

2. SYNERGIZING DEVELOPMENT



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- 2.1 Following the decision taken in the meeting of the North Eastern Council, 8 Special Sectoral Summits of the NEC have been organized in different sectors. These summits have helped in sensitizing both the Central Government and the States to improve delivery systems and focus attention on the Region and its issues.
- 2.2 There have been some key decisions taken by Central Ministries with regard to project implementation in the North-East States as a result of the recommendations made in these Summits. The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. is preparing a comprehensive transmission, sub-transmission & distribution plan for the North-East States, an area which was largely overlooked by specific agencies. The Ministry of Tourism has decided to set up an Institute of Hotel Management in every State of the North-East Region. As decided in a meeting organized by PMO, National Projects of the Railways in the North-East will now be implemented on a 75:25 funding pattern by the Planning Commission and the

Ministry of Railways. It has been decided to set up a North East Rail Development Fund with a view to ensuring that National Projects in the North-East are completed within five years.

- 2.3 The Ministry is actively pursuing the progress of implementation of the recommendations of these Summits. This is an ongoing process in which the Central and State Governments have to constantly interact and support each other.
- 2.4 The important recommendations of each of the eight Sectoral summits are given below:

First Sectoral Summit, Pasighat (16-17 January, 2007)

Power Sector

- * A two pronged strategy to be adopted for power generation with focus on Small/Localised Hydel & Thermal and NRE projects for catering to local

needs and High capacity Hydel & Thermal Power Projects with associated Transmission lines for first meeting the demand for power of the North Eastern Region and thereafter that of the rest of the country.

- * Ministry of Power to develop a clear, coherent and sustainable Power Policy for the NER taking into account the special characteristics and needs of the Region.
- * CEA to undertake feasibility studies for utilizing considerable shale deposits in Arunachal Pradesh and coal deposits in Assam and Meghalaya with the objective of increasing the share of thermal power.
- * PGCIL to invest more in the trunk transmission lines for improving inter and intra-region connectivity. Priority to be accorded for creating a grid to meet power shortages in the North Eastern States.
- * Transmission, sub-transmission and distribution system improvement to be one of the thrust areas for NEC during 11th Plan.
- * State Govts. to prepare perspective plans for Transmission, Sub-transmission and Distribution Systems in their respective States to cover the XIth Plan period(2007-12).
- * The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to accord due consideration to the suggestions of the NE States and to resolve the issue of pricing of gas expeditiously.
- * The issue of high transmission charges, presently under reference to CERC, needs to be resolved at the earliest.
- * On the basis of the reports of the 4 sub-groups, a Master Plan for Power Development in the Region be developed which should include an appropriate funding mechanism relevant to the North East Region.

Second Sectoral Summit, Shillong (8-9th February, 2007)

Road Sector

- * The BOT(Toll)/BOT(Annuity) funding pattern is not presently feasible for NER. DORTH to consider budgetary support as has been done for roads entrusted to BRO and Assam PWD.
- * DoRTH may consider including an institution development and capacity building component in SARDP-NE and other road programmes.
- * Maintenance of road assets is important. To take care of maintenance of roads, the NE States to consider enactment of legislation on the lines of the Mizoram Road Fund Bill.
- * DoRTH to consider the demand for extension of the East-West Corridor or, in the alternative to upgrade road linking all State capital cities and district HQs with four/two lane roads.
- * DONER to accord priority to funding of conversion of timber bridges to RCC bridges.
- * A Master Plan encompassing all categories of roads to be developed by Ministry of DoNER.
- * DORTH to make all efforts to complete implementation of selected roads under NHDP-II, NHDP- III and SARDP-NE within the targeted dates.
- * States to rationalize royalty rates being imposed on construction materials.
- * States to streamline/ simplify procedures for various clearances.
- * DORTH, NHAI and BRO to consider freezing of alignments so as to reduce delays in implementation.
- * Efforts to be made for getting transit facilities to

the North Eastern States through Bangladesh.

- * NEC to examine the proposal to create a pool of road construction equipment which can be leased/rented out to registered contractors.
- * Adequate provision to be included in the original cost of construction of roads for maintenance during construction phase.
- * Ministry of RD to devise suitable and effective strategies for improvement of quality.
- * Ministry of Rural Development to assist States to enhance capacities in respect of documentation and accounting under PMGSY.
- * States to control high cost of construction under the PMGSY scheme.

Third Sectoral Summit, Guwahati (9-11 March, 2007)

Commodity Boards and APEDA

- * Tea Board to introduce incentives for orthodox tea planting and set-up Village Resource Centers to assist small tea growers.
- * Indian Institute of Plantation Management be set up at Jorhat.
- * Transport subsidy for tea exported directly from ICD, Amingaon, Assam @ Rs.1.50 per kg to be introduced.
- * Tea Board to streamline electronic auction system for online trading of tea.
- * Tea Board to support Tea Research Association (TRA) and Tea Research Foundation (TRF).
- * Tea Board to support diversification/multi-cropping and intensify marketing support.
- * Rubber Board to fund for area expansion and rejuvenation of sick plantations and introduce technology for increasing productivity.
- * Rubber Board to upgrade quality at primary process level for better price to farmers and support formation and empowerment of farmer groups.
- * Spices Board to be strengthened and to intensify its activities in the NER to promote spices production and productivity particularly that of organic spices.
- * Coffee Board to facilitate consolidation of holdings in NER and also provide financial support for expansion, processing and quality up-gradation. Inter cropping in the coffee plantation also to be promoted.
- * States to cooperate with Coffee Board for raising coffee plantations in clusters particularly in the States of Nagaland and Mizoram which hold maximum potential.
- * Coffee Board to provide technical support and build capacity of coffee growers and State Govt. staff for improving production and productivity and facilitate marketing with the involvement of NERAMAC, VDBs in Nagaland and NGOs.
- * APEDA to operationalise four Agriculture Export Zones (AEZs) in Tripura (1) for Pineapples, Sikkim (2) for Ginger, Orchids and Cherry Pepper and in Assam (1) for Fresh & Processed Ginger.
- * APEDA to expedite conclusions of negotiation with cargo companies to provide complete cold chains in the NER.
- * APEDA to coordinate with CONCOR and NERAMAC to work-out the logistics for a complete cold chain from the field to the point of export.
- * State Governments to assist the Commodity Boards and APEDA in matters relating to land acquisition,

organization of farmers, awareness programmes and identification of clusters, etc.

Flood & Erosion Control and Irrigation

- * Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) and Brahmaputra Board to take up immediate and short term measures in consultation with the States for flood and erosion control on priority.
- * The Brahmaputra Board to play a more active role in taking up flood control schemes in all NE States.
- * CWC to expedite preparation of DPR by 12/2007 in respect of Mizoram Govt's revised proposal for a 450MW Kolodyne project.
- * NEC would provide funding to the States for engaging Consultants for preparation of project reports for micro/minor irrigation projects.
- * Planning Commission to examine the pattern of release of installments so that the loss of working period can be avoided.
- * MOWR to examine the possibility of modification in the AIBP scheme, like increasing the limit of project cost per ha, providing for maintenance etc. for minor irrigation schemes, reducing the area of irrigation potential to five ha per scheme etc.
- * MOWR to examine the possibility of taking up ground water irrigation scheme under AIBP including construction of check dams.
- * MOWR to explore the possibility and desirability of exploitation of ground water in the NER in view of the possibility of hazardous elements.

Inland Water Transport

- * Efforts to be made for the renewal of Indo-Bangladesh IWT protocol on long term basis and approval of the Kaladan River multi-modal transport route from Mizoram to Sittwe port.

- * IWAI to develop credible night navigation facilities on NW-II to reduce travel time.
- * To reduce manual handling of cargo, IWAI to consider providing mechanical handling of cargo.
- * Ministry of Shipping/IWAI to take up the Tripura Government proposal for declaring Ashuganj as Port-of-Call with Bangladesh.

Fourth Sectoral Summit, Gangtok (27-28th April, 2007)

Tourism

- * A "Forum" consisting of representatives of Ministries of DoNER, Tourism and Civil Aviation, NEC, Public and Private Stakeholders, tour operators etc. to be established for the formulation of tourism circuits, Eco and Village tourism and promotional events.
- * DONER to formulate and launch a professionally prepared publicity programme on security for tourists in the North-East.
- * DONER/NEC to take up with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the possibility of organizing major commemorative events to which descendants of those buried in the North-East war cemeteries will be invited.
- * DoNER/NEC to sponsor NE promotion films aimed at schoolchildren and college students in other parts of India.
- * NEC to broaden its collaboration with ILFS for facilitating construction of star category hotels at identified locations.
- * The possibility of setting up a North-East Tourism Development Corporation "a subsidiary of ITDC" will be explored.

- * DoNER will organize promotional events at different locations in the country aimed at Government servants for LTC visits to tourism destinations in the NE.
- * Institute of Hotel Management (IHM) to be set up in NE States that do not have any such institutions.
 - * MHA/States to consider relaxation of PAP/RAP/ILP restrictions.
- * DoNER to organize a tourism promotional event at Bangkok.

Fifth Sectoral Summit, Aizwal (19th May 2007)

Air Connectivity

- * Action to be taken for a dedicated airline to serve the NE States.
- * Guwahati to be developed as an airline hub in North part of NER and Agartala/Imphal to be developed as hubs in the southern part of NER.
- * Airports to be upgraded for night operations.
- * Alliance Air should increase flights in the Category-II routes of NER.

Sixth Sectoral Summit, New Delhi (19th June, 2007)

'Rail Connectivity'

- * The source of funding for the 'National Projects' should be clearly identified by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. The allocation of funds to the Railways for these projects should be made at the B.E. stage.
- * DoNER/ NEC should be involved with regard to planning of rail projects in the North Eastern Region.
- * Security concerns at project sites should be addressed by State Governments and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- * All State capitals need to be connected by rail.

Seventh Sectoral Summit, Kohima (31st July -1st August 2007)

IT, ITeS & Telecom

- * Government should review the restriction on mobile telephony within 0-500 metres of the international border.
- * BSNL will take steps to introduce online billing facility in the Region.
- * NEC to consider setting up of a Regional Institute for Training of Telecom Personnel.
- * The states should have a single window, time bound and efficient system for according clearances for laying of cables. Restoration charges should be rationalized so as to not become deterrent.
- * The States should facilitate acquisition of land for setting up of telecom infrastructure and also provide security for the officials wherever required.
- * The North-East States should endeavour to develop themselves into preferred IT destinations by creating an enabling environment.
- * Quality infrastructure should be created to position the Region as an attractive and viable destination for the IT industry.
- * The North-East Region should position itself to become the back office for the Southeast Asian and Far East Asian countries.
- * The DOEACC to consider establishing centres in all the States of the Region.
- * The Government should work towards a One India Plan for Bandwidth so that the North-East States do not suffer from this handicap.

Eighth Sectoral Summit, New Delhi (20th-21st August 2007)

'Education, Sports, Art & Culture'

EDUCATION

- * Teachers' Training programme to be launched with the support of NCERT and IGNOU.
- * A Committee to be formed with representatives from HRD, NEC and DoNER to seek solution to specific problems of Arunachal Pradesh.
- * For recruitment of teachers for schools the institution of village Panchayats may be used.
- * Community Polytechnics should be involved for vocational training alongwith conventional system.
- * Village Panchayats local self governing units/communities may be made responsible for the effective delivery of MDM.
- * Engineering and Management Faculties should be operationalized and modern course also introduced as an amount of Rs. 5 crore has been released for each Engineering Faculty and Rs. 2 crore for Management Faculty in the Region.
- * Process of updating/upgrading the knowledge and competence of teachers, especially in science and mathematics, to be addressed by the Ministry of HRD.

SPORTS

- * "Catch them Young" policy should be adopted for exploiting the immense potential in sports.
- * MoYAS and DONER to consider providing financial support for developing sports infrastructure in rural/urban/hill areas.
- * MoYAS will examine providing support for popular games like Archery and other indigenous games in NE states.
- * MoYAS will also examine providing support for setting up center of Excellence for training of Coaches and also for developing Yoga Centres.
- * Adventure Sports will be included as an important component of Sports Policy as it has tremendous potential in NER.

ART & CULTURE

- * The Scheme of Setting up of Multipurpose Cultural Complex should be revived.
- * NEC to take up an exercise to organize trekking expeditions to identify flora and fauna.
- * In case of the Schemes/ projects in the Art & Culture sectors, the maxim of accepting only those worth more than Rs. 2 crore would be relaxed.
- * An Institute of Mountaineering, Adventure Sports and Disaster Management should be located in Arunachal Pradesh at Dirang near the snow line.