

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. †*261

To be answered on
Monday, March 20, 2023/Phalguna 29, 1944 (Saka)

QUESTION
Infrastructure Development in North Eastern States

†*261. SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the infrastructure development undertaken by the Government to enhance connectivity between rural and urban areas in the North Eastern States during the last three years;
- (b) the status of electrification of rural areas in the North Eastern States;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the farmers to promote the cultivation of cash crops in these areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

The Minister of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
[Shri G. Kishan Reddy]

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *261 for answer on 20.03.2023

(a) Government of India is implementing various flagship and other schemes for the development of the North Eastern Region through the respective administrative Ministries/Departments within the approved financial outlays as per scheme design. As per extant policy of the Government, fifty-five non-exempted Central Ministries/Departments are mandated to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the North Eastern Region (NER) for the overall development of the region including infrastructure development. Under 10% GBS, an expenditure of Rs.3.84 lakh crores has been incurred by these Central Ministries/Departments since financial year 2014-15. The year-wise details of Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates and Actual Expenditure under 10% GBS since financial year 2014-15 is given below:

Year-wise details of Budget Estimates, Revised Estimates Actual Expenditure under 10% GBS (Rs. in crores)			
Year	Budget Estimate	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure
2014-15	36,108	27,359	24,819
2015-16	29,088	29,669	28,674
2016-17	29,125	32,180	29,368
2017-18	43,245	40,972	39,753
2018-19	47,995	47,088	46,055
2019-20	59,370	53,374	48,534
2020-21	60,112	51,271	48,564
2021-22	68,020	68,440	70,874
2022-23	76,040	72,540	47,785*
Total	4,49,103	4,22,893	3,84,426
Source: Statement 11 of Union Budget of various years			
Note: Actual Expenditure figures are provisional and subject to vetting of Ministry of Finance.			
* Total GBS expenditure of all 55 Ministries/Departments for the current year 2022-23 up to the end of Third Quarter i.e. 31.12.2022.			

The total expenditure by Central Infrastructure Ministries/Departments was Rs.4726 crore in 2014-15 which has increased to Rs. 23293 crore in 2021-22 (an increase of 392%).During the last three years, the expenditure made by these Ministries/Departments is Rs. 45836 crore.

Several infrastructure development projects have been taken up by the concerned central Ministries and Departments in North Eastern Region (NER), which, inter-alia, include:

- **Road connectivity:**

A total of 4686 km of National Highways have been sanctioned by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in NER in the last 03 years amounting to Rs. 60,093 crores. Major ongoing Capital Road Connectivity projects in NER include 4 laning of Dimapur-Kohima Road (77.87 km) in Nagaland; 4 laning of Nagaon bypass to Holongi (167 km) in Arunachal Pradesh; Alternate two-lane Highway from Bagrakote to Pakyong (NH-717A) (152 km) in Sikkim; 2 laning of Aizawl–Tuipang NH-54 (351 km) in Mizoram; 4 laning of Imphal–Moreh section of NH-39 (20 km) and 2-laning of 75.4 km in Manipur.

Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in North Eastern States since 2019-20, a total road length of 22708 km has been completed, at an expenditure Rs.21,893 crore connecting 3067 habitations.

In addition, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region under North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) and North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS) have sanctioned 77 road projects amounting to Rs.3372.58 crore.

- **Rail connectivity:**

19 railway infrastructure projects, falling fully/ partly in North Eastern States, covering total length of 1909 km at a cost of Rs. 77,930 crore have been undertaken during the last three years and are at different stages of planning/ approval/ execution. Out of these, 409 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs. 30,312 crore has been incurred upto March 2022.

- **Air connectivity:**

Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) on 21.10.2016 to enhance regional air connectivity across the country from unserved and underserved airports in the country and making air travel affordable to the masses.

Airports at Rupsi, Tezu, Tezpur, Pasighat, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong, Pakyong, Itanagar & Dimapur involving 64 routes have been operationalised under UDAN in the North Eastern Region. There were 9 operational airports in 2014 in the North East Region. Presently, there are 16 operational airports in the North East Region. Additionally, Advanced landing Ground at Ziro has also been operationalized.

- **Waterway connectivity:**

During the last three years, 4 Waterway projects/works costing Rs.1040.71 crore have been sanctioned in North Eastern Region, details of which are as under:

Sl. No.	Project /Work	Cost (Rs.in cr.)
1	Comprehensive Development of NW-2 (River Brahmaputra)	474
2	Comprehensive Development of NW-16 (River Barak)	148
3	Construction of Ship Repair Facility at Pandu (Guwahati) and development of Alternate Road Connectivity to Pandu Port (River Brahmaputra)	388
4	Development of IWT on river Khawthlangtuipui- Tuichawng in Lunglei District, Mizoram	6.18
5	Development of Inland Water Transport on Gumti River in Tripura	24.53
	Total	1040.71

- **Telecom connectivity:**

Department of Telecommunications has undertaken several projects in the North Eastern States for strengthening telecom connectivity in the region, which, interalia, include: -

(i) Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam Project: Under this project 1,683 villages of Arunachal Pradesh and 691 villages in 2 Districts of Assam (KarbiAnglong& Dima Hasao) are proposed to be covered by installing 980 mobile towers in Arunachal Pradesh and 531 mobile towers in 2 Districts of Assam (KarbiAnglong& Dima Hasao) respectively. The project cost is Rs 1255.59 crore.

(ii) Meghalaya Project: Under this project,1164 villages along with 11 National Highways in the State of Meghalaya are to be covered by installing 889 mobile towers. The project cost is Rs. 804.37 crore. An additional 723 villages of Meghalaya are also

proposed to be covered by installing 528 mobile towers under this scheme at the cost of Rs.167.59 crore.

(iii) Provision of mobile Services in uncovered villages in Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh (National Highways only) of NER and seamless coverage along National Highway. A total of 1358 towers have been commissioned under the scheme.

(iv) For making available high quality and high-speed internet access to the States of North Eastern Region of the country, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) hired 20 Gbps International Bandwidth for Internet Connectivity to Agartala from Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL), Bangladesh via Cox Bazar/Kuakata. The first 10 Gbps link was commissioned on 26-11-2021 and the second 10 Gbps link was commissioned on 21-04-2022. The project was completed with a cost of Rs. 17.15 crore through Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(v) In addition to mobile projects, BharatNet project is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (approx. 2.6 lakh) in the country. Now, the scope of the project has been expanded to all inhabited villages. Current status of BharatNet Project in North Eastern States is as under:

S. No.	State/UT	Total Planned GPs	OFC laid (km)	Service Ready GPs on OFC	Service Ready GPs on Satellite	Total Service Ready GPs (OFC + Satellite)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1,796	1519	79	885	964
2	Assam	2,665	4877	1,506	5	1,511
3	Manipur	2,782	634	315	1,152	1,467
4	Meghalaya	1,792	1069	122	560	682
5	Mizoram	762	689	41	411	452
6	Nagaland	983	2000	116	116	232
7	Sikkim	185	942	26	9	35
8	Tripura	1,114	1686	587	142	729
	Total	12,079	13,416	2,792	3,280	6,072

(vi) A pilot project for rolling out of 5 Lakh FTTH connections in GPs /villages across the country (including NER) using BharatNet through BharatNetUdyamies (BNUs) with

financial support from USOF is being implemented by BSNL. As on 14-03-2023, total 2,04,170 FTTH connections have been provided under the pilot project across country.

(vii) 4G saturation Project: Under this project 24680 uncovered villages across the country are proposed to be covered with 4G services. It also includes upgradation to 4G service of existing 2G/3G sites at 6279 villages. These include 5665 villages of North East Region.

(b) The status of electrification in rural areas is as under:

- Under the DeenDayalUpadhyaya Gram JyotiYojana (DDUGJY), 5790 villages of North Eastern Region have been electrified.
- As reported by the States, all the inhabited un-electrified census villages in the country, including NER, were electrified by 28th April, 2018.
- Under Pradhan MantriSahajBijliHarGharYojna (Saubhagya) all the NER States reported 100% household electrification of 30.04 lakh household.

Ministry of Power has also undertaken power generation (hydro/thermal) projects since 2014 in the North Eastern States. Further, the transmission and distribution network has also been strengthened. 03 Hydro Electric Projects (above 25 MW) totaling to 740 MW have been undertaken in the North Eastern States. A Gas based Power Project in the State of Assam viz. Lakhwa Replacement Power Project of 69.755 MW capacity (7 x 9.965MW) by M/s Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd. was commissioned on 14.02.2018.

Further, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is executing two major Intra State power transmission and distribution schemes viz. (i) North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) for Six States (Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland) for strengthening of the Intra-State Transmission and Distribution Systems (33kV and above) at an estimated cost of Rs.6,700 crore; and (ii) Comprehensive Scheme for Strengthening of Transmission and Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.9,129.32 crores.

In addition, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region under North East Special Infrastructure Development(NESID) Scheme have sanctioned 06 power projects amounting to Rs. 273.01 crore.

In the renewable power sector, a total generation capacity of 578.54 MW has been installed in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim (including in rural areas) as on 28.02.2023 as per details given below: -

State-wise installed capacity of Renewable Power as on 28.02.2023.					
S. No.	States	Small Hydro Power	Bio Power	Solar Power	Total Capacity
		(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	133.11	0.00	11.64	144.75
2	Assam	34.11	2.00	147.93	184.04
3	Manipur	5.45	0.00	12.28	17.73
4	Meghalaya	32.53	13.80	4.15	50.48
5	Mizoram	45.47	0.00	8.02	53.49
6	Nagaland	31.67	0.00	3.04	34.71
7	Sikkim	55.11	0.00	4.69	59.80
8	Tripura	16.01	0.00	17.53	33.54
	Total (MW)	353.46	15.80	209.28	578.54

(c)& (d) The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing a scheme on commercial crops viz., cotton, jute & sugarcane in 19 states including 4 North Eastern States viz., Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya & Nagaland for enhancing production & productivity under National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from 2014-15. Jute & Cotton programme is being implemented in Assam & Tripura. Jute programme is being implemented in Meghalaya & Nagaland. The scheme provides support to the farmers for the transfer of technology through demonstrations & training. An amount of Rs.2095.16 lakh as central share has been allocated to North Eastern States under the scheme since 2019-20 till 2022-23, as detailed below:

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Crop	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total
Assam	Jute	278.19	278.19	230.40	185.94	972.72
	Cotton	26.91	14.90	15.30	14.13	71.24
	Total	305.10	293.09	245.70	200.07	1043.96
Tripura	Jute	126.82	126.80	77.38	62.28	393.28

	Cotton	71.38	71.38	54.90	51.64	249.3
	Total	198.20	198.18	132.28	113.92	642.58
Meghalaya	Jute	70.98	77.91	39.59	32.30	220.78
	Total	70.98	77.91	39.59	32.30	220.78
Nagaland	Jute	57.92	57.92	39.60	32.40	187.84
	Total	57.92	57.92	39.60	32.40	187.84
Grand Total		632.20	627.10	457.17	378.69	2095.16

Further, under Department of Commerce, there are four schemes pertaining to Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board under which assistance is provided to growers / farmers for planting / re planting of tea, coffee, rubber and cardamom. The schemes are Tea Board's "Tea Development & promotion Scheme", Coffee Board's "Integrated Coffee Development Projects", Rubber Board's " Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber " and Spices Board 's Integrated Scheme for Export Promotion & Quality Improvement in Spices and Development of Cardamom. Under these schemes, there are specific provisions for supporting cultivation of these crops in North East Region.

Year wise Expenditure of Plantation Boards under 10% GBS for the North Eastern Region for last three years (Rs. in crores)			
Commodity Boards	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (Upto 3rd Quarter)
Tea Board	74.2	42.43	17.21
Coffee Board	10.45	8.19	5.55
Rubber Board	28.43	41.65	20.77
Spice Board	7.63	8.49	8.49
Total	120.71	100.76	52.02
