons(ME)
53	Upgradation of Govt, GNM School to College of Nursing, Lamphelpat, Imphal	Manipur	Medical & Health	01.12.2014	Cons(ME)
54	Procurement of Advanced Medical Devices and Equipments at Sky Hospital and Research Centre, Imphal	Manipur	Medical & Health	01.12.2014	Cons(ME)
55	Support for procurement of Advance Medical Devices and Equipment at Christian Hospital, Imphal	Manipur	Medical & Health	01.12.2014	Cons(ME)
56	25KWP SPV Power Plant at Tribal	Manipur	Power	02.12.2014	Cons(ME)

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
	Market Complex, New Lambulane, Imphal, Manipur				
57	25 KWP (each) Standalone SPV Power Plant(s) at the Office of Deputy Commissioners of Manipur	Manipur	Power	02.12.2014 (Imphal East and West) 03.12.2014 (Thoubal) 06.12.2014 (Bishnupur) 08.12.2014 (Churachandpur)	Cons(ME)
58	Installation of 6680 SqM of solar thermal (Solar Water Heaters) collector area at various institutions, hospitals and individual households, Manipur	Manipur	Power	02.12.2014 (Imphal East and West) 03.12.2014 (Thoubal) 06.12.2014 (Bishnupur) 08.12.2014 (Churachandpur)	Cons(ME)
59	Diversification of crops-Double cropping in Manipur	Manipur	Agri & Allied	03.12.2014 (Thoubal) 05.12.2014 (Imphal West) 06.12.2014 (Bishnupur) 08.12.2014 (Churachandpur) 09.12.2014 (Senapati) 11.12.2014 (Tamenglong)	Cons(ME)
60	Construction of cross regulator across Chowkidarkhong stream and improvement /re-selection of parent channels (Komlakhong Thoubal Dist)	Manipur	IFC	04.12.2014	Cons(ME)
61	Infrastructure Development of CIPET, Imphal	Manipur	HRD&E	05.12.2014	Cons(ME)
62	Amelioration of Acid Soil on Horticulture Crop Areas, Manipur.	Manipur	Agri & Allied	05.12.2014 (Imphal West) 06.12.2014 (Bishnupur) 09.12.2014 (Senapati)	Cons(ME)
63	Project proposal of rural WSS at Laphok Tamenglong district.	Manipur	IFC	10.12.2014	Cons(ME)
64	Water Supply Scheme for Jawahar Navodaya, Tuinom, Churachandpur District	Manipur	IFC	11.12.2014	Cons(ME)

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
65	Integrated Farming System (NERCORMP Six Districts)	NERCORMP	Agri & Allied	15.12.2014 & 16.12.2014 (Ukhrul) 18.12.2014 & 19.12.2014 (Senapati)	Cons(ME)
66	Pilot Project for Development of Tea, Kiwi, Floriculture, Mushroom and Pineapple in the NERCORMP project districts	NERCORMP	Agri & Allied	15.12.2014 & 16.12.2014 (Ukhrul) 18.12.2014 & 19.12.2014 (Senapati)	Cons(ME)
67	Integrated Project on Income Generation through Animal Husbandry and Livestock (NERCORMP Six Districts)	NERCORMP	Agri & Allied	15.12.2014 & 16.12.2014 (Ukhrul) 18.12.2014 & 19.12.2014 (Senapati)	Cons(ME)
68	Construction of concrete weir across Sekmai old bridge, Imphal.	Manipur	IFC	17.12.2014	Cons(ME)
69	Upgradation of Forest Rest Houses at important tourist destinations (Changlang, Lohit, Lower & Upper Dibang Valley, East & Upper Siang, Lower & Upper Subansiri, East & West Kameng, Lohit and Tawang)	Arunachal Pradesh	Tourism	03.02.2015 (Itanagar) 05.02.2015 (Ziro)	Cons(ME)
70	Hill road alignment by satellite image remote sensing GIS technique, scientific study and technological intervention in the hill road construction to improve the life of hill roads and the demo roads in Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	S&T	03.02.2015 (Itanagar) 08.02.2015 (West Siang)	Cons(ME)
71	Automation of Manual Inner Line Permit System in Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	S&T	03.02.2015 (Holongi) 04.02.2015 (Itanagar) 09.02.2015 (Pasighat) 11.02.2015 (Jairampur) 17.02.2015 (Guwahati)	Cons(ME)
72	Construction of Mini Sports Stadium at Chambang under Kurung Kumey District, AP	Arunachal Pradesh	Sports	05.02.2015	Cons(ME)
73	Construction of tourist lodge near Pamruk village under Kamporijo Circle, Raga Sub-Division, Ziro District, Lowe	Arunachal Pradesh	Tourism	06.02.2015	Cons(ME)

Sl. No.	List of NEC funded projects inspected	State	Sector	Inspection Date	Inspection done by:
	Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh				
74	Development of park, angling and picnic spot at Basar, West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Tourism	07.02.2015	Cons(ME)
75	Compact area development on agriculture and horticulture sector at Badi, Yaren and Jipa of Deke Village under Tirbin Circle, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Agri & Allied	07.02.2015	Cons(ME)
76	Tourist infrastructure development of Sikar Lake at Tirbin Circle, West Siang District	Arunachal Pradesh	Tourism	07.02.2015	Cons(ME)
77	Construction of football stadium at Nari, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Sports	08.02.2015	Cons(ME)
78	Anti-Erosion work on Tara Tamak river to protect Gadum and its adjoining villages of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam and Agricultural land areas, East Siang District	Arunachal Pradesh	IFC	10.02.2015	Cons(ME)
79	Anti-Erosion work at Right Bank of Sissiri river Silluck area to protect Ngopok and its adjoining village areas, Agricultural land areas and Mebo-Dola road, East Siang District	Arunachal Pradesh	IFC	10.02.2015	Cons(ME)
80	Construction of football stadium at Jairampur under Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh	Sports	11.02.2015	Cons(ME)
81	Construction of proposed RCC two storied Boys' hostel for Diphu Govt. College at Diphu	Assam	HRD&E	17.02.2015	Cons(ME)

**Sector-wise releases of funds under NEC Plan during the first three years of the
12th Five Year Plan**

Rs. in crore

Sl. No	Sectors	Releases made during		
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]
I	AGRICULTURE & ALLIED	77.34	81.98	98.25
II	POWER & RRE	66.50	73.65	40.43
III	IRRIGATION, FLOOD CONTROL & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT	36.19	45.84	30.00
IV	INDUSTRIES	11.50	24.16	9.23
V	TOURISM	21.99	30.64	5.58
VI	TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION	368.40	319.84	292.53
VII	MEDICAL & HEALTH	45.92	26.81	29.82
VIII	HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT	76.82	69.7	42.69
IX	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	17.44	17.69	23.29
X	INFORMATION, PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS	8.89	7.05	5.29
XI	EVALUATION & MONITORING	1.76	0.69	1.87
	Total	732.75	698.05	578.98

XII. FINANCE SECTION

STATE-WISE/SECTOR-WISE/MAJOR HEAD-WISE EXPENDITURE DURING 2014-15 (AS ON 31/03/2015)

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Agri & Allied	Power/RRE	IFC&WSM	Industries & Tourism	T&C	Health	HRD&E	S&T	IPR	E&M	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Arunachal Pradesh											
"3601"	1434.22	510.00	429.81	160.64	1900.00	180.00	901.81	415.88	288.20	0.00	6220.56
"2552"	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	121.64	0.08	0.00	121.72
Total	1434.22	510.00	429.81	160.64	1900.00	180.00	901.81	537.52	288.28	0.00	6342.28
Assam											
"3601"	283.62	0.00	656.29	0.00	3100.00	161.82	403.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	4604.82
"2552"	5.28	0.00	0.00	195.40	0.00	477.50	118.70	98.03	16.82	63.65	975.38
Total	288.90	0.00	656.29	195.40	3100.00	639.32	521.79	98.03	16.82	63.65	5580.20
Manipur											
"3601"	118.55	470.00	803.63	166.66	2657.00	150.00	437.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	4803.41
"2552"	0.00	0.00	0.00	107.82	0.00	0.00	282.89	0.00	0.09	0.00	390.80
Total	118.55	470.00	803.63	274.48	2657.00	150.00	720.46	0.00	0.09	0.00	5194.21
Meghalaya											
"3601"	310.72	306.91	150.00	20.00	4700.00	100.00	23.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	5610.93
"2552"	6376.19	0.00	0.00	102.04	1.00	0.00	12.82	437.73	144.47	20.81	7095.06
Total	6686.91	306.91	150.00	122.04	4701.00	100.00	36.12	437.73	144.47	20.81	12705.99
Mizoram											
"3601"	0.00	979.68	545.32	115.86	1753.20	0.00	122.25	165.00	0.00	0.00	3681.31
"2552"	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	90.00	1.54	21.00	115.54
Total	0.00	979.68	545.32	115.86	1753.20	0.00	125.25	255.00	1.54	21.00	3796.85

State	Agri & Allied	Power/RRE	IFC&WSM	Industries & Tourism	T&C	Health	HRD&E	S&T	IPR	E&M	Total
Nagaland											
"3601"	724.35	575.96	88.05	122.70	4950.00	1675.00	817.22	349.23	0.00	0.00	9302.51
"2552"	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	195.03	90.00	0.00	0.00	385.03
Total	824.35	575.96	88.05	122.70	4950.00	1675.00	1012.25	439.23	0.00	0.00	9687.54
Sikkim											
"3601"	159.00	700.00	326.68	143.62	1350.47	238.18	154.49	324.50	0.00	0.00	3396.94
"2552"	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	9.99	170.49
Total	159.00	700.00	326.68	154.12	1350.47	238.18	154.49	474.50	0.00	9.99	3567.43
Tripura											
"3601"	307.94	500.00	0.00	325.32	4830.00	0.00	215.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	6179.06
"2552"	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.74	10.96	0.00	1.00	31.70
Total	307.94	500.00	0.00	325.32	4830.00	0.00	235.54	10.96	0.00	1.00	6210.76
Other Agencies											
"3601"	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
"2552"	5.00	0.00	0.00	10.04	1012.00	0.00	561.77	76.20	77.01	70.76	1812.78
"4552"	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3000.00
Total	5.00	0.00	0.00	10.04	4012.00	0.00	561.77	76.20	77.01	70.76	4812.78
Grand Total	9824.87	4042.55	2999.78	1480.60	29253.67	2982.50	4269.48	2329.17	528.21	187.21	57898.04

ANNEXURE – IV

LIST OF ORPHAN ROADS PROPOSED FOR REHABILITATION IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Sl. No	Name of Road	State	Length (Km)	Scope of Work		Cost for Rehabilitation	Brief Justification
1	2	3	4	5		6	7
1	Mirem-Mikong-Jonai Road	Arunachal Pradesh	16.83	WBM-III	15.000 km	5.05	The road has interstate ramification between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Starting from Mirem in Arunachal Pradesh, the road terminates at NH-52 at Jonai in Assam from where ferry services are also available for crossing Brahmaputra river, which is one and only means of shortest communication to Dibrugarh town (in Assam) for the people of this remote areas. This project was originally included in the 11 th Plan, however, could not be taken up due to paucity of funds.
				Maintenance of Culverts/ Drains	16.830 km		
				BT	16.830 km		
2	Jote-Balijan Road	Arunachal Pradesh	47.00	Widening	40.00 km	47.30	This road will provide interstate connectivity from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam. The portion of the road from Itanagar to Jotte had already been completed under NEC. This proposed road will form a portion of inter district road connecting the State Capital and the East Kameng District upto the Seijosa Circle HQ passing through 36 Nos. of villages of highly potential of cultivation land and agro based products. Seijosa is also a place of high potentials for tourist due to the Pakke wild life sanctuary and other natural beauty. This project was originally included in the 11 th Plan, however, could not be taken up due to paucity of funds.
				Pot Hole Repairing	40.00 km		
				S/Cul	26 Nos		
3	Mebo-Dholla road	Arunachal Pradesh	37.50	WBM-III	18.00 km	10.93	This road will provide interstate connectivity from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam. The roads takes off from NH-52 at Mebo and terminated at Gadum Tinali on pm Dambuk-Paglam road. This road was connected as an ordinary village road in the early fifties mainly to connect Mebo with Dholla in Assam. The road is presently an ODR as this road is connecting East Siang District with Lower Dibang Valley District and Dholla in Assam. This road is also an interstate road as this road is only means of connectivity for the people of Mebo area with the places like Dholla, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh etc. in Assam.
				Maintenance of Culverts/ Drains	36.43 km		
				BT	36.43 km		

Sl. No	Name of Road	State	Length (Km)	Scope of Work		Cost for Rehabilitation	Brief Justification
1	2	3	4	5		6	7
4	Margherita Deomali Road	Arunachal Pradesh	16.06	WBM-I	16.060 km	8.14	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The road under proposal is connecting Deomali, an administrative sub-divisional headquarter in Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh and Margherita, also an administrative centre in Assam with a distance of nearly 46.00 km. Out of which 16.06 km falls in Arunachal Pradesh and remaining portion passes through the territory of Assam.
				WBM-II	16.060 km		
				WBM-III	16.060 km		
				BT	16.060 km		
5	Longding-Bimalpur road	Arunachal Pradesh	44.00	WBM-I	44.000 km	25.31	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects Longding town, the District HQ of newly created Longding District with Bimalpur, Duliajan, Digboi, Tinsukia, and Dibrugarh, commercial centres of Assam. This road is located in the remote part of Arunachal Pradesh. This area is very rich an agriculture and forest products. This road is also strategically important for movement of defence forces, since the road is closer to the border of Myanmar.
				WBM-II	44.000 km		
				WBM-III	44.000 km		
				BT	44.000 km		
6	Jagun-Namchik-Miao Road	Arunachal Pradesh	27.00	WBM-III	10.000 km	5.30	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam from Jagun to Miao. This road connects Miao EAC HQ with the ADC HQ at Jairampur. Duliajan, Digboi, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh are commercial centre of Assam. These areas are very rich in agriculture and forest products. This road is also strategically important for movement of Defence Forces to Vijayanagar. Since, this road is closer to the Border is to the Myanmar.
				BT	27.000 km		
7	Pasighat-Ledum-Tene-Koyu Road	Arunachal Pradesh	60.00	WBM-III	18.000 km	11.85	This road will provide interstate connectivity from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam. This road also connect NH-52 originating at Assam and passing through Pasighat from where the proposed road starts. Within Arunachal Pradesh, this road will connect Pasighat in East Siang District with Koyu which further connects Ego in West Siang District.
				Maintenance of Culverts/ Drains	39.515 km		
				BT	39.515 km		
8	Digaru-Sunpura road (Tezu-Sadiya Road)	Arunachal Pradesh	10.00	Maintenance of Eastern Shoulder/ Culverts & Drains	15.000 km	5.53	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects District HQ of Lohit with Islampur at Shantipur in Assam. This area is very rich in agriculture and horticulture products. This road is also strategically important for movement of Defence Forces to Anjaw District. Since, the road is closer to the border of China.
				BT	15.00 km		

Sl. No	Name of Road	State	Length (Km)	Scope of Work		Cost for Rehabilitation	Brief Justification
1	2	3	4	5		6	7
9	Bomjir to Paglam Road	Arunachal Pradesh	49.50	RE-WBM	14.62 km	19.43	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects District HQ of Lower Dibang Valley (Roing) with Dholla in Assam. Tinsukia and Dibrugarh are the commercial centre of Assam. This road is located in the remote part of Arunachal Pradesh. This area is very rich in agriculture and horticulture products.
				Carpeting	14.62 km		
				Bridge approach	5.00 km		
				Re-Carpeting	34.88 km		
10	Doimara to Tenga Road in West Kameng District	Arunachal Pradesh	98.00	WBM-III	98.00 km	31.36	This is an interstate road between West Kameng District in Arunachal Pradesh and Udalguri District in Assam. The road alignment passes through hilly terrain in the Arunachal Pradesh. Tenga is the base camp of Army in between Tawang and Tezpur. For Defence movement this road is shortest for movement of heavy machinery to international border.
				BT	98.00 km		
11	Doimukh to Harmuti Road	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	WBM-III	6.00 km	2.02	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The road connects Doimukh town. This is an alternative road of NH-52 A.
				BT	6.00 km		
12	Kanubari to Ringpong Road	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	WBM-III	30.00 km	15.12	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects Longding town, the District HQ of newly created Longding District with Kanubari, Duliajan, Digboi, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh commercial centre of Assam. This road is located in the remote part of Arunachal Pradesh. This area is very rich in agriculture and forest products. This road is also strategically important for movement of defence forces, since the road is closer to the border of Myanmar.
				BT	30.00 km		
				S/Cul	26 Nos		
	Total=	441.89				187.34	

ANNEXURE – V

NEC's position with reference to M/DoNER's letter dtd 12-05-2015 on the subject "Observations on the agenda items of 64th Plenary".

Sl. No.	Secretary DoNER observation	NEC's position
Point 1	Special Component Plan should be indicated as required by Standing Committee of Parliament	The funds allocated to NEC is a block grant for development of the North Eastern Region as a whole and accordingly the Council prepares Annual Plans consisting of schemes and projects. In this respect, as per the Act, NEC gives priority to schemes and projects benefitting 2 or more States of the region except in case of Sikkim. There is no mention of any special component plan in the Act and NEC has not compartmentalized the plan into any special component plan for SCs/STs or any other groups. However, the benefits that are given to SC/ST communities could be maintained.
Point 2	Action Plan should propose logical basis for distribution between Sectors and indicate priorities	There is always a logical basis for distribution of funds among eleven sectors. The said distribution is based on identified priorities and historical trends in allocation of funds for NEC. Since its inception, NEC has considered provision of basic infrastructure in the region as the topmost priorities. So maximum fund has historically been allocated to Transport & Communication and Power Sectors. The next priorities have been provision of health care, human resource development and agriculture & Allied Activities (including livelihood projects of NERCORMP). It is well known that the basic infrastructure projects like construction of interstate roads, upgradation of airports, etc have long gestation periods and projects run into several years with huge throw forward for subsequent years. The throw forward (committed liabilities) of infrastructure projects coupled with consistent massive shortfall in budgetary allocation (in real terms) to NEC over the years have created imbalance in sectoral allocation of NEC funds. NEC has not been able to allocate adequate funds for several sectors regardless of their criticality. This budgetary shortfall was to the tune of 28.24%, 56.07% & 53.80 % in the 10 th , 11 th & 12 th Plan period respectively against the 5 years Plan outlay approved by the Planning Commission for NEC. The shortfall in allocation has entailed a position where the expenditure on new projects has become bare minimum. For example, only 19.39% and 12% of funds were spent on new projects during 2013-14 and 2014-15.
Point 3	Action Plan should propose logical basis for	The release to a particular state depends on the

	<p>distribution between States, Livelihoods levels and opportunities differ in States and, therefore proportions will differ. This will also prevent malpractice by staff returning some requests in ongoing projects for flimsy reasons that slow grants in favour of some States</p>	<p>performance of the state in utilizing NEC funds already released and submission of new viable projects in the priority areas through their priority lists. So releases to the states vary. In terms of livelihood programmes, NEC has already implemented NERCORMP Phase I jointly funded by Government of India and IFAD and approved by the Govt. of India. NERCORMP Ph-II is a fully funded Govt. of India project and it is in its last year of implementation in 2015-16 and this was also approved by Govt. of India. NERCORMP Ph-III is also a fully funded project of Govt. of India and has been approved by the Govt. of India. The selection of districts and states for these projects were based on consideration of poverty and security conditions in the districts. Funds are therefore provided and released in accordance with the phasing provided in the project. The issues of equitable distribution formula was deliberated upon in earlier Council meetings but consensus have not emerged as NEC projects have regional dimensions. However, NEC Secretariat consciously make efforts to attain some level of balance in the release to the states so that no State Government gets lopsided release from NEC in a particular year. There is no instance in NEC for slowing down release to a particular state on flimsy grounds. The NEC Plenary in its 64th meeting has approved the revised Guidelines to further streamline the procedure and process in NEC.</p>
Point 4	<p>Huge subsidies are proposed in schemes. Poor design makes NEC look like funding body. Comments of MoS (Home Affairs) on 9.4.2015 are relevant in this context.</p>	<p>NEC releases funds to the State Government as grants to the tune of 90% and State Governments contributes 10% of State Share. Since entire fund is given as grant to the State Government, there is no question of calculating any subsidy component on the funds released. It is for the Central govt. to decide about the funding pattern of NEC or making any change in pattern of funding from current 90:10 to any other ratio. It is to be noted here that NEC is a Regional Planning body and also a funding agency and historically NEC has always been provided with a budgetary support however small it may be. For funding to the State Government, NEC takes into account the regional priorities identified by the Council and does not fund any projects outside the priorities fixed by the Council. NEC does not release funds without fixing priorities first. All these have now been incorporated clearly in the Revised NEC General Guidelines and the Sectoral Guidelines.</p>
Point 5	<p>Exclude non-plan items (Staff) from this</p>	<p>The inclusion of staff component in Annual Plan</p>

	Annual Plan other than what is provisioned for Monitoring and Evaluation	schemes is actually a misnomer. Other than provision in monitoring and evaluation, only one scheme namely "Project Formulation & Quality Management Cell in the Secretariat" has a provision of engagement of Young Professionals on short term engagement on contract. This scheme also falls under Evaluation & Monitoring Sector. This is not recruitment of regular staff. This is actually replica of the Young Professional engagement schemes of the erstwhile Planning Commission. The Young Professionals will be engaged in the Secretariat for short period for helping the sectoral heads in preparation of Regional Plans and at the same time they will also get exposure to Planning Process and Development needs of the region. After the engagement period is over they will go to pursue their own vocations with an experience certificate from NEC. Young Professional scheme has been started from 2014-15 to bring in freshness of ideas and analytical assistance to help the sectoral heads. So no attempt has been made for appointment of regular staff in the NEC Secretariat from the Annual Plan funds.
Point 6	<p>Quality Monitors should not ordinarily be retired Govt. servants and even in such cases:</p> <p>(a) not belong to the same State; there should be strict review mechanism for selection; visitor integrity and background.</p> <p>(b) Livelihood aspects require participatory evaluation of which retired officers are ignorant and should not be employed.</p>	<p>(a) The suggestions given for Regional Quality monitors are already taken care of in the Guidelines for empanelment of RLMS.</p> <p>(b) Regarding livelihood projects, EOIs are floated by the concerned agencies who lay down the desired criteria for monitoring and evaluation of such projects and the selection is done accordingly.</p>
Point 7	There is a need to avoid duplication such as in Anti-erosion which has been assigned to the Brahmaputra Board, and for T&D systems at and above 33/11 KV that would be covered by the World Bank Scheme.	While selecting projects for anti erosion and power distribution lines, duplicacy is always avoided and schemes taken up by other Central agencies are not taken up by NEC and suitable advice is given to the State Governments also. Besides working groups are constituted in the beginning of Five Year Plans for suggesting schemes to be taken up by NEC. In the working group meetings members from Central Sector undertakings and the State Governments participate. This is also a mechanism for avoiding duplicity by obtaining non-duplication certificate from the State Government. The suggestion regarding anti erosion schemes may be accepted and NEC could also be in touch with Brahmaputra Board. The World Bank Scheme is to upgrade the T&D systems of NER and evacuation of Power. The scheme has now been frozen for any addition and

		deletion. Therefore, including system Improvement scheme of interstate nature only can be done by PGCIL and rest will have to be done by State under various other fundings.
Point 8	For each Sector and each scheme in a Sector, there should be a conceptual approach that integrated objectives with technology, capacity building of State technical staff and keeps subsidy levels to the minimum or 'nil'. The grant of free items to selected beneficiaries (as noticed for Kiwi fruit in Ziro) should cease and community approach with rotation of funds method (revolving fund) should be followed.	The conceptual approach for each sector and each scheme is presented in the Annual Plan write up of NEC and hence the same is not reflected in detail in the NEC General Guidelines. In respect of livelihood schemes, it is mentioned that the primary responsibility of the implementation of projects lies with the State Governments and NEC does not release grants directly to the communities except NERCORMPs project implemented directly through a regional society who transfer the funds to the district societies for disbursement to various village bodies, SHGs etc. In the NERCORMPs model, revolving fund concept is used.
Point 9	No retention of schemes is needed since this encourages canvassing	Retention of projects is a necessity for NEC as the State Governments send long priority lists containing hundreds of projects. NEC with its meagre resources and also based on the regional planning priorities can take up only a few projects. So the NEC Secretariat, after having a formal consultation with the State Government, through the mechanism of designated Committee constituted for the purpose, carry out retention of viable projects that fits the priorities laid down by the Council. The retention is done on the basis of concept papers. After retention, the State Governments are requested to make DPRs. Since preparation of DPR takes time and have cost implications, the State Government also feels comfortable for preparing DPRs only for the retained projects. It may be mentioned that Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee for Home Affairs in their 173 rd Report submitted in August, 2013 deliberated on the matter and recommended that M/DoNER should also think of retention of projects based on concept paper as the NEC does. In case of NEC, since the State Governments are consulted formally at the highest level of Chief Secretary for shortlisting of projects out of the priority lists, there is no question for encouragement of canvassing in any form. The revised NEC General Guidelines have incorporated many provisions to further streamline the process.
Point 10	DPR preparation should be along the lines planned for NLCPR. For livelihood schemes, competent Technical NGOs or organizations should be empanelled and employed. For livelihood schemes, DPR costs could be	The revised NEC Guidelines, NEC have a detailed guideline and formats for preparation of DPRs for the projects to be proposed in various sectors. NEC already has a scheme for helping the State Government in preparation of DPRs. The State

	shared between State and NEC. For infrastructure, etc, States' will need to bear responsibility and cost and these DPRs should be software-based as propose in NLCPR.	Government can take help of NEC's assistance for preparation of all kind of DPRs. It is also added that the DPRs prepared by the State Governments and sent to NEC are already software based. The civil works are based on the National Building codes and BIS specifications. The DPR of Roads are as per IRC specified.
Point 11	<p>State guest house could be part of a Tourism sector plan and not adhoc plan without any consideration of availability of hotels, etc. Staff Housing rules as in Delhi (GoI) should apply to free up houses occupied by ineligible staff in the NEC Colony. NEC guest house available in Shillong should give priority to staff from States on official trip to NEC. Further, when fund shortages are claimed, the need to focus on non priority items is rather surprising.</p> <p>Further, this scheme is not a regional issue relevant to NEC. Infact, this seems to be a bad precedent and shows inability by NEC to select useful schemes.</p>	<p>State Guest House Scheme in Shillong has been drawn up carefully after assessing availability of hotels, rooms in NEC Guest Houses and demand for rooms in Shillong in peak tourism seasons. The scheme has regional dimensions. Shillong being the erstwhile capital of undivided Assam (the mother state of most of the NE States) has historically attracted people from all over the region for education, recreation, health and administrative purposes and hence adding to the capacity of accommodation in Shillong would be very useful for NEC to carry out its regional planning activity. The allegation that there is ineligible staff in NEC Colony is not based on facts. There is no unauthorized person occupying NEC Colony or the guest house. The investment for construction and improvement of Guest House is very nominal but the benefits in enabling easy access by members of the Council to a facility befitting their status and security requirement would definitely enable holding of NEC Plenary in Shillong with ease besides carrying out various consultation on Regional Plans and issues in Shillong with State Government officials more frequently.</p>
Point 12	<p>No funding for private institutions should normally be done.</p> <p>(i) For private schools: Exceptional cases could be considered for uncovered areas. The NEC appears to impose requirements of 50 yr lease of land by document. To this can be added direct relinquishment to Govt. and representation in the Management Committee with provisions for free or subsidized enrolments for students without 'means'.</p> <p>(ii) For private hospitals: This should be only for exceptional cases. In this case, there seems to be no overall Govt. health sector strategy despite an Adviser (Health) in NEC. The terms for such funding should have similar checks and balances as for schools above. This was revealed during my inspection in Manipur.</p>	<p>The funding of private institutions have already been kept to the bare minimum and have been restricted to critical areas of education, health and social sector and these fundings are done as per the State Governments requests given through their priority list only. No private institution could directly request for fund from NEC. The checks and balances mentioned in (i) & (ii) have already been adopted and incorporated in the Revised NEC Guidelines. MoUs are entered between the private institutions funded by NEC with the Government department and duly formed Monitoring Committees are also constituted for ensuring plough back benefits to the poor and vulnerable section of the population. It is further mentioned that NEC is in the process of preparing a regional plan and strategy in respect of both health and education sector as well as other sectors.</p>
Para 2	In overall terms, given the change from	NEC has taken note of the change over from Planning

	<p>Planning Commission to Niti Aayog and the focus/mandate of NEC as Regional Planning, there is need for NEC to change its role with the Niti Aayog as 'Regional Strategy'. Therefore, the orientation of the work of the NEC should be, at every aspect, to consider the need to develop strategy whether for the Overall Plan, the various Sectors, and for the activity schemes taken up under each Sector. The present Plan for 2015-16 and the guidelines restate essentially the approach of the past without change.</p> <p>NEC needs to focus on strategy formulation and revise the strategy every year based on experience and feedback and, therefore, identify individual projects. Sector allotment should be based on strategy.</p>	<p>Commission to NITI Aayog. NEC has already prepared a draft Regional Plan strategy which has been shared with the State Government. In the second stage, NEC will be preparing the detailed Regional Plan containing action plan and strategy for each sector. The strategy so formulated will be shared with the State Governments and accordingly projects in the priority list would be formulated. This strategy would roughly be reflected fully in the Annual Plan 2016-17. The suggestion regarding NEC's focus on the strategy formulation may be accepted. NEC in fact is already taking steps in this direction as several areas have been identified for preparation of regional plans and strategies.</p>
Para 3	<p>The above notes prepared overnight are essentially issues that were to be raised in relation to the proposed Action Plan and Guidelines by NEC in the 64th Plenary. Some could be raised during the meeting and it was intended to propose that for the moment, an overall fund allotment for Sectors and States may be considered and schematic allotment and guidelines may be left for discussions by Secretary, NEC with Ministry of DoNER for which detailed preliminary notes have been made by me in the agenda papers (books) circulated by NEC (Flag A).</p>	<p>The draft Guidelines were circulated as early as November 2014. NEC is a Regional Planning Body and the Council has the mandate in making NEC Plans. In the revised NEC General Guidelines, provision of Executive Committee has been made where Secretary, DoNER will also be included along with Chief Secretaries of States and Secretaries of Central Ministries for reviewing the program of implementation of major infrastructural projects.</p>
Para 4	<p>In regard to NEC's regional planning functions, a note (Flag D) had been prepared by JS & EA (BC) on our work to help NEC but for which no response was received.</p>	<p>On the matters of Regional Planning a D.O. letter from Economic Adviser, DoNER Shri. S. N. Brohmo Choudhury alongwith write ups on schemes and programmes for some of the Central Ministers were received in the NEC Secretariat. The examination of the schemes and programmes of the Central Ministries for possible gaps is under progress in NEC. In this respect a reply to M/DoNER was given on 30th March, 2015.</p>

**WRITTEN SPEECHES
OF
HON'BLE GOVERNORS
AND
CHIEF MINISTERS**



SPEECH
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
LT. GENERAL NIRBHAY SHARMA
PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd.)
GOVERNOR
OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
64th PLENARY of
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
AT
NEW DELHI
ON
9th and 10th April, 2015

I deem it my proud privilege to participate in this august gathering of the North Eastern Council. On behalf of people of the Frontier State, I extend heartiest greetings to all the participants and look forward to meaningful deliberations.

Convening of this plenary just after three months of the last meeting, reflects the seriousness of the Ministry of DoNER. We hope that under the Hon'ble Minister's dynamic leadership and guidance, the North Eastern region will touch new heights of development and prosperity. Hon'ble Chairman, people of Arunachal Pradesh have very high expectation from you and deeply appreciate the new approach, direction and momentum of the Union Government.

Adhering to the given time slot, I would like to emphasize on few vital points of my speech, which is laid on the table.

INFRASTRUCTURE-CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT

As I said in my last plenary, I would like to reiterate again that the North East region requires a systematic and balanced pace of development in each of its State. **Lack of Connectivity is the biggest hurdle to the development in the region and is holding up unlocking of the vast economic potential of the region. Although there is a common thread running through, we must appreciate that one size does not fit all.** The region is geographically divided by River Brahmaputra into two halves, i.e., north and south. It is realized that epicentre of development is essentially concentrated in the southern part of the region. **For strategic reasons and to bring equitable growth and progress, we need to focus more on the region north of River Brahmaputra.** Trans-Brahmaputra connectivity and need based locating and shifting of certain administrative headquarters of the Central Government are therefore necessary. **It is more so for the sensitive state of Arunachal Pradesh.**

RAILWAYS

The people of my State are immensely grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister for inaugurating the Itanagar-Delhi AC Express and Itanagar-Guwahati Intercity Express train service. The rail service has given great impetus to communication and connectivity in and out of the State. Here I would like to **recommend expediting the work on other strategic lines to Tawang in the west and Pasighat in the east in Arunachal Pradesh. One of the**

important projects of Indian Railways, the Bogibeel Bridge must also be monitored to ensure that it meets the revised timeline of mid 2017. Its completion will be a major factor in the socio-economic development of this region and shall also fill the strategic void in Trans-Brahmaputra movement.

ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

In my State, due to harsh climate and topography, connectivity to the region needs to be properly planned and strengthened. Our immediate requirement is expediting the construction and up-gradation of roads in Arunachal Pradesh involving 5,000 kms. To achieve it in a reasonable time frame, our capacities have to be enhanced many fold and processes and procedures streamlined. Multiplicity of construction agencies and their coordination including accountability need special attention. **Specially, BRO with all its experience in road construction in the mountains is best suited to concentrate on Himalayas states, with NHAI & other agencies working in other states.** Posting of an Addl. DG to oversee the projects is a positive step. The functionary is however yet to be given the necessary administrative and financial powers to be effective. Also, the location of the office is at Guwahati instead of Itanagar, which needs to be re-examined.

CIVIL AVIATION

Owing to its vastness and tough geographical terrain, Arunachal Pradesh is largely dependent on air services for its connectivity requirement. NEC funded Tezu Airport is being developed. The progress of Airport project has to be monitored to expedite the final phase for activating the airport.

The site for Greenfield Airport at Holongi has been finalized and it is required to expedite the development of this airport. I also want to reiterate that **until the time this project is commissioned, reliable air service from the fully developed Airport at Lilabari must be improved on highest priority.** The present schedule of Alliance Airline is unsuitable to link flights from New Delhi. Hence, I would like to suggest use of bigger aircraft with direct flight scheduled from Lilabari to Delhi and Delhi to Lilabari, alternately via Kolkata or Guwahati. Such a step will enhance connectivity immediately. It has already been taken up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and needs immediate attention.

There are 8 (Eight) Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs) coming up in the border districts of State of Arunachal Pradesh. I call upon this forum to **advise the concerned agencies to expedite work in a time bound manner**. It is imperative that the infrastructure so created is utilized not only for Defence purpose and carriage of civil passengers and goods, but for ferrying construction materials for infrastructure development as well. It is suggested that aircraft services be planned simultaneously to avoid any delay in starting the service.

In addition two more **ALGs are required at Koloriang in Kurug Kumey District and Anini in Dibang Valley District. These ALGs need to be developed on priority for strategic reasons.**

INLAND WATERWAYS

Inland waterways have always been the cheapest means of transportation. The northeast region has many large and small rivers providing facilities for water transport, especially in their plains sections. In Arunachal Pradesh the rivers Siang, Lohit, Subansiri, Burhi Dihing, Noa Dihing, and Tirap are used for navigation by small country boats in those stretches where there are no rapids. It is estimated that the region has 1800 kms of river routes that can be used by steamers and large country boats.

My State has four stretches of total length of 311 km of waterway. This sector needs to be explored and harnessed. We need to revive the use of waterways-**National Waterway 2 running along the Brahmaputra and announced in 1988 is yet to become operational. In fact, development of waterways has to be our national priority and requires more effort.**

TOURISM

Tourism has a huge potential to generate employment and economic growth in my State and region. The natural landscape of Arunachal with powerful rivers, magnificent mountains, sprawling forests etc offers huge potential for river rafting, trekking, para-gliding etc. Also, Arunachal Pradesh has distinct and varied cultures among all its 26 major tribes and more than 100 sub-tribes. Their strong tradition of art, music, dance, handicrafts and distinct socio-cultural practice are a big tourist draw. The challenge in this field however remains to create tourist hubs to showcase the unique nature's bounty, and address a niche

brand of nature lover tourists. **Connectivity through air, land and waterways are however essential to achieve it. I wish that NEC facilitates in harnessing this potential.**

POWER

Arunachal Pradesh is going to be powerhouse of the country, provided its hydropower potential is harnessed. In order to harness the mega Hydro-power potential of the State, the impasse due to environmental and social issues has to be resolved at the earliest.

River Carrying Capacity & Cumulative Impact Assessment Study of Siang Basin in Arunachal Pradesh for development of Hydropower Projects (HEPs) has been done by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Government of India. As a result many projects on this river have to be dropped and a number of them will not be commercially viable. Similar studies are being conducted on the other major rivers of the State. **We need to take an overall view in this regard to expedite the development of feasible Hydro Power Projects to ensure comprehensive development of the region.** The Hydro Power scenario in the long run shall effect the socio-economic conditions and industrial development of the State. This is a HIGH PRIORITY area.

ACT EAST POLICY

Given that the external economic engagement will now play an increasingly crucial part in India's road to economic growth and development, it is clear that the **country's vision of becoming a developed economy by 2020 will depend to a large extent on the enhanced economic cooperation with its extended neighbourhood of South East Asian countries.** India was slow to start off, but with recent initiative of the Union Government, as an integral part of its Act-East policy, there has been a thrust on regional trade arrangements and agreements, especially with its eastern neighbours.

We have to prepare ourselves to be contributors and main stakeholders of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's 'Act East' and 'Made India' crusades. In that **North East has to be seen more than a transit route.** It has to be shaped as an economic powerhouse influencing South East Asia in general and countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar in particular. Here again, **connectivity and security are the main issues to realise the dream of prosperity in Ganga-Mekong region, which accounts for 25% of the**

world's population. North East of India and part of Myanmar is the weakest link on this axis. We will do well to remember that a chain is as strong as its weakest link.

BORDER BLOCKS & TRADE

In my state, we have to make the border villages self-sustaining and self-reliant for more than one reason and a bold rehabilitation policy will have to be thought of. Due to our vulnerability in the border belt and the need to harness the socio-economic potential of Border Blocks, there is perhaps a need to have a Border Area Security and Development Authority, which coordinates effort and resources of the Centre and State.

Arunachal Pradesh has a long international boundary with Bhutan, China and Myanmar. The people of the State have trade relationship with the people across the border since ancient times. Some still persist in formal and informal forms in some border trade points, such as Pangsu Pass at Nampong in Indo-Myanmar Border and Bleting (Namtsering), Dongshengmang and Bongkhar at Indo-Bhutan Border. These practices need to be institutionalized for socio-economic upliftment of local populous and State and Country as a whole.

Formal trading mechanism can be set up at Pangsau Pass in the eastern most part of my State connecting the State of Arunachal Pradesh with the other rich South East Asian nations and be a part of Kolkata-Kunming initiative. NEC must take up this issue with the Ministry of External Affairs and find out modalities for providing access to the international neighbours in a regulated manner.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Proper education, career guidance and entrepreneurship programmes on skill development and job-oriented education should be provided to the youth of the region. **NEC should have special focus on quality education through investment in teachers' training and evaluation.** We must use distance education infrastructure and latest scientific methods. The social, gender and regional gaps in education need special attention. We welcome announcement of setting up of Centre for Brahmaputra studies' at Guwahati and six agricultural colleges in the region. This step will definitely strengthen the educational hub of northeast region.

Establishment of a Sainik School in the State will help in preparing our future, the youth and also facilitate many tribal youth into the armed forces, who in turn will be a force multiplier. The State Government has taken up the case of establishment of Sainik School in the State with the Ministry of Defence. As a follow up to it, the site for setting up of the first Sainik School in the State has been finalized. It is expected that the issue of establishment of Sainik School in the State would be taken up expeditiously. **Raising of three Ecological battalions of Territorial Army have also been proposed to ensure preservation of forest cover of my natural resource rich state.**

SKILL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Arunachal Pradesh has made significant achievement in creating employment opportunities for the youth through skill development programmes. However to augment the efforts it is required that the skill development need to be not only for getting jobs outside the State, but for also creating self employment opportunities within the State. The State is on the path of rapid development involving manifold activities in the field of construction, power, health and education. **So skill set has to be created for making technicians, nursing, medical attendants, science teachers etc. It shall be a leap forward from the existing low value skill development initiatives involving security guard and beauty culture etc. to high value skill set creation.**

Assistance from Central Government is required in establishing High value Skill Development Centres, ITI and Livelihood Mission Schools in the State. Short-term employable skill development training for regular school students in schools and for school dropouts in subjects like sciences, mathematics and English speaking will give added advantage in the employability.

It is found that many a times youth have the required skill, enthusiasm and dedication, but are not able to mobilise capital and credit guarantors to start any enterprise. The mechanism for providing credit must therefore be eased and the collateral free loan scheme be implemented properly and reviewed periodically. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurship can play a pivotal role in this.

TELECOMMUNICATION

The coverage of telecommunication networks like AIR and DD needs to be enhanced urgently in the region. There is a void in the entire border belt calling for an immediate focus and enhancing their reach even beyond the border. Many fold advantages will accrue from this. DD through DTH transmission can cover 100% population and 100% area of the State. It is important that for reaching every corner of the State, specially the border belt, the DTH sets be made available immediately to the border area, may be free of cost which may not involve funding more than 2-3 crore.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

The State is progressing well on the far sighted programme launched by the Union Government, including Jan Dhan Yojana. This programme is welcomed by the people and taken up seriously by the State Government. However, to strengthen the effort, opening of more banks is required. It may be mentioned here that out of 214 administrative centres in the State involving District Headquarters to Circle Headquarters, only 66 administrative centres are covered by the Banks and rest of the Centres do not even have a single Bank branch. Centres where most of the transactions and interactions with the beneficiaries takes place must be covered as much as possible by the Banks, particularly, when connectivity is a big challenge in the State.

The Post Office set up in the State is much more vast and spread out. It needs to be strengthened and utilized, may be as CSP (Customer Service Point) to augment the effort.

Tele Connectivity is quite poor and un-reliable in the thrust and remote areas of the State. Hence, it poses serious challenge to the practical working of schemes through CSP. The efforts have to be made in this direction and agencies like BSNL etc. have to focus more.

It is necessary that all the State Govt. and Govt. of India beneficiary oriented schemes be linked to Bank accounts of the beneficiaries involving Aadhaar Number. This platform can then be used in direct transfer of benefits to the beneficiaries and shall eliminate pilferage.

Financial inclusion initiatives must also address the issue of providing easy availability of credit, especially to the vulnerable progressive groups including women self help groups to

enable generation of self employment on a sustainable basis. More so, in a State like Arunachal Pradesh, where Government jobs have almost reached its saturation. The CD ratio (Credit to Deposit Ratio) in the State stands at around 20%. In some districts, it is as low as it is even 6% and has to be increased significantly. **In this regard, digital connectivity is most vital to address all dimension of both, development and security.**

STRENGTHENING NEC

I would like to emphasise on the point made by the Hon'ble Minister of DoNER in the last meeting **to play the role of representative of State Governments with ministries of Government of India on following up the State projects.** This has to be institutionalized and taken forward effectively.

I am certain that all the esteemed members will agree that we must strengthen the **NEC to make it a 'Think Tank', on strategic planning for the North East.**

NITI AAYOG

In view of the huge infrastructure deficit and strategic urgency, a comprehensive Vision-2030 prospective plan is being formulated by my State Government in conjunction with the Niti Aayog. The State Government is formulating this document by taking into account the vital security, developmental and financial imperatives. Measures to enhance capacity and adherence to time and cost lines will be vital in this endeavour. I am sanguine that the NEC will strengthen the effort of the State Government to bring prosperity in every corner of the Frontier State. Let us put in our best to achieve the overall goal of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

As I conclude, once again I thank the Hon'ble Chairman for having given me this opportunity to put forth my views. On behalf of the people of Arunachal Pradesh, I extend an invitation to you to my beautiful and picturesque State.

I also thank the distinguished members of the Council and other dignitaries present here for giving me a patient hearing. I shall be eagerly waiting for the proceedings of the meeting to be compiled, documented and sent to the State Governments at the earliest so that meaningful action can be initiated early. I also compliment the organizers of this meeting for the meticulous arrangements they have made for this important event.

I once again wish the organizers well, and the plenary, a grand success.

Jai Hind



Speech of
Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Aharya
Governor Assam

64th Plenary of the North Eastern Council
New Delhi

9-10 April 2015

Respected Chairman, North Eastern Council, Hon'ble Union Ministers, Hon'ble Chief Ministers of North Eastern States, my esteemed colleagues and other dignitaries present in the conference

Annual Plenary meetings of the North Eastern Council are a significant and important platform where the development strategies for eight North Eastern States can be discussed and fine tuned to meet new challenges emerging from time to time. I am confident that the decisions taken in today's meeting would be implemented by the NEC and its constituent States in furthering the objectives of speedy socio economic development of the region. These meetings will not remain mere rituals but will actually transform the economic landscape of North Eastern India into a vibrant socio-geographical entity.

The main objective of the Council is to ensure a balanced and integrated development of the North Eastern part of the country. The NEC has been funding important schemes in a number of vital sectors like Transport & Communication, Water Resources, Power, Health, Agriculture, Industries & Commerce etc. It appears that during 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), the focus of NEC funding is mainly on Transport & Communication, Health and Power, as 72% of proposed allocation is planned for those sectors. However, NEC will also have to ensure that the fund flow into the region is sufficient enough to bear the fruits in terms of income generation for the masses. Human resource development especially skilled development to create employment opportunities in various sectors is gaining a relative importance, which should be reflected in the 12th Five Year Plan and onwards. This trend should be followed scrupulously while envisaging schemes and programmes cutting across sectors.

North East is a land locked region which needs special attention from Government of India to bring it at par on economic development scale with other parts of the country. This region is a unique mix of natural resources, abundant biodiversity, varies cultural, ethnic and lingual canvass. North Eastern Council is an ideal platform to chalk-out the development path for the region and eventually get it translated into practical field. Fortunately, this region as a whole has been receiving its greater attention since last couple of decades owing to Government of India's Look East Policy. Now with the advent of Act East Policy, during the regime of present Government, the goals envisioned in NER Vision 2020 can be achieved within the time frame. It is imperative that achieving such lofty goals will be possible only

when all the stake holders including Central Government, NEC and the North Eastern States participate fully as partners in the development process.

When we talk about North Eastern Region, Assam lies at the centre of it. Assam is geo-strategically located in the middle of the region and surrounded by all the States, Guwahati being the gateway. Any infrastructural development and improvement of facilities in Assam and especially in Guwahati directly or indirectly benefits the whole region. It is pertinent to mention that any development projects taken up in Assam, would as a natural consequence ensure that the spin-over benefits accrue to all other States as well. Hence NEC and the Ministry of DoNER can do good the NEC by giving highest priority to the projects having multi-state impact.

The funds actually made available to NEC have been far lower than the approved outlays. For instance out of 11th Plan allocation of Rs. 7394.00 crore the actual allocation has been limited to Rs. 3248.50 crore. Even out of this Assam got an amount of Rs. 517.52 crore, i.e. 15.93% only. Assam carried a spill over liability of Rs. 31.91 crore from 11th Five Year Plan. With this current trend of allocation, NEC would fall drastically short in terms of achieving the ambitious goals set out in the NER Vision 2020. Out of Annual Plan allocation of Rs. 770.00 crore for the year 2012-13 an amount of Rs. 77.07 crore only (approximately 10%) was released to Government of Assam by NEC. Secondly, from 2013-14 onwards, the NEC and NLCPR have also been included in the State's annual plan outlay, whereas the NEC funds are in addition to the normal Central assistance.

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to put forth some of the important issues pertaining to the State of Assam.

RAILWAYS

Railways play an important role in providing connectivity and thereby work as a catalyst for the economic development of the region. It is heartening to note that the Central Government has taken steps recently to connect all the North Eastern State capitals with the country's railway network and provide better connectivity. However, North Eastern Frontier Railway (NEFR) may be declared as a dedicated zone for North Eastern States. This move will help in creating employment opportunities for the people of the North Eastern States. Recently, the Lumding-Silchar Broad Gauge railway section has also been completed and which needs to be commissioned expeditiously and opened for passenger traffic. The

work on Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road Bridge may also be expedited. Rongia-Murkongselek rail communication should also be operationalise fully. Work of Badarpur-Agartala railway section should also be finished at the earliest. Jogighopa-New Mainaguri section also needs to be completed urgently.

ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

The Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) was constituted in 1998-99 to address the special developmental need of the North Eastern Region. 10% fund of all the Central Ministries is pooled in this fund to take care of various infrastructural and developmental gaps of the region. As on today, it is understood that about Rs. 12,000 crores have got accumulated under NLCPR account. This precious available fund may be considered for immediate allocation and sanction of the critical, large infrastructure projects for roads, airports, railways, inland waterways, power etc. which will go a long way in implementation of “Act East Policy” of Central Government. This will also help in developing better ties between India and Southeast Asia by having improved connectivity. Through NEC, I would like to urge Government of India for early completion of the portion of East-West Corridor within Assam as well as the branch connectivity of other States to this corridor. The Bogibeel and Dhola-Sadia bridges over Brahmaputra also need to be completed soon to solve the problem of connectivity. Long pending and delayed road and railway projects of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Railways will also improve intra-region connectivity. Due to non-availability of transit facilities in terms of roads and railways the time and cost for movement of passengers and goods from NE region to other parts of the country is extremely high. Therefore, 12th FY Plan has rightly laid due emphasis in improving road, rail and air connectivity both within the region and with other parts of the country.

CIVIL AVIATION

Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) may be converted into an Integrated Multi Modal Hub. The LGBIA requires night haltage to ease traffic congestion. Lack of night haltage has compressed the Air Traffic flow to very limited period of time due to which there is huge congestion in the Airport. The Government of Assam in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce is proposing to create a storage facility for cargo. For the perishable commodities such as vegetables and products of horticulture and sericulture, it is

imperative that an area may be earmarked for creating this facility. Further, it is highly desirable that the Civil Aviation Ministry collaborates with Government of Assam and contributes for creating a State of the Art facility for cargo movement. We are aware that the connectivity between Guwahati and Silchar is poor and the situation has been exacerbated due to the withdrawal of ATR services. It is requested that not only ATR services be restored but the services of other aircrafts through various carriers may be increased. Moreover, the services to Lilabari Airport in Lakhimpur district may be increased which will benefit Arunachal Pradesh immensely. The Airports at Jorhat, Lilabari and Tezpur also need to be improved and upgraded. The Airport at Rupsi in Dhubri which is now abandoned may also be revived. In addition to these, there are around 14 number of air strips in Assam which are lying idle. These were perhaps in use during World War-II. It is suggested that they may be considered for development as Green Field Airports either through Airports Authority of India or in a Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

The existing Route Dispersal Guidelines may be revised in favour of providing more connectivity to North East and also to increase the Tourism Industry in Assam as well as the other States in the North East. Helicopter services along with Heliports may be developed. More particularly, Heliports have to be created in Karbi Anglong, NC Hills, Dhemaji, North Lakhimpur and Margherita, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities may also be created at Guwahati. The funds may be earmarked from NLCPR by the Ministry of DoNER or NEC for this purpose.

INLAND WATERWAYS

The recent emphasis on National Waterways given by Central Government is a welcome move. Inland water transportation has tremendous potential for transportation of food grains, coal, heavy machineries and equipments within the North Eastern region. This can also be development for promoting tourism in the area. MV Mahabahu is the prime example of promoting tourism on waterways. Marine Highway will also reduce transportation cost and road waterways bottlenecks. Emphasis should be given by NEC for development of a network of waterways in NE Region to provide connectivity to all the States. Besides this, the transit facility to Bangladesh through waterways shall open an alternative and cost effective means to transport bulk cargo from Assam to West Bengal and beyond. NEC can fund the projects to improve an existing waterway and develop proper

jetty night navigation, mechanical cargo handling system and encourage construction of vessels by private sector.

TOURISM

Tourism is a job oriented sector and provides more employment opportunities in comparison to normal manufacturing industries in Assam without disturbing the environment. Several types of business such as hotels, restaurants, tour operators, handicrafts, transporters and travel agents can get benefit from it. Other allied businesses such as cab drivers, photographers, adventure sports organizers, food & beverage suppliers can also have profitable earnings. Tourism is one of the largest employment generators in the State of Assam and it plays a very significant role in promoting inclusive growth for the less advantaged sections of the society and reduction of poverty.

Over the years Assam, the “Gateway to North East” has emerged as a popular tourist destination and tourists are gradually finding it more and more interesting and exotic. The natural beauty, the environment, the flora and fauna of the State are unique. Its large biodiversity, rolling hills, green valleys, virgin forest, mighty Brahmaputra and its tributaries, all these make Assam a major hub for Wildlife and Eco-Tourism. The colourful lifestyle of its different tribes has a long history of diverse and unique cultural heritage. Their traditional art, culture and crafts are very attractive and these are sources of great attraction for tourists. Assam’s handicrafts and handloom need no introduction and have become popular in both domestic and international markets. All these make Assam a treasure house for the growth of Rural Tourism.

Assam has surged ahead by taking steps towards promoting “responsible tourism” with emphasis on eco-tourism. The State has tremendous strength and potential to develop ecotourism as it not only generates income, but it helps in conservation of local traditions, culture, flora and fauna and environment.

The benefits of community based ecotourism particularly in rural areas providing income to communities, discouraging migration to urban areas, and maintaining biodiversity, are widely acclaimed.

The Prime Segments of Tourism in Assam are – Wild life Tourism & Eco tourism, River Tourism, Tea & Golf Tourism, Pilgrimage & Cultural Tourism, Rural Tourism and

Heritage Tourism. NEC can fund a number of small scale projects in these segments which will benefit the whole region by attracting more and more tourists.

POWER

The power reforms have gone a long way in improving the power position in the State. It may be mentioned that in the year 2004, the Assam transmission company could handle hardly 720 MW of transmission. After 2004, with the assistance of Government of India and Government of Assam, different projects under ADB funding, NLCPR, NEC, TDF were implemented and some works are still in progress. At present the grid capacity has been enhanced to handle more than 1700 MW of transmission. It is estimated that by the end of 12th Five Year Plan, the handling capacity will be nearly 2000 MW.

However the state of Assam continues to be a power deficit state. There has been a shortfall of around 200 MW during off-peak and 400 MW during peak hours. With the implementation of the RGGVY projects, the demand for power has increased manifold along with the extension of the rural LT network.

It is learned that Assam Power Distribution Company has submitted two proposals to NEC under 90% funding from NEC which needs immediate attention. These are – construction of 2x5 MVA, 33/11 KV Substation at Bishnupur Panchali in Dhemaji District with an estimated cost of Rs. 10.07 Crore. The location is about 5 KM away from the Assam Arunachal Pradesh Boarder and the benefit of the project can be passed on to the people across the state boundary also. The second one is installation of 1 MW Grid Connected Solar Photo-voltaic Power Plant at Nilbagan in Nagaon District with an estimated project cost of Rs. 10 Crore. The project is supposed to be the largest one of this type in NE region.

BORDER ISSUES

North Eastern region is unique in its mix of rich natural resources, in its bio-diversity and in its varied cultural, ethnic and linguistic population. We must recognise certain common factors that affect all the states of the region, such as those arising from its land locked character, the closing of natural markets as well as trading routes particularly with Bangladesh that occurred with Independence and the fact that it is the only area that is linked with the rest of the country by a narrow strip of land.

The extraordinary ethno-geographic and bio-geographic diversity of this region precludes any uniform solution as different communities are at varying stages of growth. This calls for planning at different physiographic divisions. In Assam the process of such planning has already been introduced for the tribal dominated areas where autonomous councils have been put in place. This model needs to be strengthened.

The problem of ongoing inter-state boundary disputes is something that we have not been able to sort out. These need to be settled on priority. One of the main problems is that most of the interstate border areas are lacking infrastructure facilities, such as adequate roads, schools, health facilities, power supply, etc. A Special Package for Development of all the Inter-State Border Areas should be announced by the Government of India. The Ministry of DoNER and NEC should pay greater attention to funding inter-state and regional projects, particularly for those projects that develop adequate infrastructure in border areas.

Assam has approximately 533.30 Km long international boundaries with Bangladesh and Bhutan and approximately 2696.80 Km interstate borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and West Bengal. The Indo-Bhutan border areas are mostly forest areas whereas Indo-Bangladesh border areas are riverine. Due to remoteness of border areas and nature of habitation, the areas have become the hub of various extremist activities, the security personnel also often finding difficulties to nab the extremists and anti-social elements due to lack of road connectivity. There have been several instances of illegal encroachment by the anti-social elements from the other side of the border due to lack of communication and surveillance. These instances have given rise to unseemly law & order situation at the border thus creating tension between the States. For upliftment of the socio-economic status of the backward border population along inter-state border areas, more funds are required as the fund provided through State Plan budget have been inadequate. NEC can fund the infrastructure gaps in terms of the roads and bridges in the inter-state border areas, upgradation of Border Outposts (BOPs) to model Police Stations, improvement of road communication to the BOPs, provision of drinking water facilities through piped water supply schemes, goodwill programmes, solar electrification projects for remote border villages and primary school buildings.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Higher Education plays an important role for the overall development of a society. At present there are eight State Universities, six Government Colleges, 295 Provincialised Colleges, 43 Non-Government Colleges, 182 Sanskrit Tols & 21 non-Government Law Colleges and four Engineering Colleges in the State. The major issues of Higher Education in Assam are – lack of sufficient academic infrastructure for Universities, infrastructure for Student hostels, requirement of infrastructure in the colleges, infrastructure for Engineering Colleges and introduction of IT.

Out of the six universities, Gauhati and Dibrugarh university are more than 50 years old. Most of the buildings of these two universities are very old and are in dilapidated condition. For creation of a congenial academic atmosphere, improvement and augmentation of the existing infrastructure of the universities is urgently required. In the six new universities in the State, in which four are general and two are technical universities, we need to provide a considerable infrastructure, proper drainage system, libraries and laboratories. Many students belonging to the poor family cannot afford the cost of the private hostel. To accommodate all the students studying in the universities, a number of boys' and girls' hostel can be funded from NEC.

There are four engineering colleges in the State at present out of which two are more than fifty years old. These two engineering colleges as well as two newly established engineering colleges urgently require development of modern infrastructure, laboratory facilities, modern equipments, work shop building, etc.

As the global higher education scenario has been changing in a very fast pace, to cope with that and also to improve teaching-learning environment, modern IT facilities have to be introduced in all the higher educational institutes of the State so that students of this backward region can interact with the students of other developed areas of the nation as well as abroad.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Central Government has recently taken steps to improve the skills among the youths of the country which is a very refreshing and welcoming move for all of us including for the youths of Assam. It is clear from the statistics available that about 20 lakh youths in the

State of Assam are still jobless and 80% of them are reported to be lacking in technical skills. Most of the joblessness owes to the fact that the citizens are not skilled and therefore not employable. Assam has been reeling under a perennial unemployment problem and consequently the problem of militancy as a sequel to it. The Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramya Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY) launched by Government of India will go a long way in addressing this unemployment situation.

Assam Government has also taken up a number of schemes to offer skilled training and thereby employment opportunities to its educated youths. State has been following national policy in this regard. It is learned that the Assam Government has taken adequate steps to improve all the employment exchanges by converting them into a modern counselling and training centre. Computer devices, audio visual system, internet connections with expert counsellors and IT experts in the employment exchanges are going to drastically change the usual lethargy in these centres. It is also learned that the State Government of Assam has submitted a proposal to Government of India for establishment of skilled development centres in all the 219 development blocks of the State for conducting short-term skill development training under Multi Disciplinary Skill Development Programme (MDSDP). NEC can play a great role by financing the incubation centres in the urban and rural areas for skill development, innovations and entrepreneurship among the educated youths.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

State Government of Assam has been working closely with the banks & other mainstream financial institutions to substantially increase the physical outreach of families to areas which were hitherto excluded from the formal financial sector.

Financial inclusion is an important policy to tackle financial exclusion by making available banking services to unbanked population. The nationalization of banks & establishment of Regional Rural Banks have helped to increase the outreach of the banking to remote rural areas. The initiative of Financial Inclusion was first taken by the Reserve Bank of India in 2006-06. In 2005, RBI relaxed KYC requirements for small bank accounts. In 2006 RBI had permitted banks to engage Business Facilitators (BFs) and Business Correspondents (BCs) and intermediaries for providing financial and banking services.

The Financial Inclusion programme 'Swabhiman Campaign' was launched in the State in 2011 with the objective of providing banking facilities to villages with population more than 2000. Till 1st January, 2015, Assam has already covered 100% of such villages covering all the 2319 villages.

The banking network has increased substantially in last 14 years. Bank branches in the State have increased from 1297 at the end of March, 2001 to 2083 branches as on 1st January, 2015. Despite many challenges, banking is far ahead of what it was in the beginning of this decade. At present, an average 14,758 population is covered per bank branch in the State. 2869 ATMs are operating in the State as on 1st January, 2015.

Recognizing the importance of financial literacy in financial inclusion plan, programme on financial literacy have been initiated in my State. Financial Literacy Centres have been opened in all the 27 districts in the State. Altogether 5495 numbers of Financial Literacy Camps have been organized in the State during the FY 2014-15 up to 30-09-2014.

After launch of Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana, a national mission of Financial Inclusion of all households in the country, with universal access and financial literacy as the motto, the programme is also being implemented in a mission mode in Assam with focus on rural & urban households. Under the programme, the account opening is integrated with DBT, credit, insurance and pension. Every household is being provided an access to banking and credit facilities along with a range of financial products including overdraft. Access to banking service will definitely improve savings among the rural poor and will reduce their dependence on informal channels of credit.

With active participation, banks have now started the process of initiating the 2nd phase of the PMJDY programme for extension of the benefits like life insurance, accidental death insurance, Overdraft facilities etc. We have constituted the State Level and District level Committee for effective implementation of the programme.

The Agriculture advances in the State of Assam have been showing an increasing trend over the years. A total of Rs. 2268 crore agriculture advances have been disbursed during the Financial Year 2014-15. Issue of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) has been given top most priority in the State. A total of 16,79,462 KCC have been issued by the banks. The Credit Deposit Ratio in the State stood at 45.43 during December, 2014 which needs to be improved to 60.

Let me once again thank Hon'ble Minister, DoNER and the Chairman of North Eastern Council and this august house for giving me an opportunity to express my views on some of the burning issues pertaining to State of Assam which in my opinion, if tackled, will lead the State and the North Eastern Region to the path of faster growth. I hope that the annual plan 2015-16 has constructive proposals and I extend my active support to the NEC for implementation of the plans and programmes during forthcoming financial year.

Jai Hind



GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

SPEECH
OF
DR KRISHAN KANT PAUL
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR

AT
THE 64th NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL MEETING

9th & 10th April, 2015
New Delhi

Hon'ble Minister of DoNER & Chairman of the North Eastern Council, my Distinguished Colleagues & Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege to participate today in this 64th Plenary of the North Eastern Council. I would also like to express my appreciation to Dr Jitendra Singhji and NEC for discussion Annual Plan 2015 of NEC as early as in the second week of April 2015. Also I 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 Action Plan for North Eastern Region. This will go a long way in having an overview of development in the infrastructural area.

2. ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2015-16

We whole heartedly support the continuous thrust given by NEC to the Transport & Communication, Power, Agri & Allied Sectors, Human Resource and Health Sectors. I understand that the approval of the Council is solicited for Budget allocation of Rs. 773.00 crores for the year 2015-16. Scheme-wise committed liabilities and sector wise proposed outlay had been given. I understand that NEC will consider the priority projects of the State. I am informed that the State Government has already submitted priority list of projects for the Year 2015-16. I request NEC to continue giving priority to complete ongoing projects and take up new projects in core thrust areas of NEC in consultation with the State Government.

2. EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF NEC FUNDS AND ENHANCEMENT OF ALLOCATION OF FUND FOR MANIPUR

I support the request of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur on equitable distribution of fund to member States. I had raised this issue in the last 63rd NEC meeting also at Shillong. Overall fund released to Manipur still continue to be around 4% of the total released made so far by NEC, which is the lowest after Sikkim. Release of less than Rs. 50 crores during 2014-15 to Manipur is not sufficient to clear liabilities of ongoing projects and implement new projects sanctioned. Percentage allocation for Manipur may be enhanced at par with Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, which is around 6% of the total releases.

3. ENHANCEMENT OF ALLOCATION OF NEC FUNDS

You will agree with me that the amount released to the NEC is too small to make any meaningful impact on the development of inter-state infrastructure, or human

development, in the eight member States. There is still a large gap between the resources made available and the aspirations of the States. I am fully aware that without a quantum jump in the NEC allocation and with continuous cut in the annual budget, which is less than Rs. 800 crores for eight NE States, it will be difficult for NEC to provide fund for core areas identified for regional planning of NER. Considering our bona-fide requirements of the economically backward small States of the NE Region, I urge Dr Jitendra Singhji through this august house again to take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for enhancement of NEC and NLCPR budget.

4. Restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and change in funding pattern.

We are all aware that under the 14th Finance Commission Award, there has been an increase in devolution of central tax from 32% to 40%. However, we are concerned whether this will actually result in bringing down state financial deficit for special category states of NE region and Manipur in particular. The State hardly has nay flexible outlays under the state plan to meet the state share of Flagship and other CSS programmes. With the removal of NCA, SCA, SPA and change in the funding pattern of CSS programmes and also delinking of some of the CSS programmes, it will be very difficult for the State to continue implementation of most of the CSS programmes, except on 100% funding or on 90:10 funding pattern between centre and state. I am sure this is a matter of concern for all NE States. We request that the state financial gap and state matching share for CSS which were earlier being funded from flexible fund and NCA, SCA, SPA may now be provided by the Finance Ministry or the NLCPR pool of GBS. We also request for retaining existing funding pattern of 90:10 or 100% for CSS programmes for all Special category states. I appeal through this august house to Dr Jitendra Singhji to take up this matter seriously with the Ministry of Finance on top priority and urge for restoration of special category status to the NE States along with other financial allocations of fund so that fiscally poor states may continue to be on the path of development.

5. REVISED GENERAL GUIDELINES& REVISED SECTORAL GUIDELINES OF NEC

I would like to express my appreciation to the NEC for detailing comprehensive detailed Revised General Guidelines and Revised Sectoral scheme guidelines of NEC to this august house. My government support constitution of Executive Committee of NEC chaired by the Chairman, NEC, Composition of Sectoral Empowered Committee, framing of

procedure to be followed by the Standing Committee for retaining of projects in NEC and procedure for NEC- Project Appraisal Committee (NEC-PAC). I am informed that State Government has furnished specific suggestions and comments on the changes incorporated in the guidelines. We support projects designed under Agriculture & Allied Sectors to deal with deficiency in demands for eggs, fish and milk as envisaged in Vision-2020 Document. Proposal for increase in number of seats sponsored by NEC for students in economically poor and backward category for availing good education in the Assam Rifles Public School, Shillong is endorsed. We endorse the guidelines of NEC for Dr T Ao Memorial Football Tournament. We request NEC to support and frame guidelines for similar sports tournaments, National and International tournaments organized in the NE region for sports like Polo, which originated from the NE states and provide funding under MH-2552. We support the guidelines for holding a North East Cultural Programme showcasing the varied forms of songs and dances of all the NE states in Delhi and other metro cities of India. The programme will be an excellent platform to showcase the rich heritage of the region and promote tourism.

6. SCHEME FOR REHABILITATION/CONSTRUCTION OF STATE GUEST HOUSES AT SHILLONG:

We support NEC proposal for construction of State Guest house at Shillong. Shillong is the hub of tourists and a centre for higher education, regional meetings like NEC Plenary meetings, REC, etc. Regular NEC review meetings are also held at Shillong. There is need for all the NE States to have a proper Guest House at Shillong to facilitate such meetings at Shillong and also to facilitate tourists and students coming to Shillong.

7. Sir, I would like to thank you for giving us this platform today to highlight our concerns and strengthens the commitment for developing the North-East.

JAI HIND



Speech of

Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi
Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya

at the
64th Plenary
Of
North Eastern Council

On

9th - 10th April, 2015

at

New Delhi

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for DoNER and Chairman, NEC, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Excellencies the Governors, Hon'ble Chief Ministers, Members of the North Eastern Council, Officers of the Government of India and of the North Eastern States

This is the first occasion for me to address a plenary of the North Eastern Council and I express my pleasure in being a part of this conclave of visionary leaders who play a crucial role in determining the course of development of the North Eastern region of India.

This Plenary is a great opportunity for all the NE States to come together and to introspect on the development initiatives undertaken in each State and in the region. More importantly, it is a forum where the meeting of minds will aid in formulating better strategies to address the socio-economic needs of the region and help propel it to greater growth and progress.

The last Plenary was held recently on 2nd January 2015 and hence, there are not many new issues to be taken up now. I am happy to note that NEC is taking necessary follow up steps on most of issues that had been raised during the said plenary as indicated in the Action Taken Report. I would therefore confine my address to a few issues while reiterating some that were raised earlier.

1. Formulation of Regional Plan:

The NEC is mandated to function as a Regional Planning Body for the North Eastern Area and give priority to projects and schemes that benefit two or more States. The NEC therefore needs to be backed by adequate resources to enable it to fulfil its mandate. During the first three years of the 12th Plan (2012-17), the annual outlay of NEC has been in the range of Rs. 600-700 crores only. For 2015-16 also, a meagre outlay of Rs.773 crores has been fixed. One suggestion made earlier that merits consideration is the placing of a portion of the Non Lapsable Pool of Central Resources (NLPCR) at the disposal of NEC in view of the fact that substantial funds are reported to have accumulated in the NLPCR.

2. Regional Technical Resource Institutions for North East:

In acknowledging the role of NEC as a Regional Planning Body, it is essential that the NEC Secretariat is suitably remodeled in its functioning by equipping itself with experts to formulate a comprehensive regional plan addressing the needs of the region with downstream benefits to the constituent States. Towards this end, the NEC may support the setting up of more regional technical resource institutions like the Indian Institute of Public

Health. Of late, the subject matter relating to ecology and environment has assumed enormous significance in view of the Climate Change issues affecting the world which impacts the North East India as well. A Regional Institute for Environmental Studies should be set up in the North East for which the NEC may take a lead role.

3. Advocacy Role:

In addition to its role as a Regional Planning Body, the NEC Secretariat could play a more active advocacy role with the concerned line Ministries of the Government of India for speedy sanction of inter-state and regional projects like roads, power etc. and to obtain environmental clearance from the MoEF.

4. Project Sanctions:

It has been observed that there are considerable delays in the implementation of projects of the NEC as well as DoNER due to delays in technical vetting of estimates and issue of sanctions. It is suggested that suitable technical personnel with adequate powers be placed in the NEC for technical approval of both the NEC as well as the DONER schemes.

5. Infrastructure Bottlenecks:

Infrastructure bottlenecks continue to plague the North East especially in respect of power and connectivity. NE has vast potential for power generation which largely remains untapped. Besides, there is much scope for small hydro and non-conventional energy projects which could meet the energy requirements, especially in the rural areas. NEC's continuing support is required for feasibility studies for such proposals along with investments support in due course. Connectivity between States and within the State continues to be inadequate. Rail and air connectivity coupled with poor condition of roads hamper commerce and movement of people. These will also need to continue as a focus area of the NEC.

6. Act East Policy:

The Act East Policy of the Government of India has considerable relevance for the North East. While at the State level, the Government of Meghalaya continues to support cultural exchange, handloom products, handicrafts and trade, the support of the NEC could be helpful in bringing together opinion makers from the region and neighbouring countries. This ought to be done in active collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

7. International Border Trade:

Meghalaya shares a long international border of 443 kms with Bangladesh. There is a need therefore to equip the integrated Check Posts at Dawki, Borsora, Gasuspara etc. in all respects. Supplementary services like Banking (ATM facilities), Post Offices and mobile phone networks should be improved immediately, and with utmost priority at these points. Strengthening of the Indo-Bangla Trade Relations would ultimately benefit the entire region in a multi faceted manner. The NEC should take the initiatives in this regard.

8. Tourism:

Meghalaya with its natural beauty and salubrious climate holds immense potential in the tourism sector to attract both, domestic as well as foreign tourist. However, a focused attention on the border country of Bangladesh could yield rich dividends. It would be appropriate to concentrate on marketing of Tourism products to Bangladesh and target the tourists from the country. There is a need to operationalise the Dhaka- Shillong bus link for the promotion of tourism at the earliest. Shillong also has one of the oldest natural golf courses in the country. Since a lot of investment is required for attracting golfers from South East Asian Countries, the golfers from Bangladesh could be invited by offering better facilities and attractive packages at a very reasonable price. A tour operator meet and familiarization tour could enhance promotion in both Meghalaya and Bangladesh. Packages could be worked out to suit varied interests of the tourists and marketed by the tour operators. NEC could support such an initiative of the State.

9. Pending Projects:

This occasion of the Plenary is an ideal platform to reiterate the importance of two long pending inter-state road projects, namely (1) Rongram Jangrapara via Damal Asim road to Tikrillilla Jaleshwar (Assam) which has a total length of 84.00 Kms at an estimated cost of Rs. 114.00 crores and (2) Improvement, widening into double lane including metalling and black topping of Pasyih- Garampani Road (0-48th km.) at an estimated cost of Rs. 120.00 crores. Both the roads are vital to regional connectivity. I would request the NEC to expedite early approval for these projects so as to avoid time and cost overruns.

10. Technical Expertise for Coal Mining:

Present unscientific mining of coal being practiced by the people in the State has induced ecological imbalance and resulted in environmental hazards like water pollution, soil pollution, threat to natural caves etc. The National Green Tribunal has therefore imposed a ban on coal mining which has resulted in loss of the revenue to the State's exchequer besides reducing the purchasing power of the people. There are 2 (two) urgent requirements to overcome this problem. Firstly, the State Government is required to prepare a mining plan which addresses both environmental and safety concerns indicating the method of mining that should be adopted given the land holding pattern, the terrain and the geological conditions prevailing in the State. Secondly, it has to take remedial measures to restore the environmental degradation already caused due to indiscriminate mining. Both the tasks are challenging for which the State has no expertise. In this connection, NEC can explore ways and means for seeking technical expertise from within the country and abroad in assisting the State to ease this problem.

11. Provision of Anti-Erosion Measures:

The Umngot sub-basin is situated in the North Eastern Region of India. Part of its catchment area lies in India and part in Bangladesh. The length of the river from its source to Indo-Bangladesh border is about 82 Kms and forms the confluence with the Meghna river of Bangladesh which finally drains into the Bay of Bengal. The total catchment area of the river up to Bangladesh border near Dawki is 898 Sq. kms. Last year, heavy soil erosion occurred in this sub-basin and its adopting tributaries that resulted in the displacement of houses, livestock and other properties of the people living therein. To prevent further erosion, there is immediate need to take up anti erosion measures like bank protection works, land reclamation works and other allied activities. The NEC is requested to support funding for this project to ease this problem at the earliest.

12. Setting Up of Cold Storage Infrastructure:

Meghalaya is basically an agricultural state with almost 80% of its total population dependent primarily on agriculture for their livelihood. Besides major food crops like rice and maize, the state is famous for its oranges (khasi mandarin), pineapple, banana, jackfruit and temperate fruits like plums, peaches and pears. Hence the potential for agro-based industries in Meghalaya is phenomenal. These include Agro & Horticulture Processing Unit

and Processing of Plantation Crops. These products require proper and careful storage in appropriate godowns. Additional storage facilities and processing units for agricultural and horticultural produces are required including in the border areas for improving the export of the products to the neighbouring countries. Support from the NEC for setting up of cold storage infrastructure and processing facilities for exporting the horticultural products that have comparative advantages such as pineapple and banana to Bangladesh and South East Asian Countries would go a long way in encouraging our farmers to become more market-oriented.

13. Disaster Management:

Apart from several other measures that need to be taken towards preparation for disaster management it is desirable to conduct an intensive survey of Government buildings, in the first instance, so as to assess the requirement of retrofitting, if any, in view of the entire State of Meghalaya being in the high seismic zone. The NEC should, in fact, consider taking up such an exercise in all the North East States.

14. Sports:

The youth of North East including Meghalaya have aptitude and talent for sports and games which need to be nurtured in the interest of regional as well as national integration. In order to do this, special attention needs to be given to create adequate sports infrastructure in all the districts of the States. NEC may consider preparing a master plan for sports infrastructure in the North East.

15. Plan assistance to States:

The States of the North East have hitherto been Special Category States and have been eligible for Special Plan Assistance, Special Central Assistance and 90:10 sharing pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The changes made by the 14th Finance Commission in this dispensation have given greater flexibility to the States in drawing up their expenditure plans in line with their priorities & needs. However, some concerns have been expressed regarding the adverse implications of the change from 90:10 to 50:50 for certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes. We need to have an informed discussion on the subject. It would be helpful if the NEC takes a lead in preparing a status paper on the subject covering all the North Eastern States.

Conclusion:

Before concluding, I place on record my gratitude to the Chairman of the NEC for giving me this opportunity to place these observations concerning my State.

Since its inception, the NEC has played a crucial role in harnessing the potential of the North Eastern States and I hope that it will continue to shoulder its responsibility with vision and vigour in the years to come.

THANK YOU

JAI HIND.



SPEECH
OF
His Excellency
SHRI KESHARI NATH TRIPATHI
Governor
MIZORAM
AT
THE 64TH PLENARY MEETING OF
THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL
ON
9-10 APRIL, 2015
NEW DELHI

Hon'ble Minister for DoNER and Chairman NEC, His Excellencies the Governor of North Eastern States, Hon'ble Chief Minister of the NE States, Distinguished dignitaries, Senior Government Officials, Ladies and Gentlemen.

My sincere greetings to all of you as we gather today for the 64th Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council wherein we will be sharing our collective thoughts and visions for the development of this region. I find it particularly fortunate that we have a Minister for the Development of the North Eastern Region whose rich experience will go a long way in translating our visions into reality.

I would like to emphasize some points which I consider to be immense importance for active consideration by this august Council.

1. Mizoram is expected to grow at an impressive rate of 8.46% during 2014-15 with base year 2004-05, which is significantly higher than projected national growth at 7.4% during 2014-15 with base year 2011-12. The Primary Sector comprising agriculture & allied activities contributes 16.26% (2013-14) to the GSDP. With livelihood of about 60% of the population depending on agriculture and allied activities, faster growth in agriculture is both a necessity and sufficient condition for stronger, sustainable and inclusive growth in the State. It is clear that the contribution of agricultural to GSDP is quite low in relation to the number of people engaged in it. At present, there are 5 (five) ongoing projects under Agriculture & Allied Sector with estimated cost of Rs. 1571.53 lakhs wherein NEC has released Rs. 1065.83 lakhs to date. However, there has been no release of fund under the sector during 2014-15. I cordially request that higher allocation to Agriculture and Allied Sector may be made in NEC budget.
2. As regards employment, Government sector contributes majority of the share of income in the formal sector. Considering the already oversized public sector in the State, there appears to be no future scope for creating more jobs in public sector. Creating an environment conducive for private sector investment in the State is one of the top priorities of the Government. Stable Government in the State coupled with demographic dividend supported by favourable human development condition in the economy could appropriately provide impetus. I expect that more initiative are taken up by NEC to create employment opportunities.

3. The demographic dividend in Mizoram can be properly exploited through appropriate skill development mission and initiatives. Government Skill Missions needs to be streamlined and taken up by concerned line Departments in a coordinated manner. Though the State doing reasonably well in literacy rate, this, by itself, does not mean much, as we have to go far beyond in terms of quality and equity. The ratio of the number of Government employees to the total population is already very high in Mizoram. In fact, there is hardly any scope for absorbing additional manpower in the Government sector. Meanwhile, there is an increasing number of educated unemployed and the solution to this social problem will be meaningful technical and vocationalization of education. Hence NEC may focus more on skill development of the NE Youth.
4. Sometime ago, there was a plan to operate a dedicated Airline exclusively for the North East touching most of the States. It seems this proposal has fizzled out. This proposal may be renewed for materialization in the interest of all the N.E. States. Further, Delhi being the capital, large number of Government servants and local passengers frequently visit Delhi. The necessity of changing aircraft at Kolkata or Guwahati is extremely inconvenient and troublesome for passengers. To solve this problem, Direct/ Hopping Flights between Aizawl and Delhi may be operated on priority. This point in fact, was taken up several times in the past but has not materialized till today. I request that this problem be urgently addressed.
5. Helicopter service from Aizawl, the State Capital to all the District headquarters has been operating on Wet Lease basis for the past two (2) years. The service has become a lifeline for the people of Mizoram in view of the existing unreliable surface communication system in the hilly State of Mizoram. We are thankful to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their provision of 75% of the helicopter Wet Lease charge where the remaining 25% is borne by the State Government. It may please be noted that for an economically backward State like Mizoram, even payment of 25% of the Wet Lease charge is extremely difficult since passengers are to be charged a reasonable fare within their reach. It is urgently proposed that the 75% borne by the Home Ministry may be increased to atleast 90%. This will be of great relief to the passengers and the State Government.

6. In a land-locked State with little natural resources, our most valuable resource is that of our human resource. It is a matter of pride that Mizoram has one of the highest literacy rate in the country and if current indications are anything to go by, we follow very closely on the heels of Kerala. While this is certainly an achievement, mere statistics in the way it is defined in this country does not go a very long way in either improving the living conditions of the people or creating employment opportunities. We have to go the extra mile and create a pool of human resource which can provide the backbone of the industry and the economy. The IT Sector and the IT-enabled services offer tremendous potential. The NEC is requested to allocate more of its resources for furthering efforts on this sector.
7. The present level of economic activity in the NE Region indicates that no private investors are interested in infrastructure development initiatives such that investments in infrastructure have to come from the public sector/ government. Due to its strategic location & requirement of massive infrastructures on the one hand, and severe resource constraints on the other, investments in infrastructure from the government is of paramount importance and hence higher proportions of funds should be allocated through NEC and NLCPR.
8. Arrangements for provision of funds from DONER for monitoring and evaluation of the projects at the State level is required so that a dedicated Cell can be set up under the Nodal Department for the State i.e. the Planning & Programme Implementation Department to ensure that project conceptualization and implementation are as per actual requirement for the State and schedule respectively.
9. As per the amendment of the N.E.C. Act the NEC has become the Regional Planning Body. As the N.E. States are more aware regarding the conditions of their respective States. It is often viewed that dictation from Central Govt. regarding allocations without firsthand knowledge of the basic conditions does not bear desired results and thus to a certain extent retards the growth process of the NER. As such Regional Planning formulated by the NEC will have to be the norm in future for effective growth policy in the coming years.
10. The fate of several NEC projects remains uncertain even after the years is over. Some projects are sanctioned in the subsequent year thus rendering the State Government

uncertain regarding which projects from the current year are likely to be sanctioned, and which projects are to be included in the priority list for the subsequent year. The NEC Budget is divided into several sectors which is restricting availability of fund under each sector. Priority of the State Government has to be adjusted within the system at the cost of the urgent needs and priorities of the State. Projects may be sanctioned based on the order of priority given by the State Government.

11. Over the years the percentage of funds allocated to NEC vis a vis the Gross Budgetary Support has gradually declined. With the restricted role of NEC and limited budgetary support around Rs. 700.00 crores for each year NEC may fail to play its mandatory role of Regional Planning Body. The Vision 2020 Projection of massive requirement for the NER to catch up with the rest of the country (Approximately Rs. 13,29,891 crores upto 2020) must be actively considered while making allocation for NEC.
12. In the Telecom Sector implementation of the Special North East Telecom plan in Mizoram has been very slow. As a result OFC Connectivity between District and Block Headquarters and from Block to Village level under NOFN scheme has been totally lacking. At the same time, a dependable and functional Telecom network in hill terrain and difficult remote area like Mizoram is a priority need. The concerned Central Agency may take up and complete these projects quickly.
13. In the case of road construction, maintenance of road in hill areas involves various problems which are not encountered in the plains. It has been experienced that due to unstable soil condition on hill State, landslide both major and minor during rainy season is a regular phenomenon. Huge amount of expenditure has to be incurred for clearance of landslips during rainy season. Apart from clearance of landslip, blockage of natural drains and side-drains resulting in storm water flowing along the roads cause extensive damages to pavements and structures. High rainfall in hill States in general and Mizoram in particular aggravates damages to pavements thus shortening the cycle of renewals required. Due to the above reasons, allocation of fund for road maintenance for hill States needs to be enhanced many folds. I hope this aspect is seriously addressed by this august Council.

14. The Vision NER 2020 document recognized agricultural and allied Sector, connectivity and infrastructure development like power as priority areas. But subsequent measures taken up for operationalising the vision into reality are not adequate. NEC (as a regional Planning Body) and Ministry of DoNER should play pro active roles for realizing the goals of the vision document. This automatically calls for bridging of gaps particularly in infrastructure which involves connectivity – rail, road, air, waterways, telecommunication network, availability of power and extensive irrigation development for harnessing the huge agricultural potential.
15. I deeply appreciate the untiring efforts, concerns and initiatives taken by the DoNER Minister. Under his able leadership I believe the North East can play the “Arrow Head Role” once again, ready to face the challenge of globalization process as envisaged in the Look East Policy.

I sincerely thank the North Eastern Council authorities for giving me this opportunity to share my views and ideas. I hope that the North Eastern Council will continue to play the leading role assigned to it for the development of the North Eastern Region, especially in its attempt to fulfil its mandatory role of Regional Planning Body.

THANK YOU



Speech of

Shri P. B. Acharya

Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland

at the

64th Meeting of North Eastern Council

on

9th to 10th April 2015 at New Delhi

Hon'ble Chairman of the North Eastern Council Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji, Hon'ble Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Senior Officers from Government of India, esteemed Members of North Eastern Council and distinguished participants.

Namaskar,

It is my pleasure and privilege to be amidst such a distinguished gathering and participants in the Plenary Meeting of the North Eastern Council and I extend my warm greetings to all participants.

Let me share some of pertinent issues concerning the North East Region fraternity so that the ideals and objectives of North Eastern Council are realized.

Regional Planning

The Central leaders have enunciated a very clear policy of “Look East, “Act East” and “Make in East, which would result in development of North East which would in turn lead to progress of India as well.

NER underdeveloped is India underdeveloped. Hence, the developmental gaps of NER which have been an issue for a long time should be tackled and addressed along appropriate strategies and policies.

With this pragmatic goal, our Universities should be in the forefront to work out programmes to interact with Universities of Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Myanmar, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh. We can create goodwill with our neighbouring countries by promoting University to University interaction. Unless our neighbouring countries are friendly, there cannot be peace in our area. Universities have to work out the road map to reach this goal.

The endeavor of North Eastern Council in aptly recognizing areas towards Regional Planning and Strategy for the NER for bridging the developmental chasm and obscurity is highly commendable. The exercise of identification of areas in accordance with the needs of the Region and NER Vision 2020 only reinforces the very objectives of the formation of the NEC Body in 2003. It is our firm belief and trust that NEC will spearhead in fulfilling the objectives of plugging the developmental gaps of the NER in accordance with changing times. Government of Nagaland shall avow to support NEC in flagging the developmental issues faces.

NER, has more than 5000 kms of international border. It is thus imperative to put a productive strategy into place to reap gains from International Trade and Border trade. This shall benefit the people of NER and the Nation as a whole. To this effect, Special Development Zone for production of agri and allied products, Special Economic Zones / Corridors should be strengthened and established and appropriate infrastructures; both physical and social should be created.

NE States presently, are substantially dependent on imports for meeting the demands of food items such as eggs, fish, milk, meat, poultry, etc. NEC should put forth a strategy to alter the production scenario of such food items. Given the potential, NER should be transformed from a meat, egg, fish etc importing region into a self sufficient area.

There is urgent need to reorient the strategy and policy for NER according to the Region's endowment. Scenic Natural Beauty and the Vibrant Cultural Heritage is one such area where NER is amply bequeathed with Promotion of Tourism in the Region is, therefore, very essential and lucrative. Another area is Sports. The Region has produced numerous Sportsperson and has brought laurels to the Nation. It is imperative to build and provide adequate regional sports infrastructures to tap the talents and equip them to compete in international arena.

Let me now come to some specific areas concerning Nagaland.

Education

Gyan Kendras should also be Vikas Kendras, i.e. Knowledge Centres have to be Development Centres. Our University's educated empowered youth should not be self-centered intellectuals for their own prosperity but should be conscious and ready to address the society's needs to make the country prosperous. Then only the empowerment by education has the worth.

Higher education today in India has four challenges in terms of four Es. These are Expansion, Equity, Excellence and Employability. We need to reach the unreached and include the excluded in a continuous sustained manner. We have to improve Excellence, put more money into research, to get much more done in that. And the fourth E, which we don't talk about enough, is Employability. We need to make sure that people actually can come out of the education system, that the economy needs and that the employer needs.

There is an urgent need of supplementing our conventional degree courses like B.A, B.Com, B.Sc. with skill in their three years degree course. When they step out from University to face the real world, they should not be at the mercy of someone for job. They should have self-confidence with their skill to be entrepreneurs or to engage in purposeful wealth creating vocation.

Universities should not be directly or indirectly the reason for the big crime of creating unemployable graduates. Our Graduates must be an asset to the society and not a burden to society/family.

Urgently, our Universities should start continuous interaction with trade, industry & commerce of our areas and address the availability of nature given raw materials/wealth to create more wealth to make use of them by introducing supplementary courses taking into account the law of supply and demand. For example: Resources – we have in Assam – mineral oil (Petrol), tea, lime, waterfalls, bright sunshine, organic food crops, crafts like handloom, handicrafts etc.

Why we should not think of starting new course by which the exploration of our natural wealth will bring employment and prosperity. For example – for marketing our organic food, we require refrigeration knowledge. We can produce solar energy also.

Knowledge and skills about day to day consumer needs like – mobile repair, electric gadgets maintenance, motor maintenance and repair, spray painting, carpentry, welding, real estate etc. can be introduced.

We should be asset to the society and creators of wealth.

Health & Sports

Medicinal plants/herbs have been identified and used throughout human history. Plants have the ability to synthesize a wide variety of chemical compounds that are used to perform important biological functions.

NEC Dr. T. Ao Memorial Football Tournament has been made into an annual regional event of NER. Besides this, NEC should take initiative in organizing regional sports events in other sports disciplines such as archery, Polo, boxing and indigenous games etc to harness and mould the talents of the region.

The region has tremendous hydro power potential and is aptly referred to as the “Potential Powerhouse of the Nation”. Tapping this potential will redress the energy deficits of the region and the Country significantly. NEC should stress on the development of the power generation in Nagaland and NER as a whole.

Another focus of the Region is Education. Every year there is an exodus of students to mainland India in quest of quality education. Regional Education Institutes in NER should be established and upgraded to impart quality education. Moreover, Facilities of Skill/vocational educational institutes should be upgraded and strengthened for the unemployed youth of the region.

NEC may put emphasis on development of regional institutes in imparting courses in music, IT, Nursing, Paramedic, etc in NER. This will widen the scope of employment of the Youths of NER in India as well as abroad.

Establishment of regional institutes:

i) Horticulture College.

The State with suitable climatic and soil conditions has potentiality in high value medicinal plants growing naturally as also temperate crops like apple, kiwi along with traditional crops like orange, guava, peach etc. Rare medicinal plants of the State will permanently extinct if its conservation and cultivation is not taken up. There is need for Research & Development intervention in promoting and developing cultivation technology of indigenous and rare medicinal plants of the State. Hence, it is felt that establishment of a Horticulture college/institute will prove fruitful and benefit not only Nagaland but the entire NE Region.

ii) Institute of Aviation in Nagaland:

Nagaland has been proposing to set up a Flying Academy at Dimapur since 2010. The academy is being proposed in collaboration with the Carver Flying Academy. The academy will not only train up commercial pilots but also air maintenance crews. Such an institute will benefit the other North Eastern States as well; hence, it is suggested to upgrade it into a regional institute.

iii) Cold Storage facility:

The trade and commerce of Agri and allied products of the State faces a major setback due to lack of proper storage infrastructure. At present, Nagaland has just one cold storage facility at Dimapur which will not be able to cater to the demand of the entire State. As a step towards expansion of regional trade and relief from drought and food scarcity, NEC is requested to provide more funds for construction of more cold storages in the State.

3. Urbanization.

We have a large number of educated youths migrating from rural to the urban centers in search of jobs and livelihood. The younger generation with better education exposure has higher aspirations and expectations. The recent census has revealed that the urban population increased from 17.23 percent to 28.97 percent in the last decade. We are obliged to plan for our future generation's long term urban needs focused on development of urban conglomerated. We would therefore like to develop urban centers along the foothills. This area also further coincides with our mineral belt bearing oil and coal. This will help shift the population from the hills to the foothills for economic activities creating necessary atmosphere to attract private investments into the State. This being crucial aspects of the 12th Plan, it is requested that the four lane foothill highway and the rail line is provided to the State during the 12th Plan.

4. Tourism

In the absence of large scale industries, tourism industry is one of the alternatives that can play a pivotal role in socio-economic development in the State. Nagaland with its rich historical, cultural and panoramic landscapes coupled with vibrant and colourful festivals, pristine valleys and exotic flora and fauna, offers the possibility of unique experiences for the tourists.

Affordable hotels should be there for the domestic tourists.

However, the challenge is to make these splendid endowments accessible to the people of India and other countries. The State and the region in general face acute problems of connectivity. Hence, there is a need to develop a regional perspective in tourism development and to also plan in terms of inter-states and regional circuits. The key drivers of a tourism circuit are accessibility, connectivity, infrastructure development and

marketing. NEC should initiate to promote private entrepreneurs in the field of hospitality and other tourism related activities for development of tourism in NE Region. Considering the potential for development and scope for employability, the fund allocation in respect of tourism sector may be suitably enhanced.

The required development for the identified inter-state circuits which include “Dimapur-Kohima-Wokha-Zunheboto-Mokokchugn” circuit may be expedited.

5. Rehabilitation/Construction of State Guest Houses at Shillong with NEC funding.

It is a very innovative concept. Construction of new State Guest houses and upgradation of existing Guest Houses at Shillong will definitely solve the difficulties of accommodation being faced by the NE States while on official visits.

Shillong is the educational hub of the NER and the preferred education center alongwith Darjeeling. It has been strengthened with the establishment of important educational institutes like the Indian Institute of Management, National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, University of Technology and Management, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Shillong, English and Foreign Languages University, Shillong Campus and several other college and engineering institutions. As such, Shillong continues to attract a high number of students from the NER as a destination for education. Hence, it is also suggested that NEC may come up with plan to construct hostels for the ever increasing aspiring students of NER in Shillong.

Further, with medical specialization services offered both in Guwahati Neurological Research Centre (GNRC), Guwahati and North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), it will be a tremendous step towards facilitating the poor patients if NEC can also fund construction of State guest houses near these hospitals for the patients.

**Thank you
Kuknalim
Bharat Mata ki Jai**



ADDRESS OF
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF SIKKIM
IN THE
64th PLENARY SESSION
OF NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

NEW DELHI 9th & 10th APRIL, 2015.

Hon'ble Dr. Jitendra Singh ji, Minister DoNER and Chairman NEC, Hon'ble Governors and Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the NEC, dignitaries, officials of the Government of India and the North Eastern States, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a privilege to participate at the 64th Plenary Meeting of the NEC. It is hoped that these two days will provide sufficient time to Hon'ble Members to deliberate on the agenda and prepare our overall road map for further development of the North Eastern Region.

For the current financial year 2015-16 we are gathered here on a totally new slate. We are aware, that the Government of India under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has begun a new initiative. The erstwhile Planning Commission had given way to a new forum- the **NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)**, to carry out the agenda of National development by incorporating new mechanism. It was the appropriate moment to adopt an alternative approach to promote the Country in terms of targeting a positive growth and to attract global investments into the Country.

The Government of India is committed to promote cooperative federalism in the Country. For this let us commit to endorse, support and transform the vision of the Prime Minister into a reality.

I would like to state that one area where NITI Aayog can play a greater role in ushering greater growth and development in the North Eastern Region with a more focused approach and strategy. There is a need for specific planning for the North Eastern States in view of the difficulties of topography, remoteness and resource crunch in the region. If the North Eastern Region is to progress and come at par with the other States of the country, more liberal funding for infrastructure both social and economic is required. At the same time, we in the NER must work together in a coordinated manner with judicious use of its abundant natural resources like generating hydro power, promote tourism, encouraging organic farming practices and production of local handloom and handicrafts etc. This in turn will enable the region to be a powerful economic bloc. At the same time, the region can turn around as an economic hub of the nation by becoming the gateway of the Indian Subcontinent to South East Asia. The North East Region is the economic corridor of India for entry into International markets beyond the eastern borders of our country.

We are indeed heartened by the various announcements made for the North Eastern Region by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India in the recently concluded Budget Session. The most heartening news is that the DoNER Ministry will get 29.4% higher allocation this year, which means we can expect a decent allocation for the North Eastern Region. As over the years the allocation of the NEC has somewhat remained static at about Rs. 700.00 crores which was reduced drastically to Rs. 579.00 crores for the financial year 2014-15 which amounts to a 24.8% reduction over the previous allocations. As a result of this drastic Budget cut, very little funds flowed into the NER for the year 2014-15. You will agree that with such meagre allocation the NEC will not be in a position to cater to the needs of the eight North Eastern States.

The entire North Eastern States have suffered due to superficial increase in the NEC allocation without actual flow of funds. Therefore, there is a need that the NEC and NLCPR budget is enhanced so that the DoNER Ministry is able to provide the full allocation as earmarked by the Government. Without adequate budgetary support from Government of India the States in the NER have little scope in addressing their needs and generating revenue.

Over the last couple of years, there has been a general feeling among the North Eastern States that the role of the DoNER Ministry and NEC was somewhat diminishing. The NEC had projected an outlay for the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) at Rs. 13027.38 crores and the approved outlay by the Government of India was restricted to Rs. 6108.00 crores only with a reduced Annual Plan allocation of Rs. 579.00 crores for the entire NER in the year 2014-15. There has been a decline in the allocation in real terms.

This year as we hope to begin a-fresh under your leadership, and we keenly look forward to a bigger allocation under NLCPR and NEC. It is also to request for faster releases which will enable the States for timely implementation of the projects and schemes funded by the NEC.

I must bring to your attention several areas of interest and concern specific to Sikkim which are:-

A. Organic Farming:

One of the major strength of Sikkim is in Organic farming. This idea was conceptualized by the Government of Sikkim way back in the year 2003 and the process of becoming Organic was launched in the year 2010. The Government of Sikkim fully appreciates the Hon'ble Prime Minister's announcement to make Sikkim and the entire North East Region an Organic region. The Organic farming practices in Sikkim was also telecast in Satyamev Jayate, a popular talk show hosted by Aamir Khan in 2012. The aim of the Government of Sikkim is to convert the entire State into a totally Organic State by December, 2015 whereby all agriculture produce in the State is grown using organic fertilizers and methods which is healthy for consumption. The Government of Sikkim has voluntarily adopted to become Organic.

With the launch of Sikkim Organic Mission, a target of converting 74, 303.80 hectares of agricultural land to organic management was set and group certification system is being followed engaging 14 service providers and 6 certification bodies accredited with Agriculture and Procession Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

The Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India in the Budget for 2014-15 had announced a package of Rs. 100 crores for Organic farming in the NER. Sikkim took quick initiatives after this announcement, and prepared a project worth Rs. 69.21 crores. After eight round of meetings with Government of India and various agencies, Sikkim's project was reduced to Rs. 30.85 crores. However, no sanction was accorded. This year the Government of India has increased the allocation under Organic farming sector in the NER to Rs. 125.00 crores. Therefore, we have increased hopes that Sikkim's Organic farming initiative will definitely receive adequate funding to finish the task which we have already begun in the State. The State is ready to assist and share this initiative with rest of the NER.

B. Climate Change:

The other area where the Government is working is on the Sikkim State Action Plan on Climate Change. The second meeting of the Steering Committee for implementation of the programme "adaption to climate change in the North East Region", Sikkim in collaboration with German technical cooperation, (GIZ) was recently conducted in Gangtok in February, 2015.

There is a threat of existence to our unique plants and animals and this increased threat may also affect the livelihood of people of the State. The threat of climate change is universal. It is an accepted fact globally. Extreme fluctuation in temperature, abnormal behavior of plants and animals can be seen as effects of climate change.

The Government of Sikkim has undertaken a number of initiatives to address issues of climate change. We have placed a ban on cattle grazing in forests, hunting, ban on use of plastics, ban on use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers etc. We have also encouraged reforestation programmes and as a result, our forest area along with wildlife has increased tremendously. But these initiatives are not enough, a great deal is still to be done in order to reduce the impact of climate change. We have already prepared the **State Action Plan on Climate Change for Sikkim** and we will be glad to share our knowledge and strategy with other sister States of the NER. In the same breadth, I would urge this forum (NEC) to fund some of the activities which have already begun on the issue of climate change in the State of Sikkim.

C. Sports and Youth Development:

Another area I would request for immediate intervention of the NEC is in the youth affairs and sports sector. Despite several handicaps, I may state that the NER has quality human resource. Our boys and girls are well educated, cultured and they can speak fluent English language which is advantage in the global commercial world. I believe, our youth will play a vital role in bringing faster development and growth in the NER. The excellent performance of our sports persons in the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, ASIAN Games and other National and International Competitions bears testimony. We appreciate the support and incentives provided by NEC in recognition of the talent of our youth. Talent in sports is a major strength of the region and I would request the NEC for continued support for sportspersons and sporting events wherever the youth of the NER are involved. I am certain that with the blessings of the DoNER and NEC, our youth and talented sportsperson will continue to excel and bring more laurels to the region and the country.

D. Connectivity:

Like the rest of the other hilly North Eastern States, Sikkim continues to suffer on account of lack of proper connectivity with no air and rail link. As you are aware we are a landlocked State. The National Highway 10 is the sole lifeline connecting the Himalayan State with the rest of the country. This National Highway is under the charge of the Border

Roads Organization for development and maintenance. The highway serves the border needs of defence forces and the people of the State. Though the BRO has since initiated the work for double laning this highway from Sevoke in West Bengal to Rangpo the border town of Sikkim, the work in many places are still slow. I would request the Ministry of Defence, Government of India to further strengthen the BRO so that the work on National Highway 10 is expedited.

E. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra:

The people and the Government of Sikkim hail the historic decision of Government of India in finalizing arrangements for opening the second route for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Sikkim for which India and China had agreed last year. This route through Nathu La Pass in Sikkim will facilitate comfortable travel by bus through Tibetan Autonomous Region. The pilgrimage tour is to begin in June, 2015. In view of the proposed Yatra through Nathu La Pass, we request the Government of India for a special package in order to meet the shortfalls in road connectivity in view of the ensuing monsoon as well as from maintenance point of view. Further, other infrastructure such as dormitories, lodges, medical aid etc. has to be provided to the pilgrim in order to acclimatize the people prior to start of the Yatra. The infrastructure in place for the border trade at Sherathang and Nathu La are very basic and rudimentary. Therefore, there is a need to put the required infrastructure in place for the benefit of yatrīs.

F. Greenfield Airport, Pakyong

Once the Pakyong Greenfield Airport is complete Sikkim hopes to be connected to the air map of the country. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Central Government has a long term vision of development of the North Eastern Region through modern connectivity in rail, road and air. With improved connectivity the tourism potential of Sikkim can be fully harnessed. Without proper connectivity the people, the economy, tourism etc. will suffer adversely.

Till the Greenfield Airport at Pakyong is ready, the Airport at Bagdogra in West Bengal will continue to be of importance for the State of Sikkim.

G. Rail Connectivity:

The Broad Gauge rail link project connecting Sevoke in West Bengal and Rangpo the border town in Sikkim is a national project. This railway line passed through some important

forest reserves such as **Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary** etc. The field survey through the wildlife sanctuary is completed and work in the remaining areas are held up due to non availability of land.

On Sikkim side also the work has not commenced due to issues concerning land acquisition. A resettlement and rehabilitation package plan is being prepared for the affected land owners by a committee constituted by the State Government. Land for resettlement has been identified and assessment is being carried out. In the meantime, the topographic survey has been completed and geotechnical investigation are underway. I would therefore, urge this forum and the railway authorities for speedy implementation of this project in keeping with vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister to link all the State capitals of the NER by rail and air connectivity by 2020.

H. Telecommunications:

An accessible and reliable Telecom/IT infrastructure continues to remain an aspiration and a dream for Sikkim. Better communication link Sikkim need to be taken up as a strategic priority. This would involve improvement in voice and internet connectivity. The OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) needs to be strung on power lines, service ducts for utilities along the National Highway and State Highways with provision for solar/ renewable energy solution for all mobile towers. This may require more budgetary support to BSNL. The other crucial National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) needs to be expedited for providing telecommunication and broad band internet connectivity to the Gram Panchayats in Sikkim.

I. Act East Policy:

The Act East Policy is important to the NER as it is the gateway to the success of this policy. We believe, India has to look East through the North East, therefore, a detailed road map is required to achieve this goal. This policy will involve construction and improvement in connectivity by road, by air and rail. Provision for sufficient energy and reliable telecom connectivity is required with construction of infrastructure for trade and customs.

The Act East Policy has scope to bring tangible benefits to the whole of NER. The Government of India has to champion the cause of improving land and air connectivity between NER and South East Asia, and also permit formal border trade at as many places as possible and viable. The factor can have a unique turn-around effect on the economies of the North Eastern States.

Sikkim can play an active role in the region by strengthening Buddhist Circuit route for pilgrimage tourism, promotion of Organic farming and leveraging horticulture and floriculture, the strength of the State.

Conclusion:

As I conclude, we have great hopes in the DoNER and NEC for the accelerated growth of the North Eastern Region. I say this, because the funding pattern of State Plans has changed this year and many of our ongoing schemes and projects may suffer due to want of funds to complete the same. However, as far as the DoNER and NEC is concerned, we are confident that funds will continue to flow to the NER through these two Institutions.

I am hopeful that the issues put forth will receive acknowledgement of the NEC. Together as partners in the development journey of the NER we can unlock the true potential of the Region including Sikkim. I conclude, by thanking this forum.

*****THANK YOU *****

JAI HIND!



SPEECH OF
SHRI P.B. ACHARYA
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TRIPURA

At the 64th meeting of
North Eastern Council

on
9th & 10th April, 2015

At Scope Auditorium, Scope Complex,
7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Speech of Shri P.B. Acharya, Hon'ble Governor of Tripura at the 64th Plenary of NEC to be held on 9-10 April 2015 at New Delhi

Hon'ble Union Minister for DoNER and Chairman, North Eastern Council Dr. Jitendra Singhji, Hon'ble Governors, Hon'ble Chief Ministers, esteemed Members of the North Eastern Council and distinguished participants.

I feel privileged to be present in the 64th Plenary meeting of the North Eastern Council which will deliberate on the development issues of the region. I would like to touch upon some of the important agenda items concerning the State of Tripura.

2. The proposed outlay of the 12th Five Year Plan of the NEC is Rs. 13027.38 crore and the approved outlay is Rs. 6108.00 crore. But the budget allocation provided during first 4 years is Rs. 3083.00 crores which is only 46.20% of the approved outlay of 12th Five Year Plan. The trend thus not support that NEC will be able to protect the size of approved outlay of 12th Plan. Therefore there is a need of judicious look in the matter so that adequate fund is provided to NEC for the development of the region.
3. The National Highway (NH-44), which is a lifeline for Tripura of essential commodities and two-way movement of goods is still in a very bad shape and it is urgently required to take expeditious action for submission of DPRs by the concerned agency to the Ministry for sanction and implementation of work. Recently, Government of India decided that initially 2-laning will be done and thereafter 4-laning will be taken up. However, there is not much progress so far. This requires adequate fund sanction for maintenance and up-gradation of National Highway (NH-44).
4. The Railway network has been extended upto State capital, Agartala. The work of extension of railway line on Agartala-Udaipur and Udaipur-Sabroom sections is in progress, But the implementation is apprehended to be delayed for want of adequate funds allocation by Ministry of Railways for the project. This requires immediate attention.
5. Air Connectivity acquires added significance in view of poor rail-road connectivity of the State. It is necessary to upgrade Agartala Airport as an International Airport with connectivity to Dhaka, Chittagong and other foreign locations. In addition, it is

necessary to operationalise Kailasahar and Kamalpur Airports (which is used to operate in the past) to improve air connectivity to remote parts of the State.

6. There was a railway link from Agartala-Akhaura of Bangladesh prior to partition of the country. This link is extremely important not only for Tripura, but for the entire North Eastern Region as well. The project may be taken up by Ministry of Railways on priority basis.
7. Tripura is currently connected with rest of the country through OFC link. During natural calamities, disruptions of telecom link between Agartala and Guwahati often happens due to OFC damage. In view of this, Indo-Bangla OFC link needs to be established to have redundancy.
8. In the NER Vision 2020, there is a mention that, education is vital to growth across all sectors. Despite the expansion of educational infrastructure, the standard of education in NER is generally low, and the skills and knowledge base of school and college graduates with few exceptions has not equipped them to compete at the national level for further studies or employment. The vision for the region thus calls for a vast improvement in the quality of education, so that children and youth have access to good quality education that will place them on par with the best in the rest of the country.
9. I specifically request the NEC authority to take immediate action for early sanction of 18 projects for Rs. 606.70 crores submitted by the State Government for the rapid development of the State, of which some important projects are as below:-
 - i) Quality improvement of Rural Water Supply Schemes in Tripura by way of construction of 10000 GPH capacity modified type iron removal plants (IRP) attached to existing deep tube wells.
 - ii) System improvement by renovation & re-strengthening of 66 KV S/C line from 132 KV Gamai Tilla to Gomati Hydel project via Amarpur.
 - iii) Improvement of Udaipur-Jampuijala-Khumlung (TTAADC HQ)-Jirania Road.
 - iv) Improvement of Bishalgarh(NH-44) - Taksapara Sonamura Road (32 KM).
 - v) Improvement of Belonia-Hrishyamuk-Amlighat -Sabroom Road (83 KM).
 - vi) Inter State Truck Terminus at Kameswar near Dharmanagar including Cold Storage & Warehouse.

Thank You



SPEECH

OF

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ON

64TH PLENARY OF NEC

NEW DELHI

10TH APRIL, 2015

NEW DELHI

Hon'ble Chairman of the NEC Dr. Jitender Singh Ji, Your Excellencies the Governors of North-Eastern States, My esteemed colleagues, the Hon'ble Chief Ministers, Respected members of NEC, Respected Secretary DoNER, Secretary, NEC, Senior Officers from Govt. of India, Ministry of DoNER, Civil Aviation, Railways, Road Transport, IWAI, Tourism, Power, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Human Resource, Telecommunication, Skill Development, Financial Services and representatives of NESAC and State Governments,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I take this privilege to thank Union DoNER Minister for hosting the 64th Plenary of NEC at Delhi. I am particularly very happy that in this platform we could share our thoughts with the senior representatives of the various Ministries through some fruitful discussions and I am hopeful that the concerns and suggestions shared by my colleagues will be reflected in their action plan.

1) Today, on day two of the Plenary, I am optimistic that some worthwhile decisions will be forthcoming. This feeling stems from the fact that in the changed scenario, the North East Council must also reinvent and task itself with the challenges that the region faces today and chart a workable road map to overcome these challenges. There is a perception that the issues of North East Hill States are not taken seriously by the Govt. of India and our voices are unheard. It may be due to geographical bottleneck, or less representation from the region. The problems of Special Category States like ours should be addressed promptly and NEC can play a pivotal role in this regard.

2) Let us all take up the common issues of North East such as the revenue/ resources problem, external funding issues, industry under development, lack of infrastructure, security aspects, etc for rigorous discussion in the NEC platform and look for solutions acceptable to all.

3) I shall in particular mention two changes which have taken place recently:

a. NITI Aayog

We are all aware that the Planning Commission has been replaced with the NITI Aayog. With this development there has been a fundamental shift in the way plan resources are allocated to the States. In this changed scenario, the most affected are the Special Category States (SCS). The General Category States (GCS) with its own source of resource

mobilisation had little or no reliance on the Planning Commission. However, the Special Category States which have very limited scope for resource generation were fully dependant on Planning Commission in steering their development endeavours.

b. The 14th Finance Commission Award

There has been a revolution in the way the Centre and the States will share the divisible pool of taxes. The vertical share of the states has been increased by 10% (highest ever) from 32% to 42%. This will empower the states with more resources which can be used for undertaking critical development activities in the States. I thank the 14th Finance Commission for devolving more financial powers to the states.

The fact that these funds are untied, the States are at liberty to frame guidelines for sectoral programs which suit the state. This has resolved the long demand of the states to do away with the “One Size Fits All” approach.

However, with this the Union Govt has totally revamped the Central Plan Assistance. Firstly, as many as 10 CSS has been delinked which includes NCA, SCA, SPA and ACA which formed a major chunk of Plan fund for the Special Category States. Secondly, the sharing pattern in 13 critical schemes is being proposed to be changed. The Special Category States which enjoyed the 90:10 pattern of funding will suffer.

2. In the background of these changes in the development polity, it is seen that the backward states, especially the member states of the NEC will be the worst hit. Member States are also with precarious State Finances due to the mismatched award of the 13th FC coupled with the impact of 6th Pay Commission. We must all stand up to the situation and raise the following points urgently:

a. Take up the issue to continue the Special Status accorded to us in view of the common developmental histories that we share.

b. The funding pattern of 90:10 for CSS to be restored.

c. The Critical windows of Plan fund (NCA, SCA, SPA and ACA) must be continued in some form for some more time for the Special Category States till we are able to reach a critical threshold of development and become competitive enough to take on the richer states.

d. The NITI Aayog must continue to handhold the Special Category States in the developmental endeavour.

e. Since NITI Aayog has provision for Regional Councils, What shape will the Council take for North East and what will be the role of NEC?

3. With this background, it is also imperative that the institution of the North East Council must revisit the role it must play in the changed scenario. I am of the opinion that since the NEC has a statutory mandate to function as the Regional Planning Body, it is necessary that this role of the NEC assumes primacy, more than anything else.

4. Off late, it is seen that in the NEC, majority of its efforts and time are consumed in the project related issue-project selection, evaluation, sanction, monitoring etc. to complicate the matters, the funding has been consistently reduced with a shortfall of 13.71% (4th – 9th Five Year Plan) to 57.76% (12th Five Year Plan). For the Annual Plan 2014-15, the outlay was Rs. 1412.56 Crore against which only Rs. 770.00 Crore was budgeted. This was also later cut to only Rs. 579.00 Crore.

5. With 8 states to cater to, these funds are too meagre. Further, spreading too thin this limited resource will not result in any tangible benefits on the ground. Therefore, My humble submission for the consideration of the member colleagues would be that the North East Council must focus on its prime role as the Regional Planning Body, be the repository of knowledge for the region, a centre of excellence for research, give policy recommendations to the Union Govt as well as the member states, engage in periodic analysis of development of each state and have state specific advisor and cell attached to it. The plan fund allocated to the Council can be suitably utilized for capacity building-both Govt officials and private entrepreneurs in the respective sectors and Monitoring.

6. I will now take up, my views on the agenda and other specific issues one by one.

1) Infrastructure projects in Arunachal Pradesh:

a) **Railways:** At the outset, I place on record my gratitude and thanks to the Ministry of Railways for completing the Harmuti-Naharlagun Railway Line and the Hon'ble Prime Minister for flagging off the 1st train to Delhi on 20th February, 2015. However, I must reiterate to my friends in the Railways that this is just the beginning and we have many more rail links to be made operational in the State such as the Rangiya-Murkongselek (to be extended to Pasighat), Rupsai-Parasharam Kund, Balipara-Bhalukpong etc. I am hopeful that the Indian Railways will complete the other projects also with the same zeal and

enthusiasm. On the part of the State Govt we shall be proactive in assisting you in this endeavour.

b) **Roads:** As part of the Prime Minister's Package announced in 2008, a 1600 KM Trans Arunachal Highway and 844 KM District Connectivity is under construction and the work is progressing. The Centre and State Govt must jointly put in place a seamless mechanism to fast track these projects with a target to complete by 2016. Further, the Inter-State roads (in the case of Arunachal Pradesh-AP-Nagaland ISR, AP-Assam ISR) within the region are a neglected area. The Council must develop a blueprint and identify a source of fund. The Economic Corridor Foothill Road and The East West Frontier Highway are two important projects, which needs the urgent attention of the Union Govt.

I am enclosing a list of roads, which I refer to as the **orphan roads**, which needs urgent attention of the Govt of India. Further, the Inter-State Roads built by the NEC are in dire need of maintenance. Adequate Fund must be earmarked for restoration and maintenance of these vital roads.

c. **Civil Aviation:** Another important project of the Prime Minister's Package announced in 2008, is the Greenfield airport in the state Capital. Arunachal Pradesh is today the only State without an airport and even after 7 long years of the announcement, this project is still made no progress. The Ministry of Civil Aviation is earnestly requested to expedite decision on this project. Many Subsidiary Airports are under construction and will be operational soon. The Tezu Airport will be complete by the end of this year. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Tourism must work out a mechanism for operating ATR fixed wing aircrafts to these airfields. I have raised the issue of providing Instrument Landing System (ILS) for all the ALGs to enable civilian operation in the last plenary meet. I reiterate that NEC must prioritize this as a very important project. I reiterate that the Air Service to Lilabari has resumed but since the service is part of a circuit, the People of Arunachal Pradesh are not getting the due benefit of the service. All other NE States are covered by normal air service and this is an additional facility. However, for Arunachal Pradesh this is the sole mode of air transport. Therefore, a dedicated flight only for my state must be planned till such time that the Greenfield airport becomes operational. Conversely a **REGIONAL AIRLINE FOR NER** may be commissioned.

d. **Power:** The Hydropower potential of the State can cater to 40% of the Energy demand of the Nation, if harnessed sustainably. Most of our Hydro Projects are in advanced stage, which have been stuck with bottlenecks attributed to the delay in according clearances by the Central Ministries. The work in the Lower Subansiri HEP has been stalled for the last four years because of concerns raised from certain quarters. The Central Govt. must resolve the concerns in the interest of the nation. Another source of power is coal and the State has reserve of quality coal. The Coal Ministry is requested to allow harnessing this resource at the earliest.

By the year 2020-2030, Arunachal Pradesh will generate almost 20-25 thousand MW of hydro power. In 2016 we will have 650 MW installed power generation. The excess power must be evacuated to the power demand states. A Power Transmission Highway must therefore be planned at the earliest.

2) **Act East Policy and Border Trade:**

We have always maintained – **India has to Look East through the North-East**. The transformation in policy from Look to Act East Policy must not be mere rhetoric but action oriented on ground. For this we must shed out old outlook of cautious diplomacy and embark on economic and people to people diplomacy. I reiterate that Gauhati and Imphal Airports must be designated as Visa Centres for Myanmar and South East Asian Nations for Education and Health. The Indo Bhutan and Indo Myanmar roads must be opened for Civilian and Tourism purposes. The Indo-Bhutan road has just 12 KM to be connected and therefore a doable one. Border trade through Pangsau pass, Bleting and also with China through Bumla must be explored.

3) **Human Resource and Skill Development:**

Northeast India has a youthful and very talented pool human resource. Lack of facilities, opportunities and timely guidance has for long deprived our youths. A special program must be tailor-made for the youth of North East India. Therefore psychology linked vocation must be identified in this regard.

4) **Arunachal Pradesh – Only State with no access to ADB/ World Bank Loans:**

Arunachal Pradesh is the only State with no access to foreign/ Multilateral Agencies funding for undertaking crucial development projects in the State. This aspect has been

raised in every possible forum and with all authorities. Till date the State is yet to receive any reply in this connection. I urge this august platform to address this problem suitably.

5) **Organic State:**

The state cabinet has declared Arunachal Pradesh an Organic State. About 85% of our production is organic and our effort is to make this 100%. The unparalleled potential in the Agri-Horti sector – Fruits (temperate and tropical), Spices (Large cardamom, Ginger), Tea and Rubber of Arunachal Pradesh needs to be tapped. The NEC must provide financial and technical support for organic farming and its certification.

6) **Financial Inclusion:**

The CD ratio of the region is very low and that of my State is one of the lowest in the country. This statistic is very disturbing as it indicates that most of the capital of these banks are not available as credit in the region. The flight of this capital as investments in other states must be discouraged. The prime reason for such low CD ratio is the stringent rules for availing credit which the locals find it difficult to comply with. The Land tenure of tribal states, especially Arunachal Pradesh, is very different which makes land documents not acceptable for mortgage. This needs to be addressed at the earliest to encourage entrepreneurship in the region.

7) **Northeast Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP):**

The investment promotion policy has been suspended and the same may kindly be revoked. However, a detailed analysis must be done as to why the policy benefited only certain sectors of the economy and only few states and devise mechanism on revision, how it can be made more broad based in terms of regional spread and also how local entrepreneurs can benefit apart from the traditional business communities.

8) **Make in North East:**

To take the slogan into action, a comprehensive plan must be put in place by the North East Council to attract investment in the region. The core competence emerging from the competitive advantage the region has been blessed with because of its unique geography and its people must be adequately projected to bring in private capital into the region – in the area of tourism, pharma, industries which require plenty of water, alternate medicine, power intensive industry, food processing, cold storage etc.

With cheap power, raw material availability (food/fruit/spice), abundant water supply, cheap labour and encouraging state Govt makes the foothills of my State potential area for an Industrial corridor. **Special Economic Zone (SEZ) can be declared in this areas to attract industries from all over the world. The state can become a prime investment zone.** This can be suitably aligned with the Act East policy.

9) **Tourism:**

The region has been blessed with the best climate and natural beauty which no other region can boast of. North East Council can play a pivotal role in devising a road map for harnessing this unique product to generate sustained source of income and employment for the locals whereby private investment is encouraged for major infrastructure and govt fund is channelized in capacity building and handholding. The plan must be linked with the air and rail matrix with a mechanism for seamless movement of tourists within the region on lines of the schengen visa.

10) **Research/ survey activities:**

The region has rich potential in mines/minerals/petroleum/gas/wind energy/tourism but is unexplored due to lack of research and survey. Support of NEC in identifying the resources through research and surveys by engaging world class experts will go a long way in the development of the region.

11) **Anti-erosion and Flood Management:**

The North East Region in general and my State in particular bears the brunt of the protracted monsoon and the associated rains in the form of floods and large scale erosion of quality farmlands each year. The floods also damage vital infrastructure, some beyond repair. In this context, a separate window of funding with a comprehensive plan to tackle this annual phenomenon must be put in place.

12) **Law and order:**

No development will attain its full potential till the law and order issue is addressed appropriately. Insurgency is affecting the developmental process in the region. Govt of India should take a clear stand and take positive decision in consultation with various stakeholders to resolve this decades old issue once and for all to ensure peace to prevail and

developmental activities to take place. If this is properly resolved our region is poised to become frontrunners with its immense potential in the development trajectory.

13) **Annual Plan 2015-16:**

It is seen from the Agenda note that Rs. 773.00 Crore has been projected as the budget for Annual Plan 2015-16, with highest sectoral allocation of Rs. 341.05 Crore to the Transport and Communication sector and spread across 11 other sectors.

I have aired my views on the role to be assumed by the NEC in the early part of my Speech and reiterate that Regional Planning is the core role of NEC and it must focus all energy on championing this role. NEC must therefore slowly withdraw from project sanction and utilize the funds on capacity building, policy research, entrepreneurship etc.

With this few works I conclude.

Jai Hind, Jai Arunachal.

ANNEXURE

LIST OF ORPHAN ROADS PROPOSED FOR REHABILITATION IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Sl. No	Name of Road	State	Length (Km)	Scope of Work		Cost for Rehabilitation	Brief Justification
1	2	3	4	5		6	7
1	Mirem-Mikong-Jonai Road	Arunachal Pradesh	16.83	WBM-III	15.000 km	5.05	The road has interstate ramification between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Starting from Mirem in Arunachal Pradesh, the road terminates at NH-52 at Jonai in Assam from where ferry services are also available for crossing Brahmaputra river, which is one and only means of shortest communication to Dibrugarh town (in Assam) for the people of this remote areas. This project was originally included in the 11 th Plan, however, could not be taken up due to paucity of funds.
				Maintenance of Culverts/ Drains	16.830 km		
				BT	16.830 km		
2	Jote-Balijan Road	Arunachal Pradesh	47.00	Widening	40.00 km	47.30	This road will provide interstate connectivity from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam. The portion of the road from Itanagar to Jotte had already been completed under NEC. This proposed road will form a portion of inter district road connecting the State Capital and the East Kameng District upto the Seijosa Circle HQ passing through 36 Nos. of villages of highly potential of cultivation land and agro based products. Seijosa is also a place of high potentials for tourist due to the Pakke wild life sanctuary and other natural beauty. This project was originally included in the 11 th Plan, however, could not be taken up due to paucity of funds.
				Pot Hole Repairing	40.00 km		
				S/Cul	26 Nos		
3	Mebo-Dholla road	Arunachal Pradesh	37.50	WBM-III	18.00 km	10.93	This road will provide interstate connectivity from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam. The roads takes off from NH-52 at Mebo and terminated at Gadum Tinali on pm Dambuk-Paglam road. This road was connected as an ordinary village road in the early fifties mainly to connect Mebo with Dholla in Assam. The road is presently an ODR as this road is connecting East Siang District with Lower Dibang Valley District and Dholla in Assam. This road is also an interstate road as this road is only means of connectivity for the people of Mebo area with the places like Dholla, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh etc. in Assam.
				Maintenance of Culverts/ Drains	36.43 km		
				BT	36.43 km		

Sl. No	Name of Road	State	Length (Km)	Scope of Work		Cost for Rehabilitation	Brief Justification
1	2	3	4	5		6	7
4	Margherita Deomali Road	Arunachal Pradesh	16.06	WBM-I	16.060 km	8.14	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The road under proposal is connecting Deomali, an administrative sub-divisional headquarter in Tirap District of Arunachal Pradesh and Margherita, also an administrative centre in Assam with a distance of nearly 46.00 km. Out of which 16.06 km falls in Arunachal Pradesh and remaining portion passes through the territory of Assam.
				WBM-II	16.060 km		
				WBM-III	16.060 km		
				BT	16.060 km		
5	Longding-Bimalpur road	Arunachal Pradesh	44.00	WBM-I	44.000 km	25.31	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects Longding town, the District HQ of newly created Longding District with Bimalpur, Duliajan, Digboi, Tinsukia, and Dibrugarh, commercial centres of Assam. This road is located in the remote part of Arunachal Pradesh. This area is very rich an agriculture and forest products. This road is also strategically important for movement of defence forces, since the road is closer to the border of Myanmar.
				WBM-II	44.000 km		
				WBM-III	44.000 km		
				BT	44.000 km		
6	Jagun-Namchik-Miao Road	Arunachal Pradesh	27.00	WBM-III	10.000 km	5.30	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam from Jagun to Miao. This road connects Miao EAC HQ with the ADC HQ at Jairampur. Duliajan, Digboi, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh are commercial centre of Assam. These areas are very rich in agriculture and forest products. This road is also strategically important for movement of Defence Forces to Vijayanagar. Since, this road is closer to the Border is to the Myanmar.
				BT	27.000 km		
7	Pasighat-Ledum-Tene-Koyu Road	Arunachal Pradesh	60.00	WBM-III	18.000 km	11.85	This road will provide interstate connectivity from Arunachal Pradesh to Assam. This road also connect NH-52 originating at Assam and passing through Pasighat from where the proposed road starts. Within Arunachal Pradesh, this road will connect Pasighat in East Siang District with Koyu which further connects Ego in West Siang District.
				Maintenance of Culverts/ Drains	39.515 km		
				BT	39.515 km		
8	Digaru-Sunpura road (Tezu-Sadiya Road)	Arunachal Pradesh	10.00	Maintenance of Eastern Shoulder/ Culverts & Drains	15.000 km	5.53	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects District HQ of Lohit with Islampur at Shantipur in Assam. This area is very rich in agriculture and horticulture products. This road is also strategically important for movement of Defence Forces to Anjaw District. Since, the road is closer to the border of China.
				BT	15.00 km		

Sl. No	Name of Road	State	Length (Km)	Scope of Work		Cost for Rehabilitation	Brief Justification
1	2	3	4	5		6	7
9	Bomjir to Paglam Road	Arunachal Pradesh	49.50	RE-WBM	14.62 km	19.43	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects District HQ of Lower Dibang Valley (Roing) with Dholla in Assam. Tinsukia and Dibrugarh are the commercial centre of Assam. This road is located in the remote part of Arunachal Pradesh. This area is very rich in agriculture and horticulture products.
				Carpeting	14.62 km		
				Bridge approach	5.00 km		
				Re-Carpeting	34.88 km		
10	Doimara to Tenga Road in West Kameng District	Arunachal Pradesh	98.00	WBM-III	98.00 km	31.36	This is an interstate road between West Kameng District in Arunachal Pradesh and Udalguri District in Assam. The road alignment passes through hilly terrain in the Arunachal Pradesh. Tenga is the base camp of Army in between Tawang and Tezpur. For Defence movement this road is shortest for movement of heavy machinery to international border.
				BT	98.00 km		
11	Doimukh to Harmuti Road	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	WBM-III	6.00 km	2.02	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The road connects Doimukh town. This is an alternative road of NH-52 A.
				BT	6.00 km		
12	Kanubari to Ringpong Road	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	WBM-III	30.00 km	15.12	This is an interstate road between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. This road connects Longding town, the District HQ of newly created Longding District with Kanubari, Duliajan, Digboi, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh commercial centre of Assam. This road is located in the remote part of Arunachal Pradesh. This area is very rich in agriculture and forest products. This road is also strategically important for movement of defence forces, since the road is closer to the border of Myanmar.
				BT	30.00 km		
				S/Cul	26 Nos		
	Total=	441.89				187.34	



**64th Meeting of the
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL**

**SPEECH OF
SHRI TARUN GOGOI
CHIEF MINISTER, ASSAM**

**9TH and 10th April, 2015
NEW DELHI**

Respected Chairman, Hon'ble Members and Friends

I welcome the holding of the 64th Plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC). Over the years 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. This meeting assumes significance, as it is an opportunity for all of us to review the state of development of the Region and decide our strategies for the years to come. 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 Eastern Region (NER).

2. We are all aware that the North Eastern Region is unique in India in its mix of natural resources, bio-diversity, diverse geography and varied population. Indeed, as many observers have pointed out, defining this Region by its geography alone as the “North East”, invests in it a degree of homogeneity that is actually not fully present. At the same time, we must recognize certain common factors that affect all the states of the Region, such as those arising from its land locked character, the closing of access to the national markets as well as natural trading routes that occurred when our Country achieved independence and the fact that this vast area is linked with the rest of the country by a narrow strip of land. It is also a Region that has the maximum length of international borders. It is therefore necessary to formalize well thought-out administrative and economic approaches that overcome these constraints and ensure that developments goals and objectives are met.

NEC AS AN EFFECTIVE REGIONAL PLANNING BODY

3. There have been several developments in the national approach to strategic planning. The Central Government having wound up the Planning Commission which was the agency coordinating planned development of the country since independence has replaced it by the NITI Aayog, purported to be based on the principle of Cooperative Federalism. One of the mechanisms proposed for effective cooperative federalism by the newly formed NITI Aayog is formation of Regional Councils. In this regard, the North Eastern Region has the advantage of having the NEC in place. Clearly, the NEC should now play a much bigger role as an instrument of regional planning and coordination, with larger resources and greater financial autonomy. The role and functions of NEC should be

expanded to reflect the importance of regional planning, to bring about greater interstate coordination for economic development and to act as a link between the Union Government and the NER for a realistic assessment of the felt needs of the Region. This is particularly relevant in the context of the “Act East” Policy. Countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand etc that are in the vicinity of the NE Region and are now showing keen interest in developing travel, tourism, business, economic and cultural linkages. The development of international trade linkages and connectivity through the North East in the form of highways, inland river transport, international air connectivity as well as railway linkages thus needs to develop more rapidly. We suggest that the NEC and the Ministry of DoNER be given a larger coordinating and implementing role under the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog, for ensuring that these important linkages are attended to on priority.

4. Further, I must reiterate that all the eight North Eastern States have been categorized as Special Category States due to various factors, including economic backwardness, poor infrastructure compounded by annual floods and erosion in the Brahmaputra basin, hilly and difficult terrain, isolated geographic location, extensive exposure to international borders, strategic location in the South East Asian Region and non viability of state finances. Due to these constraints the gap in the development between the rest of the country and the North East has increased. Special efforts will be required to bring the NE Region at par with the rest of the country. The Ministry of DoNER and NEC must ensure extra public investment in both physical and social infrastructure in NE Region to narrow this gap. In this context I strongly urge that the categorization of the states of this Region as Special Category states is retained. I would also urge Ministry of DoNER and NEC to press for the continuance of Central assistance for all development activities on the earlier 90:10-grant to loan basis. There should be no change in this format. I am sure that my counterparts from the other North Eastern States would support me in this regard.

5. Of late, we have found that the funds that are being provided to the Assam in particular, through the NEC and the Ministry of DoNER appear to have lost sight of these priorities. As per Plan Fund Monitoring System (PFMS) in 2013-14, the release to Assam under NLCPR was Rs. 237.14 Crores, while NEC released Rs. 118.11 crores. However, in 2014-15, Assam has received only Rs. 151.15 crores under NLCPR and only Rs. 71.84 Crores

from NEC. The reduction in funds from NLCPR and NEC adversely impacts the State, which, as I stated earlier, is in need of higher public investment. I would urge Ministry of DoNER and NEC to take note of this and ensure the availability of adequate resources for our development.

6. While advocating the strengthening and revamping of NEC as a body for regional planning, I would affirm that intra region uniqueness of states in terms of problems, population and possibilities should not be lost sight of. While there are common threads that weave a pattern in the North East, there is also a need to see and address each state individually, given the differences in size and complexities. I would urge MDoNER to work closely with NEC and individual states, addressing shared concerns and unique needs simultaneously.

Some Priorities of Assam

A. Floods and Erosion

7. Assam is a victim of the annual cycle of floods and persistent erosion. Damage to flood protection infrastructure in the form of erosion causes loss of productive land and results in involuntary displacement of population requiring rehabilitation. It is estimated that Assam loses about 8000 hectares of arable land annually through degradation of flood and erosion. In this way Assam has lost nearly 4 lakh hectares or about 7.4% of its land area in Brahmaputra valley in recent times. The loss of land owing to river bank erosion is permanent and has a long term impact on the economy of the region and its people. The land lost puts additional burden on the remaining scarce land resources with the population density already higher than the national average. Hence, the inclusion of erosion in the list of disasters under the SDRF regime should be considered on priority.

8. The annual cycle of floods also causes huge economic loss in terms of damage to roads, bridges, community buildings, agricultural crops, livestock, human habitation and wildlife habitat. The entire economy of the state is seriously set back and requires a huge effort merely to restore the damage. The ordinary maintenance expenditure cannot restore the damage infrastructure which suffers continuous degradation over time. This is a significant factor that needs to be accounted for the development assistance for the state.

9. I may mention that flood and erosion problems faced by Assam need to be tackled in coordination with all the N.E. States as the water catchment area covers the entire Brahmaputra and Barak basins. This requires much more Inter State cooperation. In 2005, we had proposed setting up of the North Eastern Water Resources Authority to address these issues. Later on, the Ministry of Water Resources took up a scheme to set up the Brahmaputra Valley River Basin Authority which we have supported. We request that this institutional mechanism be set up at the earliest.

B. Industrial Development

10. The per capita income (at current prices) for Assam is Rs. 46,354 as against the All India average of Rs. 74,920. This gap can be bridged only when investment flows in and additional wealth and capital get generated. Due to its geographical remoteness and other constraints, the Government of India will have to provide incentives to industry so that investment and job creation are promoted. The incentives provided in the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP) should not only continue but should be further expanded in quantum and scope to facilitate industrialization in the state. It is pertinent to mention here that NEIIPP still remains suspended impeding industrial growth and job creation. Not only should NEIIPP be restored and effectively implemented, incentives should be given to the Agriculture and Allied Sector, which has tremendous potential of generating jobs and wealth. I would also suggest that special concessions and incentives should be given to promote Foreign Direct Investment in the north east, which should get at least 5% of the total FDI coming into India.

11. In recent years, Assam has maintained a steady rate of growth so that today it is poised to provide opportunities to entrepreneurs in every sector. Guwahati, in particular, has emerged as a major trading and business hub. It is time to establish the institutional architecture for business in Guwahati comprising of the offices of the Registrar of Companies, the Regional Directorate of Corporate Affairs and the Bench of National Company Law Tribunal. Along with this the Central Government institutions in support of the MSME Sector should also open their regional offices in Guwahati. We request support of MDoNER for this purpose.

Employment Generation and Skill Development

12. Simultaneously I would urge much greater emphasis on skill development. However, there is limited scope for employment outside agriculture. This factor has driven many unemployed youths to militancy and extremism. Already lakhs of youths from Assam are working in different parts of the country in diverse occupations. Yet Assam has a huge human resource pool which needs to be gainfully employed. Adequate investment in skill development can help us provide skilled manpower, not just within the country but also abroad. Skill Development however, cannot be done in isolation. It must be matched by a concomitant increase in industry and entrepreneurship which can absorb the skilled manpower. Hence I again emphasize the pressing need for the continuance of special incentives for industry. “Make in India” would be incomplete and even meaningless if we cannot “Make in Assam” or the North East.

C. Infrastructure

13. I would take this opportunity to reaffirm our request for allocating funds for critical, large infrastructure projects for roads, airports, railways, inland waterways, power, etc. which will help us achieve the twin objectives of addressing our developmental needs and providing a congenial eco system for better ties between India and South East Asia.

14. With regard to air connectivity, I would also like to reiterate our long standing request for further improvement of the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport of Guwahati. This airport already handles a huge volume of traffic. In particular, there should be better facilities for night parking and maintenance of passenger aircraft in Guwahati, which would facilitate better scheduling of flights for the convenience and optimal utilization of the time of passengers. The air connectivity between Guwahati and Silchar also needs urgent attention. There is also considerable scope for development of Dibrugarh, Lilabari and Jorhat airports along with small airfields which would help in providing economical and safe air connectivity to not only different parts of Assam, but also neighbouring states. In addition there is an urgent need for construction of air cargo complex at LGBI Airport, Guwahati, particularly for perishable cargo along with modern testing and storage facilities. The frequency of flights to and from Jorhat has gone down lately, which needs to be restored and increased further.

15. We are thankful to the Railways for completing the Lumding-Silchar Broad Gauge Link during the mega-block period (Oct 2014-March 2015) itself. This will surely improve connectivity to the Barak Valley. We would urge that the other ambitious project taken up by the Railways, namely the Bogibeel bridge, that has been under construction for nearly a decade and half is also completed soon. We would urge that the Railways be impressed upon to increase the inter-city train services within Assam as these would also serve adjoining NE states. The Government of Assam has also taken up proposals for introduction of some tourist trains such as the Safari Express and the meter gauge heritage circuit in NC Hills District. These projects would give a considerable boost to tourism in the region. We request support of MDoNER for these projects.

16. I would also like to emphasize the need to tap the potential of inland waterways for transportation of goods and people. The Government of Assam has submitted a proposal for World Bank funding for the comprehensive development of the Inland Water Transport sector in Assam. We request that this may be strongly supported. To fully develop the economic potential of the North Eastern Waterways, we would also urge dialogue with neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar to establish/ upgrade the existing protocols for handling all kinds of goods and passenger traffic. The Government of Assam has also prepared a project for enabling a long term solution to the problem of floods and erosion in the state through river management with World Bank assistance. The project is supported by the Ministry of Water Resources. We would request MDoNER support for speedy clearances in the Central Government (Finance Ministry) so that the project can be taken up expeditiously.

Perspective Infrastructure Development Plan for Assam

17. For holistic and inclusive economic development of the State, Government of Assam has prepared a 20 – year Perspective Infrastructure Development Plan to be implemented with an estimated investment of Rs. 3,60,000 crore. The core sectors of development viz. Roads & Transportation, Industrial Infrastructure, Power and Urban Infrastructure are covered under the PIDP. 200 projects have been identified out of which 40 pre-feasibility reports will be prepared for initiating implementation. Aligned with the overall vision for the State, sectoral visions have been formulated and a comprehensive infrastructure development plan has been worked out for those core sectors by 2035. Effective and

efficient execution of the physical, policy level and institutional interventions in the different sectors will lead to development of a multi model transport corridor, development of urban roads and industrial growth centers along the transport corridors and augmentation and strengthening power infrastructure. We request MDoNER/NEC support in financing the Perspective Infrastructure Development Plan, as better infrastructure in Assam would lead to accelerated growth of the NE Region as a whole.

18. Assam has been developing projects for external assistance in the roads, power and agricultural sectors over the last two decades. We would also request help and support of MDoNER for leveraging External Assistance from Multi Lateral Banks such as the Asian Development Bank & World Bank in various other sectors such as Flood Control and Erosion, River Transportation etc. As mentioned, World Bank projects in these areas have been prepared and are pending with the Central Government (Ministry of Finance). The support of MDoNER will go a long way in ensuring speedy approvals for these projects.

D. Higher and Professional Education

19. The Government of Assam has invested heavily in medical education by setting up several medical colleges, which serve the need of not only Assam but also the North East. While many of these institutions have become functional they still require financial support for better infrastructure in the form of student hostels, better laboratories and facilities for specialized care. There is also an urgent need to set up institutions for training and capacity building for nursing, paramedics and medical technicians.

20. A large number of students move to other parts of the country for higher and professional education. There is a need for better educational and professional institutions in Assam itself which may be set up in the government and in the private sector. Setting up educational institutions, engineering and medical colleges and other professional institutes needs to be incentivized. We urge the MDoNER and NEC to take up such schemes in Assam that meet a part of the cost of such schemes or assist in capacity building of the faculty or improvement of institutional facilities.

21. While there are many areas in human development where MDoNER can play a vital part, we would specially urge schemes for strengthening the Social Welfare infrastructure, particularly for woman empowerment, protection of the Girl Child, the Aged and persons with disabilities.

Issues relating to implementation of NEC and NLCPR projects:

22. I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of some of the issues concerned with the implementation of the projects funded under NEC and NLCPR.

The Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) was created from the savings of 10% of Gross Budgetary Support of select Ministries of Government of India. The objective of the NLCPR was to ensure speedy development of region through development of infrastructure projects by increasing budgetary support. Over the years, however, it is seen that the intended objectives could not be fully achieved due to various reasons including the multi stage procedure adopted in the NEC/NLCPR Guidelines.

23. We are happy therefore that the NEC guidelines are being taken up for revision and some of these issues will be resolved. Nevertheless, we once again enumerate some of our difficulties as follows:

- i) The existing procedure of sanction of projects and release of NEC & NLCPR fund is cumbersome. After retention of a project by MDoNER/NEC, the State Government is required to submit Detailed Project Report (DPR) comprising soil testing, survey, land procurement, detail drawing, design etc. for which no fund is provided.
- ii) Further, delay in sanction of NLCPR projects by the MDoNER (typically 2-5 years) leads to substantial cost escalation resulting in unworkable estimates unless revised, inviting litigation in cancelling tender and re-tender and re-allotment etc. By the time, MDoNER sanctions the project, the Schedule of Rates changes resulting in extra burden on the state exchequer to complete the project. We request that MDoNER should simplify the procedure so as to make the process of decision making/ sanction of the projects speedier. Further, the cost of preparing DPR may be included in the project cost.
- iii) Most projects have a precondition that the land should be made available by the State Government. However, with increasing pressure on land, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the state to fulfil this criterion from government land. Most times, the government land is available at unviable locations. MDoNER/ NEC should allow incorporating the land cost in the DPR for acquiring project land.

iv) As the Ministry of DoNER has no full-fledged Technical Wing of its own, the DPRs of the project are forwarded to the concerned Line Ministries. Examination of projects both by Line Ministry as well as MDoNER consumes much time. The power of Technical vetting of DPRs should be delegated to State Government or NLCPR/ NEC projects where the State Government has requisite engineering departments with adequate technical personnel. Alternately, DoNER could hire expert Central Public Sector organizations to carry out technical vetting in a time bound manner.

v) Since 2010-11, no contingency amount was sanctioned by the MDoNER against NLCPR projects. The contingencies approved by MDoNER are claimed through a reimbursement procedure subject to submission of documentary evidence (in original) like APRs/ vouchers etc. after completion of the project. Normally, miscellaneous works are carried out from the contingency amount during implementation of a project, especially at the initial stage. Claiming contingencies post facto is quite cumbersome. Ministry of DoNER may provide the contingency amount as a percentage and a part of the project cost to be provided to the implementing agency upfront.

vi) After approval of the projects, fund is released in three instalments on a 40:40:20 basis in case of NLCPR projects while in case of NEC projects, it is mostly released on a 40:30:30 basis. After release of the first instalment, the subsequent instalments are released on submission of Utilization Certificates (UC) and other documents including Work Order. Though the UCs and documents are submitted with the signature and countersignature of competent authorities, there is still some delay in release of funds, which leads to cost and time overrun of the projects. Ministry of DoNER/NEC should release fund in two instalments including the contingency amount i.e. first instalment along with the Administrative Approval and Financial sanction of the project and the balance fund on submission of utilization certificate of the first instalment.

vii) In case of NEC projects, State Govt. has to submit the AG's Audit Certificate for each project which is a time consuming process. A Chartered Accountant's report may be accepted instead of AG's audit certificate.

viii) The availability of fund for a particular year should be intimated to the State Government well in advance in order to make adequate budget provisions and for framing of projects accordingly, to avoid delay in implementation.

Maintenance Arrangements

24. A large pool of assets has been created under NEC/ NLCPR funding, but there are problems of maintenance. It is extremely difficult for revenue-poor states to maintain these assets. Presently, the practice is to immediately transfer the asset to the State Government which finds it difficult to make immediate provision for maintenance. MDoNER/NEC should provide a five year maintenance fund for each such scheme. This provision will provide the necessary cushion to the state government to take over the project gradually.

Capacity Building

25. Recognizing the need for improving the capacity of the manpower engaged in conceptualizing, planning and implementing projects in vital infrastructural sectors in Assam, the State Government is laying much emphasis on capacity building. To this end, several institutions have been set up and strengthened, such as the Assam Administrative Staff College, the Assam Water Research and Management Institute (AWRMI), the Assam Road Research Institute (ARRTI), the Assam Institute of Management etc. Further, to enable proper understanding of development initiatives for the disadvantaged and backward classes, the State Government is strengthening the Assam Research Institute for Tribal and Welfare of SC and Other Backward Classes (The Tribal Research Institute). We would urge M/DoNER's support for development and strengthening of these institutions.

Larger Role of Ministry of DoNER

26. I call upon Ministry of DoNER to play a larger role and not just confine itself to simply monitoring and releasing funds for NLCPR and NEC projects. The Ministry of DoNER should also pay adequate attention and draw up an action plan on how the North East can position itself as the springboard for India's Act East Policy and the new engagements with South East Asia and China. Developing trade, transport and economic links Bangladesh is also important for us and needs greater focus. The Ministry of DoNER should fully reflect the aspirations of the Government and people of the North East in all the forums where such bilateral and multilateral engagements are taking place. In fact, we would urge meaningful consultations and involvement of all the State Governments in the North East in such initiatives.

27. Assam as a state with shared physical boundaries with almost all the NE states will have to play a key role. Over the past few decades, Guwahati has become the gateway to the greater North Eastern Region. All major institutions and trade & industrial organizations within the region have a base in Guwahati. I would also add that all North Eastern States have received benefits, directly and indirectly, from existing infrastructure and other facilities in many parts of Assam and more especially in Guwahati. The Ministry of DoNER could have a look at funding projects in health, education and other social sectors in Assam which can benefit the region as a whole. Similarly, developing road, rail & air transport, power, industry, waterways and tourism in Assam will benefit the whole region. A special effort should be taken to develop Guwahati airport as a full-fledged international airport connecting South East Asia, China and Bangladesh. This will benefit the entire region. I hope the Ministry of DoNER will take up these issues within the Government of India with other Ministries.

28. In conclusion, I am hopeful that NEC will not only continue to provide the much needed support for the development of North-East India, but will also revamp itself, emerging stronger and better equipped to cater to the demands and aspirations of the region. I am confident that this Plenary Session shall give us new ideas and fresh approach for effecting a faster, and more equitable and sustainable development of the North-East.

JAI HIND



GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

SPEECH
OF
SHRI O. IBOBI SINGH
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, MANIPUR

AT THE
64th PLENARY SESSION OF THE
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

9th & 10th April, 2015
New Delhi

www.planningmanipur.gov.in

**Hon'ble Chairman, North Eastern Council and
Union Minister of DoNER, Dr Jitendra Singh ji,
Excellency Governors, Hon'ble Chief Ministers,
Council Members and Distinguished Participants,**

It is indeed a privilege to participate in the 64th Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council. I take this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Secretary, NEC for convening the Plenary Session to discuss Annual Plan 2015-16 and other agenda items at such an important juncture after the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission and restructuring of the CSS with change in funding pattern, affecting the NE States. I am confident that our discussion today will touch upon some of these issues, even though it is not listed as one of the agenda for discussion.

Now, I would like first to share our views on some issues of concern and thereafter dwell on the agenda items:

2. Enhancement of allocation of NEC funds

We have repeatedly been saying in this August House that the allocation of funds and actual release of funds to the NEC has been grossly inadequate to take up meaningful development of inter-state infrastructure or human development of the North Eastern Region. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of concern that there has been a budget cut to the tune of Rs 191 crores during 2014-15. NEC is statutorily mandated to act as a Regional Planning Body and has identified core areas for regional planning of the NER based on Vision 2020 of NER. However, with meager plan funds provided to NEC it will be difficult to provide fund for core areas like establishment of SLCD projects in the NER. Recognising our special conditions and fund requirements of special category states, I urge you to take up with the Ministry of Finance for enhancement of allocation for NEC and NLCPR.

3. Restructuring of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and change in funding pattern.

Under the 14th Finance Commission Award, there has been an increase in devolution of central tax share to the States from 32% to 42%. However, no provision is made in the Union Budget for the FY 2015-16 for 31 CSS schemes under category D. Special Category States also lose out on NCA, SCA, SPA on which the NE states and Manipur in particular, heavily depend on to meet the fiscal deficit and finance state matching share. State will also be burdened with more state share on CSS schemes under Category B, where the funding

pattern is to be changed. State also loses out on schemes under Category C, which have been delinked from Central funding.

Chairman Sir, we are concerned on the benefits that will actually accrue in absolute terms from the Finance Commission's transfer of tax devolution. What is apparent is that a change in the sharing pattern of existing CSS imposes a predictable fiscal burden on the special category states. NE States will get penalized for their internal inability to provide matching contribution for accessing central funds, thereby resulting in reduction of CSS allocation and non completion of ongoing projects/schemes in time. There is an immediate need for restoration of special category status to the NE states along with other financial allocation of fund. We request for providing financial gap and state matching share for CSS, which was earlier provided from flexible fund and NCA, SCA, SPA by **the Finance Ministry or from NLCPR pool of GBS**. We also request for retaining existing funding pattern of 90:10 or 100% for CSS programmes for all Special Category States. I appeal to Dr Jitendra Singhji to take up this matter seriously with the Ministry of Finance on top priority so that fiscally poor NE states and Manipur in particular may not deviate from the path of development.

4. EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF NEC FUNDS AND ENHANCEMENT OF ALLOCATION OF FUND FOR MANIPUR

Sir, in the last Plenary Session of NEC I have raised the issue of equitable distribution of funds to member States. Overall fund released to Manipur still continues to be the lowest after Sikkim; around 4% of the total releases made so far by NEC. During 2014-15 Rs. 48.90 crores was released, which is not sufficient to clear liabilities of ongoing projects and implement new projects sanctioned. Percentage allocation for Manipur may be enhanced to be at least at par with Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, which is more than 6% of the total releases.

5. Annual Plan for 2015-16

We support the continuous thrust given by NEC to the Transport & Communication, Power, Agri & Allied Sectors, Human Resources and Health Sectors. I understand that the approval of the Council is solicited for Budget allocation of Rs. 773.00 crores for the year 2015-16. I am aware that the allocation is meager to meet committed liabilities and sector wise proposed outlay for new programmes aspired by NEC and member states. My stat has already submitted priority list of projects for the Year 2015-16. I request NEC to consider the

priority list of projects in core thrust areas of NEC. I would like to highlight a few of the priority sector projects under NEC for early sanction:

- 1) Installation of 2x5 MVA, 33 KV Sub-station along with associated 33 KV line & related works at Mao- Rs. 9.12 crores.
- 2) Installation of 2x5 MVA, 33KV Sub-station along with the associated 33 KV LI-LO line & related works at Mayangkhang- Rs. 8.97 crores
- 3) Construction of Yatri Niwas and Bus Parking at Dimapur under Tourism sector – Rs 14.48 crore
- 4) Construction of Manipur State Yatri Niwas at Shillong under Tourism Sector- Rs 14.54 crore.

The above projects at Sl No 4& 5 under Tourism Sector have been retained during 2014-15. I am informed that State Government has already submitted DPR to NEC Sectt. We request for early sanction.

6. REVISED GENERAL GUIDELINES & REVISED SECTORAL GUIDELINES OF NEC:

I applaud NEC for detailing comprehensive detailed Revised General Guidelines and Revised Sectoral schemes guidelines of NEC to this August House. This will bring in transparency in the working of NEC. My government support constitution of Executive Committee of NEC chaired by the Chairman, NEC, Composition and function of Sectoral Empowered Committee, framing of procedures to be followed by the Standing Committee for retaining of projects in NEC and procedure for NEC-Project Appraisal Committee (NEC-PAC). My State has furnished comments on revised guidelines of NEC. Some of the specific suggestions for consideration of this House are;

- i) Flexibility may be given to the State to identify priority areas for distribution of funds sectorwise and ensure **equitable** fund distribution to member states within the ambit of the regional ramification.
- ii) Change in the order of priority of projects given by State may be done in consultation with the State Govt.
- iii) We do not support part-release of first installment of fund of 5% of project cost upon sanction of the project. Advance payment/mobilization fund may be required to be paid to the Firm/ Agency on finalization of tender and issue of work order/purchase order. Existing pattern on release of fund 40%, 40% and 20% may continue.

- iv) Second installment of fund may be released on submission of UC of 80% of NEC funds and equivalent state share instead of 100% utilization. This is to ensure that fund flow continues for ongoing works.
- v) We endorse the proposal of NEC for relaxing the conditionality for submission of Audit Certificate from the Accountant General of the State concerned for release of final installment of fund. This will expedite closure of completed projects.
- vi) We endorse NEC proposal for restoration of providing overheads for NEC projects in the DPR and support for providing overhead charges of 10.5% for plains and 11.5% for hill areas. However difficult areas like Jiribam under Imphal East may also be provided 11.5%. This will enhance early completion of ongoing projects, which have been delayed for want of overhead charges.
- vii) We endorse projects designed under Agriculture & Allied Sectors to deal with deficiency in demands for eggs, fish and milk as envisaged in Vision- 2020 Document.
- viii) We endorse increase in number of seats sponsored by NEC for students in economically poor backward for availing good education in the Assam Rifles Public School, Shillong.
- ix) We endorse the guidelines for NEC Dr T Ao Memorial Football Tournament. We request NEC to support and frame guidelines for similar Sports tournament, National and International tournaments organized in the NE region like Polo, which originated from the NE states and provide funding under MH-2552.

7. SCHEME FOR REHABILITATION/CONSTRUCTION OF STATE GUEST HOUSES AT SHILLONG:

We endorse NEC's proposal for construction of State Guest House at Shillong. My State does not have a proper State Guest House at Shillong. Shillong is the hub of tourist and centre for higher education, regional meetings like NEC Plenary meetings, REC, etc. Regular NEC review meetings are also held at Shillong. We request for construction of a Manipur Guest House at Shillong to facilitate tourist, students and officials coming to Shillong.

8. Other Issues

Sir, on power transmission front, we suffer from both inter-state and intra-state transmission constraints. In Manipur, the inter-state power transmission is operated at 132 KV voltage system through the existing Dimapur –Imphal & Leimatak – Jiribam 132 KV lines

of PGCIL. State cannot draw more than 100 MW even in peak monsoon though our allocation is 150MW. Fortunately, with the coming up of Pallatana & Bongaigaon Power Plants, PGCIL has taken up a 400 KV Double Circuit line from Silchar to Imphal initially chargeable to 132 KV system voltage as an associated transmission system of the above projects. This line, once completed will definitely remove the inter-state transmission constraints for the State. But for better system reliability and benefit of all NER States, it is necessary that the **400KV line be extended up to Misa** in Assam to have a 400KV ring main consisting of Misa – Balipara – Bongaigaon – Azara – Byrnihat – Silchar – Imphal – New Kohima – Misa. The Empowered Committee of Government of India has agreed to implement Imphal (PG) – New Kohima (Nagaland) 400KV Double Circuit (D/C) line, to be initially operated at 132 KV, through Tariff Based Competitive Bidding. The same needs to be extended upto Misa. This will give benefit to Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. I made this proposal in the last Plenary meeting at Shillong also.

Electricity Act 2003 mandates the establishment of State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) in every State. Manipur among the Indian States is having high T&D losses and in order to reduce the energy losses, the areas with high losses need to be identified, for which a number of inputs may be required. With the establishment of SLDC, important inputs may be availed so that proactive steps can be taken to check the pockets of heavy losses, rectify them and to improve overall power supply service in Manipur at par with other States. And objectives can be achieved by the integration of all the 33 KV system in the proposed SLDC in the State.

Sir, at the end, I would like to thank you for giving us this opportunity to share our views. I am confident that our concerns and aspiration will be taken due care of and we will be helped in the accelerated and balanced development of the North Eastern Region in general and Manipur in particular.

Thank You, Sir.

JAI HIND



Speech of
Dr. Mukul Sangma
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Meghalaya
During the 64th Meeting
of the
North Eastern Council
at
New Delhi

On the 9th & 10th April, 2015

Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), DoNER & Chairman, N.E.C., Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji, Distinguished Members of the North Eastern Council, Officials from the Government of India, N.E.C., State Governments and Friends.

Sir, on behalf of the State of Meghalaya, I extend my warm greetings and good wishes, to you and all the dignitaries present here. I would like to place on record our appreciation for the 63rd Plenary held at Shillong earlier this year. This Plenary is timely as it is being held at the start of the financial year. I hope that in addition to completion of the deferred Agenda of the last meeting, we will be able to address the key issues which concern our region.

At the outset, I would like to welcome the initiatives taken by the NEC to review & consolidate its policy guidelines such as constitution of the NEC's Executive Committee, allowing of overhead costs, provision of VGF/subsidy to air operators for expansion of air connectivity in the NER, assistance for implementation of Solar/Wind Energy Systems, creation of 'special development zones' in Agriculture Sector, model elite plant multiplication nurseries, establishment of coaching institutes in PPP mode amongst others. We also welcome the relaxation in respect of requirements of Audit Certificates before the release of the subsequent instalments and of the Tripartite Agreement between the State Government, the Development Department and the concerned NGOs which will pave the way for faster releases and timely implementation of sanctioned schemes/ projects.

I would like to place before this august house some of the key common issues that need to be resolved along with the views and suggestions of the State Government on the agenda points for today's meeting.

1. Annual Plan (2015-16):

As we approve the revised guidelines, it is important for us that our resources keep pace with our ambition. The projected outlay of the North Eastern Council for the twelfth Five Year (2012-17) was Rs. 13027.38 crores and the total approved outlay from 2012 onwards was Rs. 6108.00 crores only. While this itself was inadequate, to make matters worse, the actual allocation since 2012-13 has been static at Rs. 770.00 crore reflecting a decline in real terms and during 2014-15, a unilateral budget cut of Rs. 191.00 crores has reduced the plan kitty to Rs. 579.00 crores only. This has been a serious setback and has delayed implementation of important projects prioritized during 2014-15.

Furthermore, the change of funding pattern in respect of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and Central Sector Schemes made by Government of India from this financial year has imposed an additional burden on the State with limited resources. Therefore, the role of the NEC as a regional planner should be backed by adequate resources so that issues that have inter-State/regional ramifications can be addressed adequately. Going by the present trend, the gap in the growth rate will become wider and we will never be able to catch up with the rest of the country. Therefore, I propose that we resolve to enhance the NEC's annual plan (2015-16) to the tune of around Rs. 1500.00 crores which is a bare minimum requirement, just for meeting the requirements for State specific projects. For this a joint request could be made from all the members to the Ministry of Finance for increasing NEC's budget to Rs. 1500.00 crores this year so that the backlog of previous years can be substantially reduced. NEC may come up with a supplementary budget, indicated well in advance, once a decision in this regard is made by the Ministry of Finance.

2. Revised Guidelines:- While the Revised Guidelines have addressed some of our concerns, it is felt that there is still scope for improvement. In this context, I would like to flag the following points:

- **Lease of land to the State Government for a minimum period of 50 years.**

This provision is not feasible and is in fact in violation of the Revenue regulations in the State. It cannot be the case that for adding an extra block to a hospital, its land should be leased to Government. Many deserving non-government institutes/ organizations will be deprived of NEC's funding merely because of this provision. We, therefore, propose that this clause be dropped.

- **Submission of DPR within two (2) months of retention**

Selection of consultants, soil testing, surveying etc cannot be done within 2 months time. Hence sufficient time should be allowed for this purpose. We propose that a period of six months be allowed.

- **Schemes and projects under MH-2552:**

We feel that the phrase which says that schemes and projects funded under this head will be in “**varying ratios** up to 100% by NEC” is vague and needs to be reformulated suitably. The corresponding beneficiary institution should be required to bring in requisite counterpart funding on its own.

- **Maintenance of assets built through NEC funds:**

NEC has played a crucial role in building up infrastructure in the North East right from its inception. As it continues to build new assets, it is also important not to lose what has already been built. In addition to extending support for rehabilitation of previously funded roads, the NEC is also requested to extend its support beyond roads to cover buildings and life saving medical equipments which have been supported by NEC in the past.

- **NEC funds will not be used to fund land acquisition costs.**

Creation of infrastructure predominantly involves land acquisition. In most States of the North East, land is predominantly not owned by the State and needs to be acquired. If these costs are not covered by NEC/DoNER funding, it will be very difficult for the States to meet these costs from their own resources. I would, therefore, request the NEC to include the cost of land as one of the project components in the DPR funded by the Ministry of DoNER and NEC.

3. Financial Inclusion – Increase of C.D. Ratio:- The Credit Deposit ratio in Meghalaya, as I am sure, is the case with the other North Eastern States continues to be much below the National level. In respect of credit especially agricultural credit the outreach of formal banking has not been encouraging. About 75% of the people live in the rural areas and their main occupation is agriculture. Therefore any effort for expansion of agricultural credit facilities will have a wider effect on the over-all economic growth in terms of generating revenue and income opportunities. NEC as a regional planner could play a more proactive role in facilitating a more sensitive approach of formal banking towards the North East Region. Secondly, NEC as a funding agency could play a catalytic role in sending the unemployed educated youths for short-term trainings to the national agricultural institutes such as the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad and others to sensitize them about the need of bankable projects and their expected returns.

4. Support for new Townships:

Towns are magnets for population growth because they create jobs, provide opportunities and if planned in a scientific manner, deliver a better quality of life. Capital towns of the North East need to grow. Since the region is in seismic zone V and most of our capitals are located in the hills, there are limits to vertical growth. New well planned

township as twins to existing capitals are needed. The New Shillong Township is an example of this. In view of the fact that New Urban Townships are crucial and involve start up costs and long gestation period, therefore, NEC's support for such initiatives of new planned townships becomes necessary. I would request that this be taken up actively by NEC.

5. Inter State Roads:- States of the North East share long borders with each other. These borders mean that there are a large number of roads which originate in one State and connect to villages in the other. Most of these roads are not National Highways and are in fact no better than Other District Roads (ODRs). Unfortunately, little or no funding support is available from the Government of India for such roads. Upgradation of such roads by the States themselves is either inadequate or not synchronized. I would therefore strongly urge the NEC to take up such roads which connect villages and towns in two States as regional roads for which a distinct exclusive and dedicated fund must be provided.

6. Setting up of a Regional Technology Park:- A number of young boys and girls move out each year from the North East to study and later find jobs in call centres and BPOs in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Gurgaon. They lead tough lives and look forward to coming back home. It is time we took decisive steps to create suitable infrastructure at least in the IT sector within the region. Meghalaya volunteers to take the lead in this. We have set aside 80 acres of land to create an IT Park as a technology hub for the region. We must take advantage of the expected improvements in broadband connectivity through Bangladesh and develop centres all over the North East in a hub and spoke model. I would therefore urge the NEC to support this regional endeavour.

7. Provision of Telephone Connectivity in Rural Areas:- Setting up of Multi-Facility Centres (MFCs), Market Centres, Growth Centres/ Rural Service Centres and other centres requires good roads, telephone connectivity, power connectivity and other forms of linkages. If these facilities are provided and made available, it will ensure regular flow of goods and services in the NER thereby improving the economic condition and purchasing power of the people belonging to the Economically Weaker Section of the society. Though this issue was raised during the 63rd meeting of the NEC, however, translation of such plans into real action continues to remain as an aspiration and a dream of the people in the NER in general and Meghalaya in particular. To actualize this objective, the NEC is therefore requested to prepare an Integrated Action Plan embracing specifically the three Sectors viz.,

Telecommunication, Power and Roads. Once this exercise is done with, the NEC is requested to take up the matter with the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Roads, Transport & Highways, Government of India for support and implementation in a phased manner by involving all the Member States.

8. Educational Hub:- Many cities and towns of the NER function as centres of education. In spite of an IIT and an IIM, the region still needs more institutes of higher learning especially in technical and professional education. Recently, institutes like NIT and College of Home Sciences have been set up in Sohra and Tura respectively. I therefore urge upon the NEC to continue support for the setting up of institutes of higher education and professional institutes. This would require predictable and committed multiyear support. NEC has done so in the past e.g. in the setting up of RIMS at Imphal. I would request this august House to seriously consider recreating such a funding mechanism for new Regional institutions.

9. Development of Infrastructure for Tourist Circuits:- The discontinuation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes by the Government of India on Tourism infrastructure from this financial year will adversely affect the creation of tourism infrastructure in the State. In this context, the NEC is requested to provide focused assistance for infrastructure, capacity building and publicity in order to boost up development of tourism.

10. Preservation of Biodiversity:- The North East is one of the 'Biodiversity Hotspots' of India and is bestowed with rich and varied biodiversity. Meghalaya is no exception. It is home to many endemic and threatened flora and fauna. To conserve this vital heritage various measures have been initiated in the recent years for protecting and scientifically managing a major part of biodiversity contained in the Reserved forests, Protected forests, Sanctuaries, National Parks and Biosphere Reserves. Community Reserves have been constituted under the wildlife wing with the support & involvement of local people. Creating awareness about biodiversity conservation among various stakeholders including the common people of the State is being given top priority. Yet the efforts by individual States can only go upto a point. I would therefore request the NEC to consider funding for biodiversity conservation and research in a focused manner.

I have highlighted only few issues Sir, which reflect pressing needs. I am also conscious that these require money. I would therefore propose that the Ministry of DoNER take the lead in advocating for a corpus for NEC for taking up interventions for these issues. This corpus has to be distinct from the amount I have already mentioned for State specific projects. Regional projects require a larger kitty and this amount will be spread over a number of years. Nevertheless, NEC is best placed to make it possible and to take up implementation in partnership with the concerned States. I also hope that we will continue to have a dialogue facilitated by NEC on other issues concerning the State of Meghalaya in particular and the North Eastern Region in general. With these few words, I thank you once again Sir and request that the issues above receive due consideration.

Jai Hind

Khublei

Mitela



Government of Mizoram

SPEECH
OF
SHRI LAL THANHAWLA
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER,
MIZORAM

AT
THE 64TH PLENARY MEETING OF
THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

ON
9-10 APRIL 2015
NEW DELHI

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and Chairman, North Eastern Council Dr. Jitendra Singhji, Excellencies Governors of North Eastern States, Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Senior Officials of Government of India and North Eastern States.

At the outset, I wish to refer to the Honourable Prime Minister's statement where he said that 'the Centre is pro-active about Northeast and will initiate measures to bring the region's development on par with other developed parts of the country'. I suggest that the said statement outlines the goal of the North Eastern Council as regional planning body in its development initiative for the North East Region. It implies that gaps have to be identified and efforts made to meet such gaps enable North Eastern Region to catch up with developed parts of the country. It will call for larger investment in the core sectors to bridge the gaps through creation of credible infrastructure and sustainable development plans.

However, past funding patterns of the Centre for NEC has been very discouraging. For instance, the 12th Five Year Plan of the NEC was firmed up at Rs. 13027.38 crore as against the projected investment requirement of Rs. 21507.41 crore under the NEC Plan. Moreover, the Planning Commission has fixed the Gross Budgetary Support of Rs. 6108.00 Crores only for the 12th Plan of NEC. Worse till, against the approved outlay of Rs. 608.00 crores, the aggregate of the 12th Five Year Plan provision for NEC so far works out to Rs. 2822 crores only leaving a balance of Rs. 3286 crore (57.76%) for the 12th Plan period. Again, the Annual Plan 2015-16 is fixed at Rs. 773 crores against the proposed outlay of Rs. 1088.21 crore. It seems that Rs. 3286 crore would have to be allotted in the terminal year of the 12th Plan i.e. 2016-17, which appears doubtful.

In this regard, I sincerely request the Central Government to put its action in commensurate with the announcement made by the Honourable Prime Minister to be pro-active about Northeast in real terms. I am confident that with Dr. Jitendra Singh ji at the helm of the North Eastern Council and the DoNER Ministry, the North Eastern Region would definitely reap a rich harvest with his support and patronage.

I honestly share the Hon'ble Prime Minister's observation that the Northeast could become a major centre for organic farming now popular around the world. As we all know, when it comes to organic farming, this region has the competitive edge over other regions of the country as the region has by default already been more or less organic. However,

little has been achieved to help organic products from the Northeast to access organic markets inspite of significant increase in demand for organic products in national and international markets. In this regard, the recent initiative of the Government of India “Scheme for Organic Farming in the North Eastern Region” through Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is a welcome step. However, the Scheme is starting with a very discouraging performance in its first year of inception. The Scheme is launched with an initial outlay of Rs. 100 crores for the year 2014-15 at Budget Estimates which was reduced to Rs. 33 crores at the Revised Estimates. Government of India has made provision for Rs. 125 crores in the Budget Estimates for the Scheme in 2015-16. Ministry of DoNER should work out both short term and long term development strategies for organic farming in the Region and impress upon the Prime Minister for time bound implementation of the Scheme envisaged. I would like to submit that Mizoram will earnestly support the Government for the success of this initiative.

It is heartening to note that the Centre has a long term development project in mind for development of the region through better connectivity in rail, road, air and waterways. The true potential of the region cannot be fully tapped due to lack of the required connectivity of good roads, rail link and air connectivity. It would be difficult to believe that Aizawl, the Capital of Mizoram has no direct flight service to New Delhi, the Capital City even till now. We have been requesting the Central Government to help us arrange direct flight services between Aizawl and New Delhi for quite some time but to no avail.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister has often spoken about urgent need to harness the immense hydropower potential of the North East Region to transform our economy, and to provide electricity to the entire country. It is estimated that the North Eastern States has an identified hydro electric power potential capacity of 63257 MW, but just a little more than 3 per cent of this potential has so far harnessed. In April 2014, the region witnessed peak demand deficit of over 9% which is much higher than that in other parts of the country. There are, of course many constraints in the development of hydro-power. The development of hydro power plants requires huge amount of funds and at present there is shortage of funds at all levels for such projects. The other constraints are the long gestation period, forest and environment clearance, land acquisition problem, rehabilitation and resettlement, difficult terrain and poor accessibility, shortage of skilled/ unskilled manpower

and delay in supply of material for different reasons etc. Additionally, the requirement for payment of Net Present Value of diversion of forest area makes most of the hydro power projects not-viable. In order to tap the huge hydro power potential in the region, the Central Government will have to make necessary provisions in terms of financial assistance as well as policy measures to squarely address these constraints.

Another important issue is the Look East Policy, which Hon'ble Prime Minister has renamed as Act East Policy. I sincerely believe that Mizoram could provide a major economic links with the fast growing South East Asia. Mizoram, therefore, has to be provisioned to play a more active role under the umbrella of the Look East policy. But a policy like this cannot be implemented in a vacuum. Certain prerequisites like developed infrastructure, a detailed products and market specific realistic study of the region's export potential, development of a competitive production base in the hinterland and, finally and importantly, making the local communities involved and informed stakeholders, have to be met. Otherwise, inspite of Look East Policy, North East would remain just a corridor for movement of goods and services across border. The existing rudimentary infrastructure for border trade would needs a major overall and further improvement for the State to break out of its landlocked borders and engage in cultural, economic and tourism related interactions with our international neighbours.

I would also like to urge the Council and the Ministry of DoNER to actively take part in various urban development programmes for the benefit of the region. The intervention should aim at addressing gaps in core physical infrastructure across cities in the North East Region under the Smart Cities initiative. North Eastern States have been among the most urbanised in the country, and if not well managed, these increases in urban population in the region will place enormous stress in the future. Moreover, towns and cities are emerging as key drivers of economic growth, a major thrust is necessary to address the need for the sustainable development of physical infrastructure in our cities and towns. As such all the Capital Cities of the North Eastern States should be included as part of 100 smart cities being developed and that all district headquarters in the region should be included among 500 others under smart city vision.

I would also like to highlight some specific concerns on the agenda.

As we are adopting “Revised NEC General guidelines” including “Policy Framework and Scheme Guidelines” to strengthen and revitalising the NEC. It is always good to have such a comprehensive guideline on procedural and policy matters. However, it should be remembered that the whole purpose for the Council is to work for economic and social development of the North Eastern Region and as such any guidelines or procedure should give due regards to the peculiar needs of a specific state of the region. Any guidelines or procedure should not hinder but facilitate rapid development of the region by appropriately catering to and by addressing specific needs of the States.

I had raised the issue of a project ‘Upgradation of Khedacherra-Damcherra-Zamuang-Kawrthah-Tuilutkawn Road in Mizoram’ earlier in my previous plenary statement. I would like to bring the issue here again for favourable consideration by the Council and Ministry of DoNER. The first instalment for the project amounting to Rs. 18 crores was released on 8.3.2013 but approval of revised estimate on the basis of lower bidders’ rate was accorded only on 20.2.2015. Moreover, the Ministry of DoNER is insisting on the Mizoram Government to complete the work within the original time schedule, which will not be practicable as two years have already elapsed from initial sanction date. I sincerely request the Ministry of DoNER, through the Council, to review the terms and conditions regarding completion period for the project.

I am happy to learn that the release of subsequent instalments of NEC Projects under the new general guidelines shall depend upon the progress – both in financial and physical. And that submitting Audit Certificate from the Accountant General of State concerned for release of final instalment shall no longer be required for projects implemented by the State Government since all accounts of State Government are statutorily audited by the C&AG. This is a welcome step in the right direction by appropriately deleting unnecessary procedure. Further, I would like to propose that release of fund for the projects should be made in two instalments only 80% and then 20% subsequently to facilitate better financial space for implementing agencies. Moreover, since NEC projects are now going to be fully funded by the Central Government, reference to State Share in the revised general guidelines may need to be deleted accordingly.

We also welcome the scheme for the rehabilitation and construction of State Guest Houses in Shillong as a one-time measure by the Council. This will facilitates accommodation

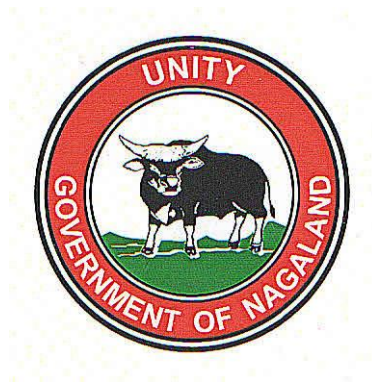
during Council Meetings and other meetings for regional planning and review of projects held in NEC Headquarters Office in Shillong.

In recent times drastic structural changes have been introduced in the process and system of planned development at the national level. The NITI Aayog is symbolic of such a change. We welcome this move. However, we are not clear as to how North Eastern Council will fit into the new system. Will it maintain status quo both in terms of administrative pattern as well as also pattern of funding development projects, or will it get transformed structurally as well as functionally as a Regional Council as envisaged in the resolution constituting the NITI Aayog? I think we should be clear about it.

There is another important and relevant issue that calls for consideration. More than four decades ago NEC was conceived and brought into being as an institution to provide faster socio-economic growth and ensure balanced regional development. Then came another body Ministry of DoNER, also created to look after the region's overall speedy progress. This was supposed to symbolise Centre's special concern for the North East. I felt it is time to look back, take stock and find out the measure of efficacy of such an arrangement. Should we not dispassionately discuss as to whether creation of two institutions at two levels for achieving the same goals has led to acceleration of growth pace or has actually resulted in avoidable delay through working in cross-purposes and overlapping? Such review is part of the evolutionary process.

Since its inception, the NEC has played a crucial role in harnessing the potential of the North-Eastern States and I hope that it will continue to shoulder its responsibility with vision and vigour in the years to come.

Thank You.



GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND

Speech of
SHRI T.R.ZELIANG

Chief Minister, Nagaland

at the

64th Plenary of the
North Eastern Council

on

9th to 10th April, 2015 at New Delhi

SPEECH OF SHRI T. R. ZELIANG, HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, NAGALAND DURING THE 64TH PLENARY SESSION OF NEC ON 9TH & 10TH APRIL, 2015 AT NEW DELHI

Dear Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for DoNER, and Chairman of the NEC, Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern States, Permanent Members of NEC, senior officers of the NEC and the various Ministries of the Central Government, senior officers from the North Eastern States, ladies and gentlemen.

1. First of all, let me thank and congratulate Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for DoNER and ex-officio Chairman of the NEC, of having summoned this 64th Plenary Session of the NEC, and for inviting the various Ministries of the Govt. of India to make presentations during the session about the programmes of their Ministries in the North East Region, and to highlight various important issues connected with their implementation. I am sure that this will make the Plenary Session and its discussions more fruitful and meaningful.
2. Now, let me place before the Council a few important issues concerning my State in particular, and the North East region in general, for deliberation during the plenary session.
 - A. Issues relating to 14th FC Award and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).**
 - i. I welcome the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, particularly the increase in devolution of Central Taxes to the State from the existing 32% to 42%.
 - ii. However, it appears that the Govt. of India does not propose now to make any provision for Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Special Plan Assistance (SPA) which are the main sources of plan financing for the Special Category States. It is seen that no provision has been made in the Union Budget for 2015-16 for NCA, SCA & SPA. This will drastically affect the pace of development and the finances of the Special Category States in NE region.
 - iii. I understand that there is a view for changing the pattern of sharing Centrally Sponsored Schemes between Centre and the States, in such a way as to enhance the state's shares. This would be disastrous for Special Category States of the NE Region, particularly Nagaland. Even at present, the State is finding it difficult to meet the 10% State's share. Therefore, it is my strong view that in respect of Special Category N.E. States, all CSS may be made 100% Central funding. The

requirement of State share should also be waived for N.E. States in respect of NLCPR, NEC, SPA & ACA funded projects.

- iv. It appears that the status of Special Category States of NE Region is virtually going to be discontinued, which will be a big blow to the development of the N. E. Region. This Policy will contradict the objectives of **Faster, More Inclusive and able Growth** of the 12th Five Year Plan of the Country. I feel that the Government of India should not abruptly abrogate the status of the Special Category States for the States of NE Region, and deprive them of the financial facilities which the States have been availing since long.

I think that this is an important matter, which a forum like this should discuss in all seriousness.

B. REVISED NEC GENERAL GUIDELINES.

The State Government appreciates the efforts put in by NEC in bringing out the Revised General Guidelines. The changes/modifications being made are positive, and in tune with the emerging challenges and opportunities in the NE Region. In my view, some of the welcome changes/additions are:

- i) Constitution of the Executive Committee to review, monitor and recommend measures for implementation of various projects under NEC.
- ii) Relaxation of mandatory requirement of AG Audit Certificate for release of final installment for projects implemented by the State Government and audit certificates from an authorized audit firm/chartered accountant for project implemented by other agencies.
- iii) Flexibility in allowing for cost escalation not exceeding 10% of the original estimated cost with prior approval of NEC.
- iv) Increase of overheads for NEC projects in the DPR from existing 2% to 11.50% for hill areas.
- v) Proposed introduction of OASIS Management of Information System (MIS) in NEC will make access to NEC data and information very easy and simple for the beneficiary NE States.
- vi) Procedure to be followed by the Standing Committee for Retaining of Projects (SCRPs) in NEC for retaining projects/identifying projects having potential for

retention costing between Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 15 crore from the priority lists submitted by the NE States.

vii) Laying down procedure for carrying out appraisal and scrutiny of DPRs by the technical experts in NEC.

viii) Procedure for NEC-Projects Appraisal Committee (NEC-PAC) for appraisal and recommending sanction of projects costing between Rs. 2 crore to the Rs. 15 crore.

C. NEC's ANNUAL PLAN 2015-16

It has been observed that the budget for North Eastern Council is even lower than that of the smallest constituent State of the region. We have been consistently urging that the budget allocation to the NEC be enhanced, considering the numbers of States whose developmental needs it caters to.

The 12th Five Year Plan Outlay of NEC is Rs. 6108 crore. However, the budget for Annual Plan 2015-16 has been fixed at Rs. 773.00 crore. With this, the aggregate outlay for the four years of the 12th Five Year Plan will be only Rs. 2822.00 crore, leaving a balance of Rs. 3286.00 crore for the last year of the Plan period. This shows that even the modest 12th Plan target is going to be under-achieved by a big margin. NEC may take up with GoI for enhancement of the NEC budget for Annual Plan 2015-16.

D. ROAD MAINTENANCE

Construction and maintenance of road in hill States involves huge expenditure. Due to unstable soil condition, landslides occurring during rainy season are regular phenomenon. Adequate fund may be provided by NEC/DoNER for maintenance of roads. This matter was also brought out in the earlier Plenary. The Council may address this issue.

E. POWER

It is most important that the power needs of the North East States are also fulfilled. Nagaland is facing serious power deficit, as we generate only 24MW against the peak requirement of 115MW. In order to overcome this acute shortage, we are taking up various initiatives such as 186 MW Dikhu hydro project, 30 MW Tizu and 36 MW Zungki projects. We request the centre to assist our initiatives.

F. GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND HAS PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS TO THE MINISTRY OF DoNER FOR WHICH NEC's INTERVENTION IS REQUIRED.

d) Foothill connectivity.

There is an urgent need to construct the Foothill road in Nagaland. To provide an unimpeded and efficient road connectivity to the State Capital- Kohima and the commercial hub, Dimapur for the people dwelling in the Districts of Mon, Longleng, Mokokchung, Wokha and Peren. This was proposed to:

- i. Bring about transformation to the economic scenario of the state by creating opportunities for exploration of minerals and facilitate productivity and growth of agro-based industries.
- ii. Create a market route for trade and commerce with other states of the country.
- iii. To in-still a sense of security for people travelling across the State without crossing to neighbouring states, especially during bandhs/strikes etc in the other states. The proposed project is for Construction of four lane highway from Tizit-Naganimora-Tuli- Yajang C- Longtho- M. I Project- Sumito- New & Old Wozhi-Changpang (GNGC)- Merapani- Governor's Camp- Rengmapani- Nuiland- Dimapur- Khelma. The project is envisaged to join the Trans- Arunachal Highway at Khonsa (Arunachal) in the North and the EW corridor at Maibang (Assam) in the South. The total length of the road is 580 kms and the estimated cost of the project is Rs. 6591.00 crore. Our request for taking up the project as a National Project may please be considered.

e) Airport at Ruzaphema.

Proposal for construction of a Greenfield airport at Ruzaphema was moved in the year 2000 and feasibility project report submitted with a project cost of Rs. 306.71 crore, which is now being projected at Rs. 1200.00 crore during 2014-15.

The Airport Authority of India has recently conducted pre viability survey of the project at Ruzaphema, which is conveniently located between Kohima and Dimapur. The project is stated to be viable. G.O.I is requested to expedite preparation of the DPR and consider to sanction the project.

f) Dimapur – Tizit Railway (257.19 kms)

The cost of this project is Rs. 4275.95 crore. The Ministry of Railways had already undertaken survey and completed it in November 2011.

The project covers Dimapur, Wokha, Mokokchung, Longleng and Mon districts. In view of its strategic importance, as well as its importance for socio-economic development, this project is requested to be taken up urgently by the Railways.

I am grateful for the kind hearing of the Council and I hope that the Council will give due consideration to the issues that have been raised and take appropriate actions. In spite of the various limitations and handicaps, the DoNER and NEC have made tremendous impact on the lives of the people of the NER. We acknowledge and appreciate the hard work and concern.

Thank you,

Jai hind.



ADDRESS OF THE

HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF SIKKIM

AT THE 64TH PLENARY MEETING

OF THE

NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

AT NEW DELHI

ON 9TH & 10TH APRIL, 2015.

Hon'ble Minister DoNER and Chairman NEC, Hon'ble Governors and my fellow colleague Hon'ble Chief Ministers, Members of the North Eastern Council, Hon'ble Ministers, Dignitaries, Officers of the Government of India and the North Eastern States, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This time the Chairman NEC has decided to hold the 64th Plenary Meeting of the NEC over two days on 9th and 10th April, 2015 which gives us all ample opportunity to discuss and deliberate on the agenda notes before us and to discuss issues that is of relevance to the whole of the North Eastern Region. In fact, I feel that such meetings as this should be held at least twice a year so as to give further impetus to the development issues of the region. I say this because you are aware that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given maximum focus to the North Eastern States and has promised to link up all the State Capitals of the NER by good roads, air and rail connectivity by the end of 2020.

The Hon'ble Minister DoNER, Dr. Jitendra Singh has also announced a number of initiatives for the betterment of the NER. The DoNER Ministry this year has an increased allocation of 29.43% in his budget allocation for 2015-16 with additional funds pumped in for implementation of various schemes of the North Eastern Council, the Nodal Agency for economic and social development of the region.

In the budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, the DoNER allocation has been increased from Rs. 1,825.45 crores to Rs. 2,362.74 crores. The reason behind this increase in the budget allocation for the NER is to bring it within the mainstream and give special priority in terms of development.

As part of the Government of India's initiative to boost the development in the region, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced to set up a Centre for Film Production, Animation and Gaming in Arunachal Pradesh for the North Eastern States. Secondly, a new AIIMS like institution has also been announced to be established in Assam.

Therefore, the Government's allocation for the schemes of the NEC has increased by 26% in the budget. In the current budget, the Government has allocated Rs. 140.00 crores from the Rs. 111.00 crores in the 2014-15 budget. The Government in the budget for the year 2014-15 had allocated Rs. 1,825.45 crores to DoNER.

In the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, priority has been given to the overall region's development. Further, the development process includes two visits of the

Hon'ble Prime Minister and the launch of important infrastructure projects in the NER in order to bring the North Eastern Region of the country into the mainstream.

We are heartened to note that action has been taken with regard to allocation of natural resources, financial inclusion, health and hygiene of the common man, girl child education and employment for the youth among others.

It is also worthy to note that in order to bring the region into the mainstream, the Government of India has focussed on welfare of labour, agricultural productivity, and increasing farm incomes, power, digital connectivity, skilling of youth, and efficient and better work culture in Government.

We are indeed grateful that organic farming sector in the North East has seen an increase in allocation of Rs. 125.00 crores for the current financial year. Here, I would like to mention that the organic farming initiative has been initiated in Sikkim from the year 2010 in which the Sikkim Organic Mission target is set at 74,303.80 hectares and for the process of conversion of the entire agricultural land to organic management, group certification system is being followed engaging 14 service providers and 6 certification bodies accredited with Agriculture and Processing Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

You are kindly aware that for the first time in the Country, we initiated the organic farming mission since 2003 and working continuously to make the State a total organic state. Over the decades, we have invested considerable amount from our own limited resources to promote organic cultivation in the State.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister was pleased to acknowledge our contribution and had announced last year a package of Rs. 100 crores during 2014-15 for promotion of organic farming in the NE region. The State Government approached the Central Ministry with Detailed Project Report amount to Rs. 69.21 crores. However, no fund was sanctioned to us even after many rounds of discussion. We have been told that this has been reduced to Rs. 30.85 crores but the sanction is yet to be arrived to us. I would earnestly request the Central Ministry to speedily sanction and release the amount so that we are able to take advantage of the central incentives granted to us.

The aim of the Government of Sikkim is to convert the entire State into a totally Organic State by December, 2015 whereby all agriculture produce in the State is grown using

organic fertilizer which is healthy for consumption. The Government of Sikkim has voluntarily adopted to become Organic. We are most willing to share the knowledge and best practices on Organic farming with the rest of the sister States of the NER.

The Government of India has also announced Rs. 1000.00 crores for rail connectivity and Rs. 2000.00 crores for road connectivity in the North Eastern Region. We hope to be a beneficiary of this announcement as equal partners.

Recently, the foundation stone for Sikkim Textile Industry was laid by the Union Minister for State for textiles Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar in Gangtok on 25th March, 2015. With this initiative Sikkim hopes to find a place in the apparel and garment manufacturing sector.

The State of Sikkim is coming up with three garment manufacturing centres at Namchi in South Sikkim, Makha in East Sikkim and Barfok in West Sikkim, at a cost of Rs. 18.18 crores. Each centre is estimated to generate direct employment for 1,500 people. The centre will have 100 machines and all the required facilities. This initiative is part of the announcement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister that the Eight North Eastern States will have textile and apparel centres.

The Government of Sikkim eagerly looks forward to the opening of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in June, 2015. This historic initiative to open up the second route through Nathula Pass for the pilgrimage has been agreed to by the Government of India and China last year. This route promises to be much more convenient and comfortable for the yatris who can travel by bus from the Tibetan Autonomous Region to Kailash Mansarovar.

Here, I would use this forum to appeal to the Government of India that a lot of background work and many new infrastructure such as dormitories, hostels and medical centres etc. have to be created at Sherathang and Nathula in order to acclimatise the yatris before they embark on the journey/ pilgrimage. Our existing infrastructures are very basic and needs major overhaul to meet the demand of the increased yatris in times to come.

The first batch of 50 Indian Pilgrims accompanied by 5 support staff and 1 liaison officer is to pass through Nathula Pass in June, 2015 and is to be welcomed at the International border by Chinese Officials. The pilgrims will be guided by the Chinese on their

side and the return trip will also be coordinated as per the Government to Government monitoring protocol.

There is still a lot of coordination to be done between Government of Sikkim, MEA Government of India, the Ministry of Defence, Army and BRO etc. to make the opening of this second route a success. The State Government has already done some of the ground work, and we look forward to further Government of India's directions and initiative in the matter including the assistance to build up the required infrastructure for this historic occasion.

Sikkim's Specific

The NEC has funded a total of 146 schemes for the State of Sikkim under 21 sectors amounting to Rs. 58080.15 lakhs against which the NEC grant received is Rs. 52760.30 lakhs and the 10% State Share provided is Rs. 5319.85 lakhs. The amount released by NEC is Rs. 44131.47 lakhs. Against these, the NEC share to be released is Rs. 8628.83 crores and the Government of Sikkim has to release the balance State Share of Rs. 2083.37 lakhs. Against the total sanction of Rs. 58080.15 lakhs the Government of Sikkim has utilized a sum of Rs. 42963.43 lakhs.

Act East Policy

Here again I reiterate, that we in Sikkim would like to play a role in this policy by leveraging our natural advantage such as Horticulture, Floriculture, Pilgrimage Tourism, the Buddhist Circuit Route and Organic Farming. In order to act east, the country has to look to the North Eastern borders. We are glad to note that the Hon'ble Minister of DoNER has stated that over the past 100 days ever since he was entrusted the responsibility of the Ministry of DoNER he has learnt that India know for its diversity, the Northeast is the best example of diversity within diversity.

One of the major initiative taken up since January 2015 by the DoNER Minister was the introduction of holding a Camp Secretariat Office by rotation every month in each of the eight States of the Northeast. Already two such Secretariat Camps have been held in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. This initiative sends a message to the people of the NER that they do not need to travel to New Delhi every time when they have a grievance. On the

contrary, it is New Delhi which will reach out to them. We appreciate this gesture of the DoNER, Minister.

The Hon'ble DoNER Minister has also stated that in line with the Make in India initiative, a concept paper titled Make in Northeast has been prepared and is personally trying to reach out to industrial houses to promote organic farming and food processing which will generate revenue as well as employment in the region. Further, he has also appealed to the Indian Chamber of Commerce in becoming active partners in this initiative and to inspire the potential investors and entrepreneurs to supplement the DoNER Ministry's efforts in the region. This will not only help in promoting industry and business but will also bridge the psychological barriers and to bring the Northeast closer to the mainstream India's march on the road to growth, development and prosperity.

These initiatives, are indeed exemplary for the betterment of the North East Region. Therefore, together let us commit today to work hand in hand with the Government of India and the DoNER Ministry in particular for the upliftment of the NER and to achieve the goals as envisaged in the North East Vision Document 2020.

Road Connectivity

The crucial infrastructural gap in respect of Inter State connectivity by road needs to be top priority for the North Eastern Region, as unless this is supported by the Government of India, roads constructed by one State will be limited to its own administrative jurisdiction only. This will fail to provide continuity to connect to other important roads of the other neighbouring States.

For Sikkim, the National Highway 10 is the only lifeline which connects the landlocked State with rest of the country. National Highway 10 besides serving the people of Sikkim also serves the border needs of the Defence forces. Therefore, keeping in view the importance of NH 10 to the State of Sikkim and the Armed forces guarding the border with China, I appeal that the BROs role be further strengthened by the Defence Ministry and status quo be maintained.

Pakyong, Greenfield Airport

When this Greenfield Airport is complete, we hope to be linked to the air map of the nation. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Government of India has a long term vision of

development of the NER through connectivity by rail, road and air. Improved connectivity would boost the economy of Sikkim and the tourism potential of the State can be fully harnessed. Hence, the Bagdogra Airport in West Bengal will be of importance for Sikkim till such time the Pakyong Airport is complete.

Telecommunications

We are still looking forward to an accessible and reliable Telecom/ IT infrastructure for the State. Better communication links for Sikkim should be a top priority in view of the strategic importance. This would require improvement in voice and internet connectivity. The OPGW (Optical Ground Wire) needs to be strung on power lines, service ducts for utilities along the National Highway and State Highways with provision for solar and renewable energy solution for all mobile towers. We request that the work on the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) be expedited for providing telecommunication and broadband internet connectivity to the Gram Panchayats in the State.

Before I conclude, let me mention that there is still a large scope for providing more infrastructure and reliable physical connectivity in the NER so as to ensure rapid socio-economic development of the region. At the same time, the initiatives of the Government of Sikkim is in harmony with that of the Government of India with emphasis on a faster, sustainable and inclusive growth. The Government of Sikkim will continue to give thrust to human development, enhance capacity building, eliminate poverty and promote inclusive and sustainable growth.

Due to low crime rate and the peace loving people in the State, the pendency of cases in the courts is the lowest in the country. We share three international borders with China, Bhutan and Nepal and it has proved to the country that a border State can be most peaceful, which is our contribution to the process of national building.

While concluding, I thank the Hon'ble Chairman and the distinguished Members of the Council and the dignitaries present here, for having given me the opportunity to put forth my views. I look forward for the proceedings of this meeting to be compiled, documented and sent to the State Government so that necessary action can be initiated early.

I wish that the deliberations over these two days will be fruitful.

***** THANK YOU *****



SPEECH
OF
Shri Manik Sarkar
Chief Minister, Tripura

**64th Meeting of the
North Eastern Council**

April 9-10, 2015
Scope Auditorium, Scope Complex,
7-Lodhi Road
New Delhi

Hon'ble Minister; DoNER & Chairman of the North Eastern Council, my Distinguished Colleagues & Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me at the outset welcome Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister DoNER into the North East fraternity.

2. We are all aware that the North Eastern Region is unique in India in its mix of rich natural resources, in its bio diversity and in its varied cultural, ethnic and linguistic population. At the same time, we must recognize 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. But sorry to say that it has not happened. I, therefore, welcome occasions such as this meeting, as they provide a forum, for discussing long pending burning issues related to development.
3. Though the Department of Development of the North Eastern Region (DoNER) was created in 2001 and was accorded the status of a full-fledge Ministry in May 2004, I am sorry to say that the subsequent developments have belied the expectations of the North East and DoNER's operations during the last decade has not made any significant contribution to the Region.
4. It is here that I call upon Ministry of DoNER to play a larger role and not just confine itself just to monitoring and releasing funds for NLCPR and NEC projects. The Ministry of DoNER should also pay adequate attention and draw up an action plan on how the North east can position itself as the springboard for India's Act East Policy and the planned new engagement with South East Asia and China.
5. Developing trade, transport and economic links with Bangladesh is very important for most of the States of the Region and needs greater focus. The Ministry of DoNER should fully reflect the aspirations of the Government and people of the region in all the forums where such bilateral and multilateral engagements are taking place.

6. A conference of the Chief Ministers of the NE States was organized by MoDoNER on 21-22 August, 2014 wherein 6 working groups were formed, namely (i) Connectivity issues addressing Roads/ Waterways/ Railways/ Aviation/ Telecom, (ii) HRD including education (Primary & Higher) and skill development, (iii) Trade, Commerce and Industrial Development, (iv) Water Supply, Health & sanitation, (v) Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Animal Husbandry/ Sericulture and Minor Irrigation (vi) Power & Tourism for the overall development of the NE Region. I sincerely hope that the Ministry of DoNER will take positive steps on the assessment made by the aforesaid groups.
7. I would like to highlight some areas for improving the effectiveness of the functioning of Ministry of DoNER:
 - 7.1 The Ministry of DoNER should develop internal capability for evaluation/ appraisal of the Projects for funding under NLCPR and also obtaining clearances from various Ministries. Effective coordination with various development ministries by DoNER is highly essential for fast track execution of the projects.
 - 7.2 The Ministry of DoNER should set strict timelines for retention, sanction and actual disbursement of the projects within the same financial year. Further, if the Projects get delayed due to the procedural formalities followed by DoNER and for other compelling reasons at the state levels, the Ministry of DoNER should fund the entire cost-overrun, without any ceiling. The Ministry of DoNER needs to take more pragmatic and practical view in this regard and handle issues sensitively.
 - 7.3 The Ministry of DoNER should adopt cost norms which are consistent with the situation prevailing in the North- East as this will help in avoiding cost overruns. It is an accepted fact that the cost of implementing any Project in the North-East is much higher than in rest of India. Most of the construction materials have to be brought from the mainland States. The working season in the North East is about 6 months, due to prolonged monsoons, which add to the cost of implementing the Projects. However, such realities are often not taken into account while evaluating Project DPRs under NLCPR. The cost of land acquisition, which is quite substantial in infrastructure project, may therefore, be allowed to be included in Project Cost, in view of resource constraints of the North-East States.

- 7.4 The current mechanism for monitoring NLCPR Projects needs strengthening, so that the Projects are completed in time. For close monitoring, the Ministry of DoNER may set up an On-Line Computerized Monitoring System (OCMS) similar to MGNREGA and other Central Programmes/ Schemes. This will help in eliminating communication gaps between the Ministry and the States, resulting in delays. Further, the Ministry may put in place a robust mechanism of review and monitoring of Project through field visits by officers of the Ministry.
- 7.5 There is a need to delineate roles of the two key organs, that is NEC and Ministry of DoNER, in such a manner so that their roles supplement and complement each other and overarching objective of bridging infrastructural gap in North-East is seamlessly achieved .
8. I would like to suggest some steps for improving the effectiveness of the functioning of NEC so that the NEC can effectively play its desired role for development of the Region. These are as follows:
- 8.1 The NEC, on its part, needs to move closer to the States. For instance, instead of functioning in a centralized manner resulting in a lot of correspondence and delays, the NEC officials could consider coming to the States at least twice a year and hold the meetings of Project Approval Committee in the respective States. If the meeting of Project Approval Committee could be held in the respective States, the decisions will be faster and of better quality, since the entire administrative machinery of the concerned States will be available for deliberations on the projects, clarification of doubts, etc.
- 8.2 The allocation of funds to various States in the North Eastern Region by the NEC has not been equitable. Tripura is the second largest State in the Region in terms of population and is in most disadvantageous position as far as the geographical location and infrastructure development is concerned, as the State is located in the extreme South-West corner of the North Eastern Region. Despite these factors, the share of Tripura in the funds allocated by NEC to various States has been very low and has been declining over the years. I would urge upon the North Eastern Council to work out a mechanism for equitable distribution of resources among the States in the Region in order to avoid discrepancy and irrational distribution of funds.

- 8.3 The budget allocations for NEC need to be enhanced and organizationally strengthened.
9. Here I would like to mention that under NLCPR, 12 retained projects of Tripura (from 2009-10 to 2013-14) are yet to be sanctioned by the Ministry though it is cleared from the State Government's side. Ministry of DoNER has cleared 8 priority projects (out of 21 projects sent) during 2014-15 for retention and sanction. This also needs to be expedited soon.
10. Similarly, under NEC, 2 retained projects of the State (from 2012-13 to 2013-14) are yet to be sanctioned by the NEC though it is cleared from the State Government's side in all respects. Further, subsequent installment is awaited from the NEC against 27 on-going projects. We have further sent 18 priority projects during 2014-15 for retention and sanction. This needs to be expedited soon.
11. I would now like to touch upon some of the recent developments that have an adverse impact on the overall development of the North Eastern Region:
- 11.1 After analyzing the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations and the Union Budget for 2015-16, it appears that virtually the status of Special Category States of the North Eastern Region is going to be discontinued. This will be nothing but a big blow to the interest of the NE States who have been suffering from the backwardness and utter under-development due to apathetic and neglecting attitude of the earlier Union Governments. I am being forced to say that this dangerous and disastrous move cannot be accepted at this stage. The financial facilities used to avail by the NER states as special category states should be allowed to continue.
- 11.2 Similarly, the decision taken in the Union Budget for 2015-16 not to keep any provision under Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Plan Assistance (SPA) and Special Central Assistance (SCA) will drastically affect the position of finance of the NE States. This should be continued for all the special category states under NER so that they can catch up with other parts of the country.
- 11.3 So far, sharing pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) was 90:10 for special category states. However, from the Union Budget 2015-16, it appears that sharing

pattern will undergo a change for a number of CSS with states to contribute higher share. In this regard, it may be mentioned that any change in the sharing pattern will add to state's liability which state may not be able to meet, thereby leading to cessation of pro-people developmental schemes in NE states. Sharing pattern for CSS for the North-Eastern States may remain, as followed earlier, otherwise State like Tripura and other NE States will not be able to implement the schemes due to non-availability of fund.

12. I would like to suggest to my colleague Chief Ministers of the North Eastern Region to pass a resolution on the likely issues which might affect Governance and Development of our region, so that NITI Aayog and the Honorable Prime Minister, may intervene suitable, so that special privileges of the North Eastern States will continue further.
13. I would now like to draw your kind attention to some of the state specific issues pertaining to Tripura where the Minister and officials of DoNER can play a facilitating and coordinating role.

13.1 Development of the National Highway No. 44:

The NH-44 (332 kms in Tripura) is the main artery of the State to connect with mainland States. This Highway is the only road link, is of intermediate specification and gets damaged frequently due to landslide, etc. Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to Tripura on the 29th October, 2005, realizing its essentiality, announced Four Lane Development of the NH-44 upto Sabroom. However, the physical progress of even 2 Lane is far from satisfactory. Development of 4 lane of this Highway has paramount importance and needs to be done as early as possible.

13.2 Development of Alternate National Highway:

Since there is only connecting road to the rest of India keeping strategic interests in view, Teliamura- Amarapur – Jatanbari- Silacharri- Gorakappa- Sabroom (177 Km) may be sanctioned, on top priority, as it will provide an alternate in the event of any damage to the NH-44 , due to earthquake, landslide, etc. and connect the tribal dominated areas of the state.

13.3 Railways:

Our State, after struggle for decades, got a sanction of 110 km Meter gauge railway line connecting Agartala, and was operational only in 2008. The present quality of services is extremely poor. There is an urgent need for expeditious completion of the recently started work of broad-gauging of the railway line connecting Agartala (State Capital) and further extension of railway line upto Sabroom, South Tripura District adjacent to Chittagong port (72 km). Adequate resources need to be provided and implementation closely monitored for timely completion.

13.4 Rail link between Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh):

Prior to Independence, towns in Tripura were connected by Railway network with erstwhile East Pakistan, present Bangladesh and Agartala itself was serviced by Akhaura Railway Station. Government of Bangladesh may be pursued to take all necessary actions and Railway Ministry may take up this construction work with priority without further delay.

13.5 Indo-Bangladesh connectivity:

For achieving rapid economic development in Tripura and states of North East Region, facility of movement of people and goods through Bangladesh to North-East and Eastern India is a necessity. Prior to partition, Tripura was seamlessly connected to India through Bangladesh, by Road, Rail and Waterways, which needs to be restores and made operationalised. There is an urgent need for Transit/Trans-shipment facility including road, rail and waterways connection through Bangladesh to North-East and Eastern India as well as access to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh. Govt. of India may persuade Bangladesh Government for allowing Multi Model Transportation of Goods through Bangladesh with Ashuganj as the Port of Call including related Infrastructure Development.

13.6 Power:

The surplus power of Tripura from Palatana and Monarchak plants is required to be evacuated and sold in the mainland. Ministry of Power and Power Grid Corporation may extend necessary assistance for evacuation and sale of this surplus power in the mainland states on priority.

13.7 Development of Agartala Airport:

Airports Authority of India (AAI) may take up development of the Agartala Airport on priority, as per details finalized in consultation with the State Government. Necessary environmental clearance for this project may be accorded expeditiously.

AAI may start the work for operational of Kailasahar Airport in Unakoti District and Kamalpur (Manikbhandar) Airport, Dhalai District on priority.

Agartala Airport, which has the second largest air traffic in the region after Guwahati, may be made an international airport along with required facilities on priority for convenience of passengers travelling between Agartala and Dhaka and Chittagong in Bangladesh and other parts of the South-East Asia.

13.8 Telecommunications:

Telecom connectivity needs improvement with latest equipment and technology and coverage of entire state. The present level and quality of Telecom services is very poor and unsatisfactory.

13.9 Alternate telecom routing:

Alternate telecom routing through Akhuara (in Bangladesh) to Agartala as well as internet connectivity through Cox's Bazar (In Bangladesh) may be pursued with Bangladesh authorities vigorously for improving telecommunication facilities in the North eastern region, including Tripura.

13.10 Banking:

Inadequate banking infrastructure and low Credit Deposit (CD) ratio has been another major obstacle in the economic development of the region. The all India CD Ration is 77% whereas it is only 39% in Tripura. It is even less in other States of NE Region. This may need to be enhanced at least 50%.

14. As I conclude, I would like to state that we in the North Eastern Region are trying our best to make progress. There is however ample scope for a larger investment in many sectors so that our economy can match with the other developed States of the Country. The existing development lag must be bridged through creation of infrastructure and sustainable development programme.

Thank You

ANNEXURE – VI

9th APRIL, 2015

PARTICIPANTS DURING THE 64th PLENARY HELD ON 9th & 10th APRIL, 2015 AT SCOPE AUDITORIUM,
SCOPE COMPLEX, 7, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI – 110003

1	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Hon'ble Minister for DoNER (I/C) & Chairman of NEC
2	Shri. Kiren Rijiju	Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs
	Members of the North Eastern Council	
3	Lt. General (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma	Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
4	Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya	Hon'ble Governor, Assam, Nagaland & Tripura
5	Dr. K.K. Paul	Hon'ble Governor of Manipur
6	Shri Shrinivas Patil	Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim
7	Shri Nabam Tuki	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
8	Shri O.Ibobi Singh	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Manipur
9	Shri M.P. Bezbaruah	Hon'ble Member, NEC
	Ministers from Constituent States	
10	Smt Ajanta Neog,	Hon'ble Minister, Planning & PWD, Govt. of Assam
11	Shri Somnath Poudyal	Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture & Horticulture, Govt. of Sikkim
	Representatives of the Central Ministries and others	
12	Lt. Gen. R. K. Rana	DG, Assam Rifles, Ministry of Home Affairs
13	Capt. Abhishek Chhikara	ADC to DG Assam Rifles
14	Shri Sonam Graham Agola	Additional PS to MOS (Home), Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi
15	Shri R. S. Virdi	General Manager, NFR, Ministry of Railways
16	Shri Ajit Pandit	CAO/CON/NFR, Ministry of Railways
17	Shri Harpal Singh	Chief Engineer/ Const./N. F. Railway, Guwahati, Ministry of Railways
18	Shri Ravi Amrohi	Dy.CE/CON/Guwahati, North East Frontier Railways
19	Shri Ravi Amrohi	Dy. CE/G/N.F. Railway
20	Shri S. Barma	OSD/CON/NDLS N.F. Railway
21	Shri S. K. Nirmal	Chief Engineer i/c, Ministry of Road Transport & Highway
22	Major Gen. Uma Shankar Dadu	OSD (East) BRO, HQ DGBR
23	Shri A.K. Dikshit	Director, BRO, Ministry of Defence / Border Road Organization
24	Shri Mahavir Singh	CGM (T), National Highway Authority of India
25	Shri S. Sreekumar	General Manager, Airport Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation
26	Shri Venkataraman Hegde	Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation
27	Shri K. Bhattacharjee	Regl. Ex. Director, NER, Airport Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation

28	Shri Suman Billar	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
29	Shri U.K. Sharma	Ministry of Tourism
30	Shri Ajeet Pal Singh	AD, Ministry of Tourism
31	Shri S.D. Dubey	Chief Engineer, CEA / Ministry of Power
32	Shri Jaideep Singh Bawa	Director, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power
33	Shri Ravinder Gupta	Director, Central Electricity Authority (CEA)
34	Shri Vivek Goel	Director, Central Electricity Authority (CEA)
35	Shri Anil Wadhwa	Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs
36	Smti Monika Kapil Mohta	Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
37	Sanjay Bhattacharya	Joint Secretary (South), Ministry of External Affairs
38	Sanjiv Ranjan	Joint Secretary (DPA III), Ministry of External Affairs
39	Sripriya Ranganathan	Joint Secretary (BM), Ministry of External Affairs
40	Smti Pooja Kapur	Joint Secretary (ASEAN), Ministry of External Affairs
41	Shri Sujit Ghosh	Director (EA), Ministry of External Affairs
42	Ms. Pooja Vernekar	Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs
43	Shri Anil Bamba	Land Port Authority of India (LPAI), MHA (Border Trade),
44	Shri S.P. Goyal	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development
45	Smti Anita Sirohiwal	Assistant Director, Ministry of Human Resource Development
46	Shri Davinder Pal Singh	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development
47	Shri Amitabh Verma	Chairman (IWAI), Ministry of Shipping (IWAI)
48	Shri A.K.Bansal	Asst. Director, IWAI, Ministry of Shipping
49	Shri V. Umashankar, IAS	Joint Secretary, Department of Telecom
50	Shri I.S.Sastry	Department of Telecom
51	Dr. Munish Kumar	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
52	Shri Brajesh Mishra	Director, MOC&IT (Deptt. Of Telecom)
53	Shri Ashim Roy	DGE&T, Ministry of Labour & Employment
54	Shri J.P.Meena	DGET, Ministry of Labour & Employment, New Delhi
55	Shri Shubham Tomar	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
56	Shri Rajan Kumar	Economic Adviser, Deptt of Financial Services
57	Shri Suresh C. Arya	SRO, Deptt of Financial Services
58	Dr. Ashok Kumar	Additional DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, Govt. of India
59	Smti Mamta Shankar	Director (NE), NITI Aayog
60	Shri B.K. Pandey	Adviser (NE), NITI Aayog
61	Shri Sanjeev Ranjan	Joint Secretary, MoD & Secretary, BRDB, Ministry of Defence
	Arunachal Pradesh	

62	Shri Ramesh Negi	Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh
62	Shri Sonam Chombay	Secretary, Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
63	Shri S. Phuntsok	CE (M), DHPD, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
64	Shri T. Kaloen	SEDHPD, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
65	Shri V. Abrraham	Resident Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh
66	Shri R. K. Mishra	Secretary (Education), Arunachal Pradesh
67	Dr. Irak Bagra	Raj Bhawan, Itanagar
68	Shri Sangeet Dubey	Dy. Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
69	Shri M. Bagra	DRC, Arunachal House
	Assam	
70	Shri Jitesh Khosla, IAS	Chief Secretary, Assam
71	Shri V.S. Bhaskar, IAS	Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam
72	Dr. J.B. Ekka, IAS	Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Labour & Employment, Govt. of Assam
73	Shri Ashutosh Agnihotri	Commissioner & Secretary, Planning & Development Department, Govt. of Assam
74	Shri Dhruva Hazarika	Secretary, Transport, Govt. of Assam
75	Shri Phanindra Jidung	Director of Higher Education, Assam, Guwahati
76	Shri H.M. Sharma	Resident Engineer, Govt. of Assam
77	Shri Dilip Sarma	Chief of Division, P&D Department, Govt. of Assam
78	Shri M.C.Sarma	MD, Tourism Development Corporation, Assam
79	Shri Hiren Ch. Thakuria	PA to Minister (PWD), Assam
80	Shri M.N. Deka	PWD, Govt. of Assam
81	Dr. Atul Bora	DTE, Assam
	Manipur	
82	Shri P.C. Lawnkunga	Chief Secretary, Manipur
83	Shri O. Nabakishore Singh	Additional Chief Secretary, Manipur
84	Dr. Y.S. Rawat, IPS	ADC to Governor, Manipur
85	Shri Inder Pal	L.O. to Chief Minister, Manipur
86	Shri Vineet Joshi	Commissioner, Planning, Govt. of Manipur
87	Dr. Th. Monindro Singh	Director, Planning Deptt, Govt. of Manipur
88	Shri Th. Chittaranjan Singh	Secretary to the Governor of Manipur
89	Shri B.K. Sharma	Dy. Director of Transport (Planning), Govt. of Manipur
90	Smti N. Kulkarani Devi	Joint Director (Planning), Govt. of Manipur
91	Shri L. Iboyaima Singh	OSD (Planning), Hr. Education, Govt. of Manipur
	Meghalaya	
92	Shri Pankaj Jain	Principal Secretary, Planning Govt. of Meghalaya
93	Dr. P.S. Nianglang	Planning officer & ex-officio Under-Secretary, Planning Deptt. Govt. of Meghalaya
94	Smti A. Mawrie	Special officer and ex-officio Deputy Secretary, Planning Deptt, Govt. of Meghalaya

	Mizoram	
95	Shri T.P. Khound	Principal Adviser, Govt. of Mizoram (Mizoram House)
96	Dr. Ranbir Singh	Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Mizoram (Mizoram House)
97	Dr. C. Vanlalnamsanga	Secretary, Planning, Govt. of Mizoram (Planning Department)
	Nagaland	
98	Shri R. Binchilo Thong	Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Govt. of Nagaland
99	Shri Sanjay Kumar	Commissioner & Secretary to the Governor, Nagaland
100	Shri Lalthara	Adviser to Chief Minister, Nagaland
101	Shri Rajiv Bansal	Principal Resident Commissioner, Nagaland House
102	Shri Thomas Thailu	Deptt of Planning and Co-ordination, Government of Nagaland
103	Shri Meyikokba Jamir	Planning & Coordination Deptt, Govt. of Nagaland
104	Shri Nosazol Charles	Joint Development Commissioner, Planning Deptt, Govt. of Nagaland
	Sikkim	
105	Shri C.T. Wangdi	Development Commissioner, Sikkim (DPER & NECAD)
106	Shri S. Chombay	Secretary, Planning, Govt. of Sikkim
107	Shri Sonam Y. Lepcha	Additional Secretary, DPER & NECAD
108	Shri Ujjwal Rai	Dy. Secretary (Planning), Govt. of Sikkim
109	Sqd. Leader Shishir Pandey	ADC to Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim
110	Shri D.Tenzil Bhutia	Sr. Consultant, Sikkim Organic Mission
	Tripura	
111	Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao	Principal Secretary to the CM & Planning Deptt., Govt of Tripura
112	Shri P. Srivastava	Chief Resident Commissioner, Tripura
113	Shri J.K. Sinha	Resident Commissioner, Tripura Bhawan
	Ministry of DoNER	
114	Shri Vijay Kumar	Secretary, Ministry of DoNER
115	Shri M. Saravanan	PS to MoS (DoNER)
116	Const. Sushil	PSO to Minister, MoS (PMO)
117	Shri V.B.Pathak	Joint Secretary, DoNER
118	Shri A.M Singh	Joint Secretary, DoNER
119	Shri S. P. Singh	Director, Ministry of DoNER
120	Shri K. Guite	Director, Ministry of DoNER
121	Shri S. L. Meena	Director, Ministry of DoNER
122	Smti Mercy Epao	Director, Ministry of DoNER
123	Shri B.N. Prasad	Director, Ministry of DoNER
124	Smti V. L. Roui Kullai	Director, Ministry of DoNER
	Other Organization	
125	Shri P.K. Mishra	MS, NERPC, Shillong
126	Dr. K. K. Sarma	Scientist/ Engineer-SF, North Eastern Space Application Centre, Meghalaya
127	Shri B. Paul Muktieh	CMD, NEDFi

128	Shri S. K. Baruah	G.M., NEDFi
129	Shri D. Thakuria	Additional General Manager, NEHHDC
130	Shri M. C. Joshi	Coordinator, NEHHDC, Guwahati
131	Satish Sharma	NERAMAC, Guwahati
132	Satish Sharma	NERAMAC/ DoNER
133	Shri A.C. Das	Asst. Manager, CBTC
134	Chander Mohan	IIT, Delhi
135	Amitesh Srivastava	Senior Correspondent, NNIS
136	N.K.Chakraborty	Consulting Architect Cum Urban Planner, Delhi
137	Neeraj Pandey	Shahdera, Delhi
	North Eastern Council	
138	Shri Ameising Luikham	Secretary, NEC
139	Shri W. Synrem	Economic Adviser (E&M), NEC, Shillong
140	Shri G.K.Chin	Financial Adviser, NEC, Shillong
141	Shri P.K.H. Singh	Adviser (T&C), NEC, Shillong
142	DR. Bamin Tada	Adviser (Medical&Health), NEC, Shillong
143	Shri D. Khound	Economic Adviser (E&M) & L/o Planning Adviser
144	Shri Gautam Chintey	Adviser (BIT), NEC, Shillong
145	Dr. Shailendra Chaudhari	Director (S&T) & i/c Director (Admn)
146	Shri M. Iboyaima Meitei	Adviser (Agri & Allied), NEC, Shillong
147	Shri B. M. War	Adviser (IFC&WSM), NEC, Shillong
148	Shri Suresh K. Vatta	Director (IPR), NEC, Shillong
149	Shri Kh. Sile Anthony	Director (HRD&E), NEC, Shillong
150	Shri. M. Chakraborty	STA, Industries & Tourism
151	Dr. Sanabam Sujen Singh	STA, Planning
152	Shri M. Dey	L.O. NEC Guest House, New Delhi
153	Shri A. Dey	Assistant, Planning
154	Shri D. Sharma	Assistant, Nazarat
155	Shri P.K. Biswas	Assistant, Administration
156	Shri A.K. Thakur	UDC, Hindi Cell
157	Shri Shekhar Nag	UDC, Nazarat

10th APRIL, 2015

PARTICIPANTS DURING THE 64th PLENARY HELD ON 9th & 10th APRIL, 2015 AT SCOPE AUDITORIUM,
SCOPE COMPLEX, 7, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI – 110003

1	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Hon'ble Minister for DoNER (I/C) and Chairman NEC
	Members of North Eastern Council	
2	Lt.Gen (retd) Nirbhay Sharma	Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh
3	Shri P. B. Acharya	Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Nagaland and Tripura
4	Shri. Krishan Kant Paul	Hon'ble Governor of Manipur
5	Shri Srinivas Patil	Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim
6	Shri Nabam Tuki	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
7	Dr. Mukul Sangma	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya
8	Shri T.R.Zeliang	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Nagaland
9	Shri Manik Sarkar	Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura
	Minister from Constituent Units	
10	Shri Somnath Poudyal	Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Sikkim
11	Representative of the Central Ministers and others	
12	Lt. Gen. R.K. Rana	DG, Assam Rifles, Ministry of Home Affairs
13	Shri Sanjeev Ranjan	Joint Secretary, MoD & Secretary, BRDB, Ministry of Defence
14	Shri Ranges Nath	DG TEC, Ministry of Defence
15	Maj. Gen. Uma Shankar Dadu	OSD (East) BRO, HQ DGBR
16	Shri A. K. Dikshit	Director, BRO
17	Shri P.C. Arya	National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)
18	Smti Mamta Shankar	Director (NE), NITI Aayog
19	Shri B.K. Pandey	Adviser (NE), NITI Aayog
	Arunachal Pradesh	
20	Dr. Irak Bagra	ADC to Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Raj Bhawan
21	Dr. Hatobin Mai	OSD to Chief Minister, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
22	Shri G.B. Barua	Additional PS to Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh
23	Shri V. Abrraham	Resident Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh
24	Shri Sonam Chombay, IRS	Secretary, Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
25	Shri S. Phuntsok	CE (M), DHPD, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
26	Shri T. Kaloen	SEDHPD, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
	Assam	
27	Shri V. S. Bhaskar, IAS	Additional Chief Secretary, Transport & Tourism Deptt., Govt. of Assam
28	Dr. J.B.Ekka	Commissioner & Secretary, Deptt. Of Labour of Employment, Govt. of Assam
29	Shri Sameer Kumar Khare	Principal Secretary, Finance Deptt, Govt. of Assam
30	Shri Ashutosh Agnihotri	Commissioner and Secretary, P&D Deptt.,

		Govt. of Assam
31	Shri Dilip Sarma	Chief of Division, P&D, Govt. of Assam
32	Shri Hemanta M Sharma	COA, APGCL, Govt. of Assam
	Manipur	
33	Shri Y.S. Rawat, IPS	ADC to the Governor of Manipur
34	Th. Chittaranjan Singh	Secretary to the Governor of Manipur
35	Smti N. Kulkarani Devi	Joint Director(Planning), Govt. of Manipur
36	Dr. Th. Monindro Singh	Director (Planning), Govt. Of Manipur
37	Shri B.K.Sharma	Dy. Director of Transport (Planning), Govt. of Manipur
	Meghalaya	
38	Shri Pankaj Jain	Principal Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya
39	Dr. P.S. Nianglang	Planning officer & ex-officio Under-Secretary, Planning Deptt. Govt. of Meghalaya
40	Smti A. Mawrie	Special officer and ex-officio Deputy Secretary, Planning Deptt, Govt. of Meghalaya
41	Shri Mukesh Kumar	OSD, Meghalaya House
42	Smti Mary Cornelia K. Marak	Journalist, DIPR, Govt. of Meghalaya
	Mizoram	
43	Shri T. P. Khound	Principal Adviser, Govt. of Mizoram
44	Shri Ranbir Singh	Resident Commissioner, Mizoram House, Govt. of Mizoram
45	Dr. C. Vanlalnamsanga	Secretary, Planning Deptt, Govt. of Mizoram
	Nagaland	
46	Shri R. Binchilo Thong	Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Govt. of Nagaland Planning.
47	Shri Meyikokba Jamir	Planning & Coordination Deptt, Govt. of Nagaland
48	Shri Sanjay Kumar	Commissioner & Secretary to Governor of Nagaland
49	Shri Lalthara	Adviser to Chief Minister of Nagaland
50	Shri Rajiv Bausal	Principal RC, Govt. of Nagaland
51	Shri John B. Chawang	Nagaland House
	Sikkim	
52	Shri C. T. Wangdi	Development Commissioner, DPER & NECAD
53	Shri Sonam Y. Lepcha	Additional Secretary, DPER & NECAD
54	Shri Ujjwal Rai	Deputy Secretary (Planning), Govt. of Sikkim
55	Shri D. Tenzil Bhutia	Sr. Consultant, Sikkim Organisation Mission
56	Sqd. Leader Shishir Pandey	ADC to Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim
	Tripura	
57	Shri P. Srivastava	Chief Resident Commissioner, Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi
58	Dr. K. Rajeshwara Rao	Principal Secretary, Planning, Govt. of Tripura
	Ministry of DoNER	
59	Shri Vijay Kumar	Secretary, Ministry of DoNER
60	Shri Atul Basumatary	Director, DoNER
61	Shri K. Guite	Director, DoNER

62	Shri S.H. Meena	Director, DoNER
	Other Organization	
63	Shri Dhiraj Thakuria	NEHHDC/ DoNER
64	Shri Satish Sharma	Asst. Manager, NERAMAC, Guwahati
65	Shri S.K.Baruah	General Manager, NEDFi
66	Shri B.Paul Muktieh	NEDFi
67	Shri Anjal Goswami	Dy. Manager, CBTC, Assam
68	Shri Chander Mohan	IIT, Delhi
69	Shri P. K. Mishra	MS, NERPC, Shillong
70	Shri R. K. Bagrodia	Chairman, Winsome Group
71	Shri Rajesh Rathnam	Head Govt. Sales, Manipal City and Guilds
	North Eastern Council	
72	Shri Ameising Luikham	Secretary, NEC
73	Shri W. Synrem	Economic Adviser (E&M), NEC, Shillong
74	Shri G.K.Chin	Financial Adviser, NEC, Shillong
75	Shri P.K.H. Singh	Adviser (T&C), NEC, Shillong
76	DR. Bamin Tada	Adviser (Medical&Health), NEC, Shillong
77	Shri D. Khound	Economic Adviser (E&M) & L/o Planning Adviser
78	Shri Gautam Chintey	Adviser (BIT), NEC, Shillong
79	Dr. Shailendra Chaudhari	Director (S&T) & i/c Director (Admn)
80	Shri M. Iboyaima Meitei	Adviser (Agri & Allied), NEC, Shillong
81	Shri B. M. War	Adviser (IFC&WSM), NEC, Shillong
82	Shri Suresh K. Vatta	Director (IPR), NEC, Shillong
83	Shri Kh. Sile Anthony	Director (HRD&E), NEC, Shillong
84	Shri. M. Chakraborty	STA, Industries & Tourism
85	Dr. Sanabam Sujen Singh	STA, Planning
86	Shri M. Dey	L.O. NEC Guest House, New Delhi
87	Shri A. Dey	Assistant, Planning
88	Shri D. Sharma	Assistant, Nazarat
89	Shri P.K. Biswas	Assistant, Administration
90	Shri A.K. Thakur	UDC, Hindi Cell
91	Shri Shekhar Nag	UDC, Nazarat