

8. Strengthening & Streamlining Systems





Development of manufacturing and services sector in NE

- 8.1 One key issue in the development of the NE Region has been the systemic inadequacy in planning, implementation and monitoring. As a result, on the one hand there is a problem of proper allocation of resources and on the other hand project execution suffers from cost and time over-runs. The problem occurs even in the case of certain key infrastructure projects. As a result, the Ministry has been entrusted the task of monitoring many of the projects of other line Ministries. The Ministry has been trying to address the situation through regular consultations and appropriate mechanisms. Apart from regular coordination, the Ministry is closely monitoring the implementation of certain key infrastructure projects assigned by the Prime Minister. Improving and streamlining systems is a key component for proper planning and execution. The progress of the implementation of these projects by the line Ministries/Departments is updated and reports are sent to the PMO on monthly basis. The detailed information is hosted in the website of the Ministry (www.mdoner.gov.in).
- 8.2 The Ministry has framed new guidelines for NLCPR and has also set up a technical cell for quick review of the DPRs. Representatives from the States are called to make presentation and brief the NLCPR Committee on their projects. In addition, the Ministry is involving CPSUs to vet projects. It has taken the initiative to organize Development Seminars in the backward districts of the North-East Region. The Seminars are attended by officials of major Central Ministries apart from senior officials of the State concerned and public representatives. The Development Seminars provide vital inputs from the grass-roots for planning and development by different agencies.
- 8.3 The Ministry has prepared a document entitled "North Eastern Region District Infrastructure Index". It provides a useful insight into intra-State and inter-State disparities within the NE Region and is proving to be quite handy in prioritizing projects under the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources as well as other Schemes. The document has also been circulated to the State Governments.

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- 8.4 In keeping up with the function of NEC as Regional Planning Body, NEC is now engaged in the process of consultation with State Governments and examination of the suitability of Central Plan Scheme of selected Ministry/Departments for the Region. For this purpose, Committees with Sectoral Advisers of NEC as Member Secretaries with representatives from Central Government and State Governments have been formed. Minister of DoNER and Chairman, NEC had a meeting with NE Chief Ministers on 24th June, 2009 at NEC Secretariat, Shillong in which officers of State Governments, Central Government and Public Sector undertakings participated. In this meeting, measures to be taken for rapid economic and social development of the region were discussed and action plan was formulated.
- 8.5 The Ministry has also taken up the issue of utilization and proper accounting of development funds with the NE States. The matter has been regularly raised by the Comptroller & Accountant General. In this regard, a number of meetings have been held with the representatives of the States and the problems have been identified. The States have been requested to streamline their procedures in consultation with the respective Accountant Generals. The Ministry is also supporting a training programme in financial management for the young civil servants of these States.
- 8.6 The Revitalization Committee of NEC recommended that for evaluation and monitoring activities of NEC schemes, Universities and Research Institutions of the region may be involved. In this regard, action was 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. Positive feedbacks from the Institutions are being further processed and it has been decided to involve these institutions for evaluation & impact studies of NEC schemes. A few MoUs have already been signed in this regard. During 2010-11, the E & M Sector has entrusted 35 numbers of projects to various Central/State Government organizations/ institutes viz. IIE, Guwahati, AAU, Jorhat, NEIGRIHMS, Shillong, AEC, Guwahati, REC, Jorhat, NIT, Tripura, WAPCOS Ltd., Kolkata etc. The evaluation studies of some of the projects entrusted in the previous years have already been completed whereas evaluation of the remaining projects is going on.
- 8.7 All projects of the Ministry are continuously monitored through periodical progress reports received from the State Governments, depicting both the financial and physical progress of the projects and also through review meetings and inspections by officers of the Ministry. The procedure adopted for release of funds to the States for various projects stipulates conditions which ensure that the State Governments furnish Utilisation Certificates and other documents to the effect that the funds have been utilized for the purpose for which they were sanctioned.
- 8.8 The Planning and Development Department of each State, which is the nodal Department for NLCPR projects, has been entrusted with field inspections of the projects through senior officers of the State and submission of inspection notes. For each new project, the state/implementing agency is to identify a Nodal Officer, who is responsible for implementation of that project on schedule. Besides, the State Chief Secretary has been entrusted with the responsibility of quarterly review of each of the projects and to send the proceedings at the end of each quarter. In addition, the visits by the senior officers of the Ministry of DoNER is an effective tool for monitoring as well as identifying problem areas, verifying physical and financial progress for speedy implementation of NLCPR projects.

8.9 To encourage the States for early completion of projects an incentive scheme has been introduced from this year wherein every year for the best performing States in terms of completion rate of projects additional projects worth to Rs.20.00 crore will be retained as per their choice over and above their normal allocation. This year it was given to the State of Sikkim for their best completion rate of the projects. As a result of the steps taken by the Ministry in the financial year 2010-11, the Ministry has been able to sanction 111 projects under NLCPR and 3 projects under BTC package till 31.12.2010.

8.10 The establishment of a Project Formulation and Quality Management (PFQM) Cell in the NEC Secretariat is a long-felt need. PFQM needs to be backed up with qualified officers and professionals to be drawn from varied disciplines comprising the project economists, approved valuers, engineers and other experts. To achieve this objective, the NEC Secretariat has already planned to set up a robust monitoring mechanism i.e. 'Third Party Monitoring System' for all the NEC sponsored projects. Initially, this Sector has proposed to appoint three consultants /project managers and experts to be drawn from different disciplines viz. civil engineering, electrical engineering and project economists. The work of preparation the Basic Statistics 2010 for NER has been put at the anvil and is being processed.

8.11 The North Eastern Region of India is known for its vast natural resources and is a cauldron of different people and cultures. Information about this Region, though available from various sources, is scattered. To mitigate this disadvantage, NEDFi is maintaining a web based portal called "NER Databank" with a view to provide information about North East India at a single source. Data on various sectors are being updated regularly. The details can be browsed at <http://db.nedfi.com/>. The Corporation publishes "NEDFi Databank Quarterly Journal" - an economic journal on the North Eastern region on various sectors. NEDFi Databank Quarterly is an effort to attract investments and business to the region as well as be of use for research/study for students, policy makers and business persons.

Strategic Plan and Citizen Charter

8.12 The Ministry has prepared a Strategic Plan for the next five years, 2011-12 to 2015-16. Similarly, a Citizen Charter has also been framed providing standards for various services/tasks undertaken by the Ministry. The details of the Strategic Plan and Citizen Charter are available on the website of the Ministry (www.mdoner.gov.in). The Ministry has duly and timely completed all the mandatory requirements specified by the Performance Management Division of the Cabinet Secretariat as part of the Results Framework Document.