7. Externally Aided Projects
NORTH EASTERN STATE ROAD PROJECT (NESRP)

7.1 The proposed North Eastern States Roads Investment Programme (NESRP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and is to be assisted by Asian Development Bank (ADB). The total cost of the project in the first investment programme is US $ 298.6 million. The ADB will contribute US $ 200 million. Government of India will contribute US $ 84 million and the States’ share is US $ 14.6 million.

7.2 A total length of 433.7 kilometers of roads and bridges covering six NE States, excluding Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland is proposed to be taken up for construction/upgradation during Tranche I & II. Tranche I comprising the States of Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim will cover a total road length of 202.3 kilometers and Tranche - II comprising of all six States excepting Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland will cover the remaining road length of 231.4 kilometers.

7.3 Planning Commission has already accorded 'in principle' approval of this project. Accordingly, a provision of Rs.68.00 crore has been kept in the Ministry's budget during the current financial year 2010-11. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) chaired by Secretary (Expenditure) has recommended the project proposal in its meeting held in January, 2010 and the revised cost estimate for the project was again recommended in its meeting held in October 2010. The approval of Full Planning Commission (FPC) has been sought. Thereafter, necessary approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) will be obtained and negotiation and signing of loan agreement with ADB will be concluded. In the Ministry, an internal preliminary Project Management Unit (PMU) has been set up with a budget provision of Rs. 0.5 crore provided for the current financial year 2010-11 to meet establishment related expenditure of PMU.

World Bank Aided North Eastern Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP)

7.4 The proposed World Bank Aided NERLP which has four components namely Social empowerment, Economic empowerment, Partnerships development and management and Project management in two districts each of the four NE States i.e. Sikkim, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. For preparation of DPR etc, the World Bank has sanctioned a Project Preparatory facility of US $ 1,215,000 for Consultant's services, Training and Workshops, Goods and Operating Costs which is to be utilized till 31.03.2011.

7.5 Finalization of DPR and implementation of the project is to be done through a Society namely North East Livelihood Promotion Society which has been registered at Guwahati and started functioning from the month of December 2009. The Society is headed by Project Director, a senior IAS Officer. Other officers and officials have also been selected and they have joined the Society. A number of studies have to be carried out and various manuals are to be prepared to finalise the DPR. NERLP is most likely to be implemented from the start of financial year 2011-12.

7.6 Ministry of DoNER has already invited Expressions of Interest, shortlisted Consultants and awarded studies in three fields i) Environmental Assessment ii) Social Assessment and iii) Livelihood Studies. Final Study Reports are expected to be received by the end of January 2011. The NELP Society, Guwahati, has taken up base line survey and other task.

UNIDO-CBTC Project

7.7 With a view to eradicate poverty and promote livelihood in the rural North East, the UNIDO-CBTC Phase-II was formally launched on 9th April, 2008 at New Delhi by the then Hon'ble Minister, DoNER & Chairman NEC in presence
of the Director General, UNIDO. The funding of $2,272,117 for the project would be shared by DIPP, NEC, DC(H) and UNIDO over a four year period. NEC has so far released 2 (two) installments of US$ 1.50 lakh each. The Steering Committee for the project reviews and monitors the progress of the project from time to time. The baseline study for the State of Assam and Nagaland have been completed and the study for other states is in progress.

North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project

7.8 The NERCORMP, which was launched in May 1999, covered 860 villages and reached 39161 households living in some of the most inaccessible hill districts of North East. These are the remotest of all villages in the districts where Government service-delivery system did not succeed much. The success of the project resulted in NERCORMP phase-II which has been approved in the current year and would be implemented over the span of the next 6 years. The phase-II of the project will have hand-holding activities in the existing villages and would spread the project to cover new villages under the same project districts.