

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

Monthly summary of principal activities of and important decisions taken in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region during the month of October 2020.

1. Important policy decisions taken and major activities during the month

1.1 Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), MDoNER, Dr. Jitendra Singh, released a Coffee Table Book titled "Discovering the Heritage of Assam", authored by Shri Padampani Bora, IRS, published by Penguin, on 4th October, 2020. While releasing the book, Dr Singh congratulated its author and suggested wide circulation of the Coffee Table Book and hoped that it will serve as cultural and heritage ambassador of the North East for the rest of the world.

1.2 Health Minister of Meghalaya Shri A. L.Hek called on Hon'ble MOS (I/C), MDoNER on 7th October, 2020 to discuss various COVID related issues. Dr Jitendra Singh appreciated the Government of Meghalaya and other State Governments of NER for having taken proactive steps from the beginning of COVID pandemic to break the transmission chain and strengthen the existing health system to meet any surge in cases. He noted that just as the North East had emerged as a model of development in the last 6 years, it has emerged as a model for effective Corona management in the last six months. He also referred to the proposals from at least three North Eastern States to set up Infectious Disease Hospitals as a futuristic step to meet any such infection epidemic in future.

1.3 On 9th October, 2020, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble MoS (I/C), MDoNER, Chaired a review meeting with Senior Officers of MDoNER, while reviewing the progress of different activities of MDoNER, he informed that beginning from Jammu & Kashmir, MDoNER plans to set up Bamboo Clusters across India. He appreciated Government efforts to promote Bamboo by amending century old Indian Forest Act by taking home grown bamboo out of the purview of the Forest Act, in order to enhance livelihood opportunities through bamboo. He also discussed another major reform in this sector regarding enhancement of import duty on bamboo sticks from 10% to 25% which has paved the way for setting up of new Agarbatti stick manufacturing units to meet the ever-growing demand of Agarbatti in India. There has been no import of raw Agarbatti since September 2019 and local bamboo produce is being used for this. The meeting was attended by Secretary, MDoNER, Special Secretary and other Senior Officers of MDoNER, Secretary, NEC and Heads of Organizations under MDoNER.

1.4 On 16th October, 2020, MoS (I/C), MDoNER, Dr. Jitendra Singh, met a Chakma delegation represented by 'Committee for Citizenship Rights of the Chakma and Hajong' of Arunachal Pradesh. While speaking with the delegation, Dr. Singh said that on the advice of Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, MDoNER moved a proposal which was approved at the Cabinet Meeting headed by Hon'ble Prime Minister accordingly to which it has been decided that 30% of North Eastern Council's allocations for new projects under the existing schemes of North Eastern Council will be devoted for focused development of deprived areas, deprived/neglected sections of societies and emerging sectors of the

North Eastern States. He said that this will also help in the development of the neglected sections of the society in the North East and reduce inter-region and inter-tribe/community disparity which, in turn, would help in addressing the needs of hitherto neglected sections including Chakmas. This scheme would also lead to preservation of cultural diversity of North East and help in the growth of such scripts /languages, which are gradually becoming extinct.

1.5 Senior Officers' meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MDONER was held on 12th October, 2020 through Video Conference to review the status of progress of important activities of MDoNER. Secretary, NEC and Senior Officer of NEC also attended the Meeting.

1.6 Secretary, M/o DoNER chaired the Combined First and Second Quarterly (FY 2020-21) Review Meeting on mandatory allocation and utilization under 10% GBS of non-exempted Ministries/Departments through Video Conferencing (VC) on 13.10.2020. Out of 54 non-exempted Ministries/Departments, 51 Ministries/Departments attended the meeting through VC. Out of 54 Non exempted Ministries/Departments, 40 Ministries/Departments has created sanction under PFMS as on 30.9.2020. The 14 Ministries/Departments that have not created sanction under PFMS were requested to do the same at the earliest. Ministries/Departments were also requested to send additional requirement of funds, if any, with appropriate justifications under re-appropriation mechanism of 10% GBS in the said meeting.

1.7 Funds amounting to Rs.151.42 crore were released to the NE States under various Schemes implemented by MDoNER/NEC. This includes the following important projects :

- i. Construction of Rest House for EAC HQ at Satoi under Zunheboto District.
- ii. Implementation of High Voltage Distribution System in Mahadevpur Namsai and Piyong Circle in Arunachal Pradesh.
- iii. Underground Parking Space at Namchi.
- iv. Upgradation of Mawsmmai-Shella Road from km8/00 (Laittyra village) upto km15/500 (Kynrem falls) in Meghalaya.
- v. Upgradation, carpeting and construction of new road from Tharpu to Saili Golai for diversion of boject slide in West Sikkim (length 22.225 Km.).
- vi. Improvement of Mawshynrut-Hahim-Boko Road.
- vii. Livelihood generation for returned migrant workers due to pandemic outbreak COVID-19, in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
