

## 5. BUILDING REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL



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5.1 The North Eastern Council has been mandated to implement schemes and programmes that benefit the Region holistically and contribute to its physical and social infrastructure. Concerted efforts are being made by NEC to accelerate the completion of its existing commitments and further the development of the region.

### 5.2 Vision 2020 NER

A special thrust in the year has been to present before the people of the North East an articulated and holistic vision of the region by the year 2020. This is now called the NER Vision 2020. The core document is being prepared by a panel of experts while NEC has taken steps to raise awareness about the Vision Document and conducted well attended public hearings in all the States. Electronic and Print Media gave elaborate publicity to the process. NER Vision 2020 will achieve its final shape in 2008-09.

### 5.3 Transport and Communication

- \* Transport and Communication is the major thrust area of NEC with 40% of its budget allocations being consumed by this sector.
- \* During 2007-2008, 127.83 Kms. of road formation, 152.61 Km pavement and 1 bridge have been completed. 62 bridges are in different stages of progress. Rs.285.00 crores has been kept as outlay for the communication sector out of NEC's budget of Rs.600 crores.
- \* Agreement between NEC and Alliance Air has been extended for the year 2008 for operating ATR services between locations in the North East. NEC will pay Alliance Air Rs.38.5 crores as viability gap for operating the services. This is a critical intervention to promote air linkages within the NER.

- \* Airports Authority of India (AAI) and NEC have undertaken improvement of ten airports in NER - Guwahati, Lilabari, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Silchar, Tezpur, Imphal, Agartala and Umroi (Meghalaya). As per MoU between them, funding will be made on a 60:40 basis i.e. 60% by NEC and 40% by AAI. Works in seven airports have been completed and Silchar, Dibrugarh and Umroi area are in different stages of progress. Out of Rs. 54.00 crores outlay for this activity, Rs.35.00 crores has been released to AAI.

#### 5.4 Power Sector



Khandong Dam, Kopili H.E. Project (275 MW), Assam

- \* Since inception NEC has contributed 673.50 MW of capacity addition (630 Hydro & 43.50 thermal), about 30% of the current installed capacity in NER with a total investment of Rs. 1692.09 crores.
- \* To fill the missing link in matching transmission systems to evacuate excess power outside the region as well as to efficiently distribute it within the region, NEC has funded 1285.50 Circuit Kilometers transmission lines at a cost of Rs. 363.07 crores.
- \* NEC has successfully completed commissioning 21MW Baramura Gas Based project Unit-IV, in Tripura during the 10th Plan period at a cost of Rs. 96.74 crore. Recently, Ministry of DoNER, New Delhi has approved the 21MW Baramura Gas Based project Unit-V in Tripura at project cost of Rs 80.00 crores on 7.8.2007 and Rs 10.00 crore was released to Government of Tripura towards meeting the expenditure of the project on 2nd November, 2007. After completion of this project, NEC will further enhance its contribution by another 21 MW capacity addition to NE Region.
- \* 33 system improvement schemes comprising of 20 Sub-Stations and 13 Transmission Line projects are envisaged to spread over all the eight States of the region. The approved cost of all the 30 projects is Rs.244.17 crore.

#### 5.5 Irrigation and Flood Control Sector

- \* NEC has funded survey and investigation of twelve Hydro Electric Projects, two major irrigation projects, eighteen flood & erosion control schemes and two minor irrigation schemes during the 10th Plan in the North East Region. Out of these, two irrigation schemes in Assam are 95% complete. Others are in various stages of construction. In the same period, NEC has also funded nine water supply schemes, one erosion control scheme and one sewerage scheme in Sikkim.
- \* Rs. 19.85 crore is allotted for irrigation and flood control sector in 2007-08.

#### 5.6 Medical and Health Sector

- \* In pursuance of a major policy shift, three regional health Institutions managed and funded by NEC- Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal, Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences, Aizawl, Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi Regional Institute of Mental Health, Tezpur have been transferred to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- \* NEC continues to extend financial assistance to

Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Sri Sankardeva Netralaya, Guwahati, Regional Dental College, Guwahati and Regional College of Nursing, Guwahati. Besides, assistance has been provided to several other medical institutions for infrastructure and equipment to provide advanced medical care to the people of the North East. NEC is also supporting the setting up of Accident and Trauma Centres in NER.

### 5.7 Human Resource Development Sector

- \* To improve skills of the youth of the North East and make them employable, NEC has invited Expression of Interest from reputed firms/institutes/agencies to impart employment oriented training especially in the service sector. The courses include Tourism, Hospitality, Hotel Management, Marketing and Sales Management, BPO Call Centres/ICT Activities, Airhostess



Dr. B. Baruah Cancer Institute, Guwahati

Training, Accountancy and other Information Technology related service sectors. The objective is to train at least 500 unemployed educated youths. The institute selected will help in finding suitable placement for the successful candidates.

- \* To improve the quality of teachers, NEC is working with North Eastern Regional Educational Council



Sankardeva Netralaya, Guwahati, Assam

(NEREC), NCERT and IGNOU for training of untrained teachers in Primary Schools and to upgrade the skills of Science and Mathematics teachers. This programme will be launched with the support of NCERT & IGNOU.

- \* It has sanctioned Rs. 250.00 lakhs during the current year for construction of a 500 capacity girls' hostel for Delhi University for girl students from North East studying there. The hostel will be co-funded with Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- \* The construction of NE Working Women's Hostel at Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development is being supported by NEC. NEC will fund 50% of the project cost.
- \* The Ministry of Civil Aviation has given an in principle approval to set up a Pilots' Training Centre at Lilabari, Assam, the techno feasibility of which is underway.

#### 5.8 Capacity Building in Cane and Bamboo Sector

- \* NEC has assisted the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre, Guwahati since its inception in 2000. CBTC is now an integral part of the National Bamboo Mission and is designated as the Bamboo Technical Support Group (BTSG) for all the States of North Eastern Region and also West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand and Bihar. Also in the pipeline is a Bamboo Technology Park (BTP) in the State Forest Training College, Byrnihat, Mizoram leased by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India. This facility will be first of its kind in the entire South Asia which will have state of the art machinery and equipments and related infrastructure. The work is at a preliminary stage. NEC is also funding the setting up of a Bamboo Technology Park at Sairong, Mizoram. It is also assisting the Bodo Territorial Council, Assam to plant Bamboo on commercial basis.

#### 5.9 Tourism Sector

- \* A new scheme on 'Tourism Circuit Development in the North East Region' has been initiated in 2007-08. NEC is also working with the States for developing a master plan for tourism. It has cooperated with Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) for project profiles of budget hotels in the cities of the North East.
- \* A Corpus Fund of Rs. 2.00 Crores was built up for this revolving fund project (called North East Tourism Project Development Fund) with equal contribution by NEC and IL & FS. IL&FS has taken up preparation of project profiles for 10 hotels, circuit development in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and one project for development of inland water transport in the region. NEC is also assisting the Bodo Land Territorial Council in the field of tourism.



Student at Laboratory, Ripan

#### 5.10 Science & Technology Sector

- \* Assistance is provided under various remote sensing application schemes to Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya. Mizoram has completed Natural Resource Mapping reports for all the districts.
- \* Mapping of areas vulnerable to earthquake has been completed for Arunachal Pradesh.

- \* North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat, Assam has completed installation in all 13 sites under the NEC supported scheme of Online/Real time VSAT based Seismic Network for disaster mitigation in NE-India.
- \* State Wide Telemedicine has been successfully launched for 16 District locations by the State Remote Sensing Application Centre of the State Council for S&T of Arunachal Pradesh. A similar scheme is progressing in Manipur.
- \* IT Entrepreneurship development training programme targeting 400 educated unemployed youth in Aizawl with the first batch of 200 trainees is nearing completion.
- \* ICR (Intelligent Character Recognition System) has been successfully installed at Arunachal Board of School Education.
- \* IT education infrastructure has been extended to 94 schools and 4 colleges. 46 more schools and 3 colleges are being taken up during 2007.