

5. NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL (NEC)



With the objective of the all-round development and progress of the North Eastern Region, the North Eastern Council has been striving for implementing the on-going projects as well as taking new initiatives in a cohesive, concerted and holistic manner. NEC has been supporting various developmental works thereby accelerating the pace of progress in the Region, especially in the fields of Surface and Air connectivity, Health, Power, Horticulture, Science & Technology, IT, Manpower, Industries, Tourism etc over the years.

1. NER VISION 2020

The North-Eastern Council in its Plenary held at Agartala on 12-13 May 2008 adopted the North Eastern Region Vision-2020 document. The Document was formally released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister at New Delhi on July 2nd 2008. The document sets up the goals, identifies the challenges and suggests implementation strategies for various sectors for peace and prosperity of the region. The document gives a six fold strategy for the comprehensive development of the NE Region.

An investment to the tune of Rs 1329891 crore (from 11th Plan to first 3 years of the 13th Plan) would be required to achieve the required growth in the region. Seventeen Thematic Groups have been constituted to translate the objectives enunciated in the Vision document into concrete Plans. The Groups have started working on preparing the Action Plans to achieve the objectives of the Vision Document. The Action Plans were presented at the North-Eastern Council Secretariat in Shillong on 3-4 December, 2008.

2. Achievement:

Major projects, initiatives as well as success stories of important Sectors of NEC are given below:

(I). AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTOR

- (a) Double Cropping Project in North Eastern Region:

A pilot project on double cropping was implemented by NEC in 8 states of NER. The

project has been completed in the state of Meghalaya and Tripura. The main objective of the project is to increase food grain production and bring self sufficiency in the region. Emphasis was given to produce paddy in Kharif season using high yielding variety and leguminous & vegetable crops in Rabi season. During Rabi season, the farmers of the region, after the NEC's intervention, have started growing wheat, pea mustered and some vegetables crops. As a result of the initiative, the income level of the farmers has improved in the project area.



Strawberry cultivation, Umsning, Meghalaya

(b) The on-going projects, such as Integrated Agriculture Development, Establishment of Cold Storage, Development/ Rejuvenation of Plantation Crops, Broiler Duck Farms and Integrated Fisheries Development Project, are in the final stage of completion.

(c) Task Force on Agriculture & Allied Activities:

A Task Force Committee has been constituted under Dr. (Mrs.) I.K. Barthakur, Member, NEC to prepare Action Plan for implementation of vision 2020 in NER. A Sectoral summit was also held at NERIWALM, Tezpur, during September, 2008. Some of the major recommendations include:-

1. Use of short duration high yielding varieties of paddy, wheat & vegetables to increase the production.
2. Govt should encourage milk, meat production, fruits, vegetable & floriculture production in the region.
3. Post harvest & marketing facilities to be developed in the region.

(II). COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

The Scheme for Promotion of Industrialization in the North East (SPINE) was the umbrella scheme in operation during 10th Plan. But, however, the scheme was discontinued during 2006-07. The committed liabilities under the scheme are being disbursed.

- * The Council also took necessary step to promote border trade on mission mode as per the Government of India's 'Look East' policy and accordingly with the initiative of the NEC, MEA has opened Branch Sectt in Guwahati for the North Eastern Region with the objective to formulate regional plan for export promotion and to closely work with the neighboring countries to suggest measures for trade development etc.
- * The Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Guwahati since its inception in 2000 has been working for the development of cane and bamboo sectors in the North Eastern Region in particular and the country in general. On the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, CBTC has prepared a Detailed Project Report for the National Bamboo Mission. This Mission launched in December, 2006 designated CBTC as the Bamboo Technical

Support Group (BTSG) for all the States of North Eastern Region and the Eastern States of West Bengal, Orissa, Jharkhand and Bihar.

- * With a view to alleviate poverty and for promotion of livelihood in the rural North East, the UNIDO-CBTC Phase-II was launched and NEC along with DIPP and DC (Handicrafts), Govt. of India had decided to become stakeholders. The project was formally launched on 9th April, 2008 at New Delhi by Hon'ble Minister, DoNER & Chairman NEC and Director General, UNIDO. A Trust Fund Agreement between UNIDO and NEC will be signed during current year and an amount of Rs. 60.00 lakhs have already been sanctioned by NEC towards first installment.

Some other important projects funded and implemented are as follows:

- * Livelihood Development through Rehabilitation of Surrendered Militants – Tripura. Government of Tripura was supported by NEC at a cost of Rs. 200.00 lakhs.
- * Bamboo Technology Park at Sairong, Mizoram is being funded by NEC to develop infrastructure facilities for setting up of a Bamboo Technology Park.
- * An amount of Rs.37.00 lakhs was disbursed towards NEC's share for bamboo plantation in the BTC area of Assam wherein BTC invested Rs.59.00 lakhs for development of the bamboo nursery.
- * Ramie Rhizome Fibre Unit in Nagaland. NEC has supported 90% of the cost of the project to the extent of Rs.64.00 lakhs.
- * ARTFED : Construction of a Regional

Handloom & Handicraft Marketing Complex at Rehabari, Guwahati, Assam. An amount of Rs. 484.00 lakhs was released for the project by the NEC. The project is expected to be completed by March 2009.

- * Setting up of a Rubber Wood Factory in Tripura at a total investment of Rs. 6.50 crore for production of Solid Rubber Wood Boards and Beam is also supported by NEC. An amount of Rs. 379.00 lakhs was released for the project. The project is expected to be completed by August 2008.
- * Setting up of a Regional Boiler Testing Laboratory The project is expected to be commissioned during the current financial year. An amount of Rs.199.20 Lakhs has already been released towards the project.

(III). HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

1. Skill Up-gradation-cum-Motivation Training of Teachers of NE Region

The literacy rate of the NE Region is very high but quality of education is low. To improve the quality of education, a massive training programme is proposed to be launched with the support of NCERT and IGNOU. One component of the training would be done through SCERT and DIETs under the control of NCERT and another component would be launched through distance education mode through IGNOU. To operationalise all these, under the aegis of North East Regional Education Council, one core group, headed by Sri S. Sathyam, EO, Mo HRD, has been constituted for closely liaisoning with the Ministry of HRD, NCERT and IGNOU. The core group

has representatives from NCERT and IGNOU also. Currently State level workshops in each of 8 States are being organized with the help of SCERTs of the States.

2. SETTING UP OF PILOT TRAINING CENTRE AT LILABARI, ASSAM.

The air connectivity in the NER is increasing in the recent past. There is a great demand of pilots in the NER. The setting up of Pilot Training Centre will cater to the technical expert requirement of the region. The Assam Government has identified a plot of land measuring 75 bighas. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has been requested to depute an officer from the Ministry & the Airport Authority of India for joint inspection of the land along with the representatives of the Government of Assam. Joint Inspection will be done as soon as the officers are nominated.

3. CONSTRUCTION OF RAJIV GANDHI GIRLS HOSTEL AT DELHI FOR 500 NE GIRLS STUDENTS.

The construction of “Rajiv Gandhi Girl’s Hostel” for tribal Girls from NE region is being undertaken by the Delhi University and funded jointly by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and NEC in the ratio of 40:60, at a total cost of Rs 23.34 crore. Rs. 2.5 crores and Rs. 6 crores have been released during the 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively, by NEC.

4. SUPPORT OF NE WORKING WOMEN’S HOSTEL AT NEW DELHI.

The construction of NE Working Women Hostel at Jasola in New Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development is being supported by NEC. The

NEC will fund 50% of the cost of land and construction cost will be shared between MWCD and NEC in the ratio of 25:75. The project is in progress.

(IV) IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL SECTOR

Irrigation and Flood Control Sector of NEC has been funding Survey and Investigation of 12 (twelve) Hydro Electric Projects and 2 (two) major irrigation implementation of 18 (eighteen) Flood & Erosion control schemes and 2 (two) Irrigation Schemes in the various states of NE Region during the 10th Five Year Plan. Out of these, 2 Irrigation schemes in Assam have been completed and 8 Flood control schemes have been fully completed so far. Other projects are in various stages of construction.

7 (seven) numbers of Survey and Investigation of Hydro electric/Multi-purpose projects are now being carried out by the Central Water commission and Brahmaputra Board engaged by the NE States for preparation of Detailed Project Report.

Besides the above NEC has funded 10 (ten) Water Supply Schemes, 1 (one) Erosion Control Schemes and 1 (one) Sewerage scheme in Sikkim. Out of these 3 Water Supply scheme have been completed so far.

(V) MEDICAL AND HEALTH

The North Eastern Council supports the broad policies adopted under the National Health Policy – 2002 which provides for facilitating equitable access to health facilities by creation of infrastructure development of health centers and institutions for healthcare needs as well as capacity building in medical and paramedical disciplines. While NEC continues to extend financial assistance to various health centers and institutions, following major

Institutes are being funded under NEC's Plan.

1. Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati
2. Regional Dental College, Guwahati
3. Regional College of Nursing, Guwahati
4. Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati

In addition to above, support to various other Health Institutions/Centers/Projects in all the States in NER was given by NEC.

VI. POWER SECTOR

Till 1981, the installed capacity of the North Eastern Region was 410MW only. In the last two decades, the total installed capacity has increased to more than fivefold which is 2051.28 MW, as on August 2008, and comprises of both Hydro and Thermal segments.

Augmentation in Generation capacity of North East has been made possible by ensuring active involvement of the North Eastern Council. The NEC since inception has thus far contributed 673.50 MW of capacity addition (630 Hydro & 43.50 thermal). The 21MW Baramura Gas Based project Unit-V, in Tripura at project cost of Rs 80.00 crores was approved on 7.8.2007 by the Ministry of DoNER. The project is scheduled to be completed within 2009-10. So far, an amount of Rs 30.00 crore has been released by NEC. With the completion of this generation project, NEC will further enhance its contribution by another 21 MW capacity addition to NE Region from the above installed capacity. The total investment in the projects has been of the order of Rs. 2734.96 crores, out of which the NEC share is 64.50 %, Rs. 1764.09 crores.

NEC has also funded several transmission lines all over North East totaling 1285.50 Circuit Kilometers (16%) of the existing Transmission lines at a cost of Rs. 363.07 crores.

During 2008-09 following schemes were implemented:

1. System Improvement Schemes:- During 2008-09, so far, three schemes in Sikkim, Meghalaya and Nagaland have been approved and an amount of Rs 2.00 crore has been released against the projects.
2. Viability Gap Funding for Implementation of Small Hydro Power projects (SHPs)- So far, three Small Hydro Power Projects (SHPs) has been approved by NEC for viability gap funding.
3. Load Flow Study of the NE Region to be done by PGCIL, the cost of which is Rs. 50.00 crores, to be shared 50:50 between M/o Power and NEC.

(VII) SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

Major Achievements of Schemes Under S&T Sector

- Establishment of North Eastern Space Application Centre as a joint venture between Department of Space and NEC
- Remote Sensing Application Schemes supported in Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya.
- S&T Cell, DMS Earthquake Related Programme in Arunachal Pradesh.
- State Wide Telemedicine has been successfully launched in 6 District of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 200 youth are being trained under IT Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme at Aizawl, Mizoram.
- IT Education Infrastructure has been extended to 140 Schools and 7 Colleges. 70 more Schools and 4 Colleges are being taken.

(VIII) TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION SECTOR

1. In the current financial year 38 number of road projects, 30 number of bridge project, 6 numbers of ISBT and 10 numbers of airports up-gradation projects are in different stages of progress.
2. Three number of bridges have been completed in the current financial year. Formation cutting for Rs.158.60 Km and pavement of 82.40 Km have been completed so far in the current financial year.
3. Improvement of Lengpui airport was sanctioned for Rs. 14.92 crore in the current financial year on 15th July, 2008. A sum of Rs. 5.00 crore has already been released and works on this project are under progress.
4. Operation of air services by Alliance Air was extended for one more year from 1st January 2008 to 31st December, 2008 under an MoU with Alliance Air. Out of Rs. 38.50 crore to be paid to Alliance Air, Rs. 17.50 crore has already been paid. Further extension of one more year from 1st January 2009 has also been approved. NEC is also negotiating with the Alliance Air for establishing a dedicated airline in the NE Region as efforts to set up a dedicated airline through open bid system has failed.
5. Improvement of 10 airports in NER, viz., Guwahati, Lilabari, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Silchar, Tezpur, Imphal, Agartala and Umroi (Meghalaya) was taken up during 10th Plan. The



Lengpui Airport, Mizoram



Inter-State Bus Terminus, Guwahati

improvement is done by AAI for which 60% of the funding is provided by NEC. Improvement of seven airports have already been completed and works on Silchar, Dibrugarh and Umroi are in different stages of progress. Out of an outlay of Rs. 20.00 crore for the airports, a sum of Rs. 10.00 crore have already been released.

IX. EVALUATION AND MONITORING SECTOR

1. For evaluation and monitoring of NEC funded Schemes action has already been initiated to associate Universities, Institutions and other Organizations etc from across the North Eastern Region for doing the work of Evaluation and Monitoring of the NEC funded projects/ schemes. Memorandum of Understandings is proposed to be signed with the Institutes found suitable for the job.
2. To improve the quality of human capital in the NE Region, NEC sponsors Seminars/ Symposiums organized by the Universities and

important colleges of the region. The allocation for seminar, symposium, workshop etc during the Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs. 150.00 lakhs,

3. New Schemes: Draft guidelines and other modalities are under finalization for implementation of 2 (two) new schemes, during 11th Plan viz. (i) Support for preparation of DPRs and engagement of consultants and (ii) Setting up of project formulation and quality management cell in the NEC.

X. FINANCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Financial allocation for NEC during 2008-09 was Rs 624 crore as against Rs 600.00 crore during 2007-08. The NEC as well as the Ministry has taken up the matter with Planning Commission to enhance the budgetary allocation for NEC. Against the allocation of rs 624.00 crore, the sector-wise expenditure is given in table-I below. The funds disbursed to all the States in NE Region is given in table –II.

Table-I: Sector-wise Expenditure

(Rs in Lakhs)

Name of the Sectors	2008-09	
	Outlay	Expenditure
AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED	1200.00	562.32
POWER DEVELOPMENT	6870.00	8360.51
RRE	0.00	0.00
WATER DEVELOPMENT	2175.00	2709.15
INDUSTRIES	605.00	622.76
TOURISM	475.00	427.82
TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION	43050.00	43059.97
MEDICAL & HEALTH	2450.00	2178.30
MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT	3085.00	1571.51
EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECT	200.00	225.00
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	1545.00	1580.04
INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATION	350.00	203.14
EVALUATION & MONITORING	395.00	167.51
GRAND TOTAL	62400.00	61667.88

Table- II : State-wise disbursement of funds during 2008-09

(Rs in Crore)

State	2008-09
Arunachal Pradesh	60.33
Assam	144.65
Manipur	27.77
Meghalaya	40.06
Mizoram	43.70
Nagaland	43.77
Sikkim	42.76
Tripura	69.93
Sub Total:	472.97
Other Agencies	143.70
Grand Total:	616.68*
Budget Allocations	624.00

* Provisional figures