

MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

Estimates and Policy Aspects of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 18th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Estimates]

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2023-24)

TWENTY NINTH REPORT

(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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(Presented to Lok Sabha on)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

.....August 2023/..... Sravana 1945 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2023-2024)

- Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal – Chairperson**
- 2. Kunwar Danish Ali**
 - 3. Shri Kalyan Banerjee**
 - 4. Shri Sudarshan Bhagat**
 - 5. Shri P. P. Chaudhary**
 - 6. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan**
 - 7. Shri Saikia Dilip**
 - 8. Shri Harish Dwivedi**
 - 9. Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda Gaddigoudar**
 - 10. Ms. Bhavana Gawali (Patil)**
 - 11. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap**
 - 12. Shri Srinivas Kesineni**
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 - 14. Thiru Dayanidhi Maran**
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 - 16. Shri K. Muraleedharan**
 - 17. Shri Jual Oram**
 - 18. Shri S. S. Palanimanickam**
 - 19. Shri Kamlesh Paswan**
 - 20. Dr. K.C. Patel**
 - 21. Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**
 - 22. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat**
 - 23. Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy**
 - 24. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy**
 - 25. Shri Francisco Cosme Sardinha**
 - 26. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma**
 - 27. Shri Prathap Simha**
 - 28. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh**
 - 29. Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo**
 - 30. Shri R. P. Singh Patel***

* Elected as Member of the Committee vide Bulletin Part II, Para No. 7096, dated 28th July, 2023.

Secretariat

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Smt. Anita Bhatt Panda | Additional Secretary |
| 2. Shri Muraleedharan. P | Director |
| 3. Dr. (Smt.) Sheetal Kapoor | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Estimates (2023-24) having been authorized by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, do present this Twenty-Ninth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 18th Report of the Committee (2022-23) on the subject 'Estimates and Policy Aspects of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region '

2. The 18th Report of the Committee on Estimates (2022-23) was presented to Lok Sabha on 20th December, 2022. The Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in the 18th Report on 14 June, 2023. The draft report was considered and approved on 07.08.2023 by the Committee.

3. An analysis of action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 18th Report of the Committee on Estimates is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;

7 August, 2023

16 Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

**DR. SANJAY JAISWAL
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES**

CHAPTER - I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in the Eighteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject "Estimates and Policy Aspects of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region" pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

2. The Eighteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 20.12.2022. It contained 11 Observations/Recommendations. Action Taken Replies of the Government in respect to all the Observations/Recommendations have been received from the Ministry of DONER.

3. Replies to the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have broadly been categorized as under:-

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:
Recommendation Para No 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and 11

**Total: 10
(Chapter-II)**

(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply:
Recommendation NIL

**Total: 00
(Chapter-III)**

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee:
Recommendation NIL

**Total:00
(Chapter-IV)**

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final reply of Government is still awaited:
Recommendation Para No. 3

**Total: 01
(Chapter-V)**

4. The Committee desire that Action Taken Notes in respect of the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final Action Taken Reply in respect of the recommendation contained in Chapter-V for which interim reply have been given by the Government may be furnished to them within six months of the presentation of the Report to the House.

5. The Committee will now deal with the Observations/Recommendations which require reiteration or merit further comments.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No. 3)

Need for special schemes for the socio-economic realities of NER

6. In their recommendation contained in the original 18th Report, the Committee had stated as under :-

One issue in NER identified by the Department is lack of target population in adequate numbers or lack of demand from the States to absorb funds completely. In this scenario, the Committee are of the view that the Central Ministries/Departments should formulate/devise schemes specific to NER taking into account unique needs and aspirations and socio-economic realities of the local people, to avoid lapsing of their 10% GBS. Moreover, as MDoNER has also endorsed the view that remaining funds can be used in some other schemes, the State Departments need to follow the advice. Hence the Committee desire that the Ministry plan a video conference with the NER states on the matter and advise them accordingly in future.

7. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region submitted as under:

Ministry of DoNER, during the quarterly review meetings under 10% GBS, has requested all State Governments to send their suggestions/ changes they require in the existing schemes of various Central Ministries/ Departments directly to the concerned Ministries/ Departments with a copy to MDoNER so that NER-specific schemes can be designed and existing schemes can be modified suitably. The response of the State Governments in this regard is not very encouraging. All Ministries and Departments have been requested to extend maximum handholding support to the NER states and

the Ministries have agreed to do so. Matter will again be taken up during subsequent review meetings.

8. In view of the lack of demand from NE States leading to lapsing of funds, the Committee had felt the need for schemes specific to NER taking into account unique needs and aspiration and socio economic realities of the local people. The Ministry, in the Action Taken reply, have stated that they had requested all State Governments to send their suggestions albeit their response is not found to be very encouraging. The Committee are further informed that MoDNER has also requested all Ministries/Departments to extend maximum handholding support to the NER States. While reiterating their earlier recommendation, the Committee feel that active association with the State Governments of NER is the only solution to carry forward the Government's initiatives for the long-term growth of the region Hence they urge MoDNER to continue to work closely with Ministries/Departments of all North Eastern States so that Schemes specific to NER may be formulated and 100% utilization of funds therefore is completed without delay. The Committee further emphasize that NER specific schemes need to be finalized in a time bound manner. Since the Ministry of DoNER has asked the State Governments to send their suggestion directly to concerned Ministries/Departments, with a copy enclosed for themselves, it would be worthwhile to contact all the Ministries/Departments also to ascertain receipt of any suggestions from NER Governments.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No. 7)

Ensuring maximum utilization of 10% GBS

9. In their recommendation contained in the original 18th Report, the Committee had stated as under:

“The North-Eastern Region in the country is one of the regions enriched with ample natural resources, which, if skilfully utilised, can contribute not only to the development of the region but also would make it financially prosperous. The Committee note that several regions in the North-East Region have natural valuable resources, one such being bamboo. Available huge potential in Bamboo

sector needs holistic development plans and requisite enthusiasm on the part of implementing Ministry. The Committee appreciate the efforts of Ministry of DoNER, which conducts regular review meetings with all the Ministries to ensure maximum utilization of 10 percent GBS resources and, except the Ministry to make concerted efforts to utilise the natural resources including bamboo, of NER through appropriate projects, in order to maximize proper usage of earmarked funds.

10. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region submitted as under:

The recommendation of the Committee is noted.

11. The Committee had urged the Ministry to devise ways and means through which natural resources could be tapped appropriately to reap benefits, specifically in the NER states; bamboo being one such identified natural resource. The Ministry, in their Action Taken reply, have stated that the recommendation of the Committee has been noted. The Committee would like to be apprised of (a) the resources which are identified by the Ministry for fuller utilization and (b) the ways/schemes through which Ministry proposes to do the same.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 10)

Need for piped water and better connectivity

12. In their recommendation contained in the original 18th Report, the Committee had stated as under:

“The Committee observe that piped water is still not a reality for several districts in the North Eastern States. Taking cognizance of this, the Committee urge the Ministry to take up the matter with Ministry of Jai Shakti so that piped water reaches every household under ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’. Another major issue limiting the physical progress of the North East region is connectivity by road, rail and air. Frequent landslides and hostile terrain used to make construction/maintenance activities difficult and expensive, but not anymore as

under various latest initiatives, the Government is willing to face the challenges head on. In this context, the Committee would also like to highlight the fact that operation of night flight is still a distant dream for many North Eastern Airports. Hence they would urge the ministry to work in close liaison with Ministry of Civil Aviation so that 'night landing' of flights could be enabled in different international airports in the North Eastern region.”

13. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region submitted as under:

Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission, since August, 2019 in partnership with States, to provide tap water connection to every rural household by 2024. Jal Jeevan Mission was launched after subsuming restructuring the erstwhile National Rural drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Water is a state subject as such it is the State who plan, design, approve, implement, operate and maintain water supply system and this department supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing technical and financial assistance. Under NRDWP, the aim was to provide piped water supplied in every habitation at the service level of 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd) whereas, under JJM, the focus has been shifted from coverage of habitation to coverage of every rural household i.e. to provide water of prescribed quality on regular and long-terms basis through tap water connection at the service level of 55 lpcd, by 2024.

Committee’s recommendation for taking up the matter “ regarding enabling of night landing of flights in International airports of NER” with Ministry of Civil Aviation has been noted for compliance.

2. At the time of launch of JJM on 15.08.2019, 2.83 lakhs rural household of NER were having tap water connection. Since then, more than 47.94 lakh tap water connections have been provided and as such as on 08.05.2023, out of 94.87 lakh total rural household 50.76 lakh are having provision of tap water supply in their premises. The State wise details is enclosed as **Annexure**.

3. Under JJM , the year wise details of financial allocation, release expenditure of Ne States is as under:

(Amount in ₹ Crore)

Financial year	Gross budgetary	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
2019-20	10,000.66	1,200.62	1,050.07	674.67
2020-21	11,000.00	2,551.44	1,570.03	2,088.59
2021-22	45,011.00	9,261.85	8,982.36	6,052.62
2022-23	55,000	10,115.10	8,979.28	8,384.07

14. While commenting on the basic infrastructure facilities in NER, the Committee had interalia noted that night landing of flights in different NER States was still a distant dream and hence, had urged the Ministry to take up the matter with Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Ministry, in their Action Taken reply, have stated that the recommendation of the Committee has been noted for compliance. The Committee expect that MoDNER being nodal Ministry for overall development of NER States must proactively pursue this matter with Ministry of Civil Aviation. They would like to be apprised of the outcomes/reply from Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding 'night landing' at international airports in the NER for better connectivity.

Chapter – II

Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 1)

Need for 'increase in the Budget allocation of MDoNER

The Committee note with concern that BE for 2021-22 for MDoNER has been ₹ 2,410 crore only against MDoNER's demand of about ₹ 5,000 crore and is even less than not only the BE of 2019-20 but also the RE the actual Expenditure of 2019-20. BE for 2020-21 was ₹ 3,048 crore, which was reduced to 60 per cent level only, that is, ₹ 1,860 crore. The department has been able to use 100 per cent of REs in 2019-20 and 2020-21 which was much less than the projected/demand. The committee are of the view that the rich natural and human resources available in the region could not be utilized to the full extent due to geo-political conditions of the region, hence investments to strengthen the infrastructure of DoNER with 100% utilization of available resource is a must. The lack of infrastructure, in the view of the committee, has not only affected the prospects of economic development in DoNER, but also created division among various ethnic groups at the cost of social harmony. It is well known fact that NER, sharing international boundaries, is already a very sensitive part of the country and hence their complete integration with the rest of the country should be of paramount importance. Hence, to avoid regional imbalances in developmental activities, a permanent administrative mechanism which is established to ensure unhindered flow of funds required for development including contribution from all Government Ministries need to be continuously monitored and strengthened.

The Committee have been informed that as part of their next five years' vision for the North East Region, MDoNER have projected a requirement of ₹ 50,000 crore plus for the 15th Finance Commission five-years period which has already started from 2021-22. In view of the foregoing, the Committee strongly recommend that Department of Expenditure may make suitably higher allocation of Budget for

MDoNER for the coming five years so that MDoNER can implement their schemes and projects in NER satisfactorily for greater positive impact in the overall development of the NER.

Reply of the Government

All the proposed schemes (including packages BTC, KAATC and DHATC) of MDoNER has already been approved by the Cabinet for the 2022-23 to 2025-26 with the consolidated outlay of ₹ 19482.20 crore. Accordingly, allocation of Budget may be proposed to seek from Ministry of Finance to utilize the resources optimally. The requirement of additional resources will be taken up with the Ministry of Finance during forthcoming pre-Budget meetings.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 2)

Capacity building mechanism/infrastructure of NE States

The Committee have observed, during the course of examination of the subject, that for certain Ministries/Departments like the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, their 10% GBS for NER could not be spent fully due to poor capacity in States for formulation of projects as per schematic guidelines and lack of knowledge of Schemes and procedural guidelines and not having the capacity to get the right project, right proposal, right estimation, right outreach and right outlook. The Committee are of the strong view that MDoNER in coordination with NEC and NITI Ayog should conduct regular capacity building programmes for preparing any proposal under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes which will be compatible with the guidelines of the Central Ministries so that there is a very little chance of rejection on the ground of parameters set in the guidelines not being met.

Reply of the Government

As per the extant policy of the Government, all non-exempted Central Ministries / Departments (currently 55) are mandated to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for North Eastern Region (NER). All non-exempted Ministries/Departments, barring a few, are spending 10% of their mandated GBS for NER. Central Ministries/Departments have spent around ₹ 4.20 lakh crore in North Eastern Region since 2014-15 under 10% GBS. A few of the Ministries/Departments have even gone beyond the required

minimum for NER (10% of GBS). The aggregate expenditure of all non exempted Ministries/ Departments have exceeded overall RE (Revised Estimate) allocation by 103% and 113% in 2021-22 and 2022-23 respectively.

However, certain Ministries/Departments like Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DoAFW) have not been able to spend fully the required minimum 10% GBS, due to various factors, including limited drawdown in entitlement-based schemes like PM-KISAN, Fasal Bima Yojana, etc. and 80% allocation of the DoAFW is for these schemes. NER states are also lagging behind in taking advantage of various CS and CSS schemes due to lack of information and low capacity of implementing agencies that require pro-active support of Central Government Ministries/Departments. MDoNER, in its various review meetings, has urged all Central Government Ministries/ Departments to provide handholding support to the NER States and help them in capacity building for ensuring that full benefits of the schemes reach NER. Due to constant efforts of the Ministry, the aggregate expenditure in NER under 10% GBS has exceeded RE allocation during the last two years.

Further to effectively oversee the expeditious implementation of work and for bolstering the development roadmap, MDoNER has set-up state-wise eight 'Field Technical Support Units (FTSUs)' which work as facilitators on the ground between each State Government and MDoNER for the progress on Schemes and initiatives in NER. They have been stationed in the respective State Headquarters in the North East.

Each state FTSU has one State coordinator & 2 Project associates. They are responsible for monitoring the current development projects and share their regular reports with MDoNER. Along with state Projects, these FTSUs also help track the progress of the major ongoing Central Government projects in the Region.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 4)

Monitoring of Progress of projects funded under NLCPR or NESIDS

The Committee note that the NLCPR Scheme has been discontinued with effect from December, 2017 except for meeting committed liabilities for the projects already sanctioned till date. It is pertinent to mention that 1635 projects

worth ₹ 16,233 crore have been sanctioned under NLCPR Scheme. The Committee are further informed that NESIDS has replaced NLCPR since December, 2017 to cater to the needs of development of North-East region. The Committee are happy to note that funds have been released over the time yet believe that mere funds release cannot guarantee development North-East region. The Committee strongly feel the need for a monitoring system to be put in place to assess the pace of ongoing projects in North-East region funded by either of the schemes i.e. NLCPR (those already sanctioned before December 2017) and NESIDS (since December 2017). The Committee would urge the Ministry to consider undertaking an evaluation study with respect to projects (ongoing) till date, in collaboration with National Institutes of prominence, so that lacunae, if any, are identified at initial stages only remedial measures taken well in time. The Committee would like to be apprised of the plan of the Ministry in this direction.

Reply of the Government

To assess the pace of ongoing projects in North-East region funded by NLCPR (those already sanctioned before December 2017) and NESIDS (since December 2017), regular review of projects are being done through review meetings at higher levels with the State Governments of NE Region.

Since the review of projects started during December, 2021, the number of ongoing projects under NLCPR have come down to 334 from 441 as result of the these review meetings conducted at various levels with State Governments.

Besides, technical inspections of projects costing more than 20 crore are being done before release of last installment and also before formal closure of the projects by the Ministry on receipt of Completion Certificate from State Governments, as per NLCPR guidelines.

As regards to evaluation study w.r.t. ongoing projects, Ministry has engaged (NEDFi) to propose different scope of services and deliverables for Specific projects,

for different stages of project execution/ implementation, as the case may be, as per the following broad classification/ scope:

Pre-construction/ Implementation stage

- i. Examination of project documentation with respect to extant rules, regulations, norms, guidelines, etc. of all relevant stakeholder agencies such as line Ministries of Government of India, State Governments, etc.
- ii. Report on targeted beneficiaries of the scheme
- iii. Review of Land requirement/availability & other clearances to begin construction
Examination of bid documentation & bid process
- iv. Review of Project Implementation Plan and procurement process
- v. Review of Site preparation
- vi. Review of Project Management Mechanisms/ Structures (e.g. PERT/ CPM Charts)
- vii. Report on targeted beneficiaries of the scheme

Construction/Implementation stage

- i. Report on Physical Progress of the project
- ii. Report on Financial progress & fund utilization
- iii. Report on Quality Assurance systems and Project quality
- iv. Report on Social Infrastructure and aesthetics
- v. Report on variations with respect to relevant extant rules, regulations, guidelines, norms, etc.
- vi. Report on cost variations and time overruns
- vii. Report on remedial measures to improve physical & financial progress and quality of the project
- viii. Report on safety and Health aspects
- ix. Report on Beneficiary participation in the project

Post Construction/ Implementation Stage technical monitoring

- i. Report on Assets created

- ii. Report on functionality & usage
- iii. Requirement of Operation & maintenance (O&M)
- iv. System of Operation & maintenance (O&M)
- v. Report on social and environment impact analysis
- vi. Report on user/ Beneficiary satisfaction
- vii. Report on capacity created
- viii. Report on overall performance and sustainability of the assets created

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 5)

Need for full utilization of Budget allocation

The committee observe that many of the Ministries/Departments have not spent 100% of their mandatory 10% GBS for NER and that shortfalls have been noticed in all major Ministries. For example, Department of Food and Public Distribution has had shortfalls of ₹ 12,072.89 in 2020-21, ₹ 19,037.249 in 2019-20 and ₹ 17330.5 in 2018-19. Similarly, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways etc have had shortfalls in each of the last three years. The committee, therefore, urge the Government to ensure 100% spending of the mandatory 10% GBS for NER by all the 54 non-exempted Departments/Ministries, who are implementing Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the NER. The committee would urge upon MDoNER to confirm whether the mandatory 10% GBS for NER by the non-exempted Ministries is scheme/project wise or as a whole. If the same is overall 10% GBS, shortfalls can be set right by way of re-appropriation in consultation with DoE.

Reply of the Government

In the FY 2022-23, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Ministry of Road Transport & Highways have spent 181%, 357%, 104% and 100% of their RE allocation under 10% GBS. Further, as per the extant policy of the Government, all non-exempted Central Ministries / Departments (currently 55) are mandated to spend at least 10% of their Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored

Schemes for North Eastern Region (NER).The 10% expenditure is not required to be made scheme wise/ project wise. Overall expenditure of the Ministry/ Department across schemes is included in 10% GBS. As per D/o Expenditure's O.M No. 72(08)/PF-11/2017 dated 5.5.2017, DoNER is also empowered to recommend re-appropriation of funds from Ministries which have low absorption capacity to the Ministries who have higher absorption capacity to ensure 100% utilization of funds under 10% GBS.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 6)

Leveraging of NLCPR pool

The Committee has noted that so far, Ministry of Finance has not allowed any resources against or out of NLCPR pool for funding some important projects of Central Ministries or Departments, which were recommended by the MDoNER, except for adjusting expenditure made by the Ministry of DoNER under NLCPR scheme. As this NLCPR is being maintained on proforma basis and not as a reserve pool in public accounts as was envisaged as per the Cabinet approval or the Budget announcement made by the then Finance Minister in 1998-99, the actual flow of resources from this pool has to happen through annual budgetary allocation by the Ministry of Finance, which can be made in the budget allocations of the Ministry of DoNER. As per data furnished by MDoNER, till 2019-20, the estimated provisional balance in the said pool is over ₹ 90,000.00 crore.

The Committee noted that MDoNER has already taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance for allowing leveraging of this NLCPR pool for undertaking certain important projects for North Eastern Region. For the same, MDoNER, along with North Eastern Council, has statedly got a shelf of projects worth more than ₹ 60,000.00 crore from the North Eastern States. The Committee agree that the Ministry of Finance needs to come into the picture and suggest appropriate mechanism and modalities to allow leveraging of NLCPR pool of about ₹ 90,000.00 crore for funding other important projects/schemes of MDoNER and other Ministries/Departments in the NER. They therefore, desire that the same be conveyed to the Ministry of Finance for suitable action at their end on the matter.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Finance vide its OM No 2(4)-B(S)2017 dated 17.4.2023 has informed MDoNER that NLCPR is a notional fund and is not maintained in Public Account. The Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) scheme, which was started in 1998-99, is funded from unutilized amount of the 10% earmarked GBS of non-exempted Ministries/Departments which has now been replaced with North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) in 2017-18. The outlay of newly launched scheme (launched in 2022-23), Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) is based on average annual saving on account of 10% GBS in North Eastern Region by 55 non-exempted Ministries/ departments. The unutilized amount includes both entitlement based schemes as well as non-entitlement based schemes. Saving in entitlement based scheme like PM-KISAN, NFSA, PMJAY, MNREGA etc is on account of limited population in North Eastern States. Ministry of Finance has stated that savings under such (entitlement based) schemes cannot be used to provide additional funds for NER projects.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 7)

Ensuring maximum utilization of 10% GBS

The North-Eastern Region in the country is one of the regions enriched with ample natural resources, which, if skilfully utilised, can contribute not only to the development of the region but also would make it financially prosperous. The Committee note that several regions in the North-East Region have natural valuable resources, one such being bamboo. Available huge potential in Bamboo sector needs holistic development plans and requisite enthusiasm on the part of implementing Ministry. The Committee appreciate the efforts of Ministry of DoNER, which conducts regular review meetings with all the Ministries to ensure maximum utilization of 10 percent GBS resources and, except the Ministry to make concerted efforts to utilise the natural resources including bamboo, of NER through appropriate projects, in order to maximize proper usage of earmarked funds.

Reply of the Government-

The recommendation of the Committee is noted.

Comment of the Committee Please see Para 11 of Chapter-I

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 8)

Need for committed efforts to avail international aids

The Committee noted that NEC has entered into strategic partnerships with several premier institutes working for the development of the North East Region. The Dr APJ Adbul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis is one such institutes located in the campus of IIM, Shillong. The Committee is appreciative of the fact that such strategic partnerships are the need of the hour for overall development of the critical section of the NER. They would like to be apprised of the strategic plans/proposals worked out/ operationalised, if so, since the involvement of such premier institutes. The Committee would also like the Ministry to continue exploring such possibility of involving institutions with domain expertise to benefit from their suggestions for innovative and area specific development models, which certain underdeveloped regions might have opted for and suitable for NER too, while scaling developmental goals.

Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee is noted for compliance.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 9)

Strategic Partnerships

“North East Rural Livelihood Project”, one of its kind and a World Bank aided project has been formulated considering the peculiarities of remotely located North Eastern Region of the country. The Committee, during one of the evidences, have found that a similar project of the World Bank of higher order has not fructified till now. The Committee lament the fact that international aid

has not been tapped fully, which otherwise, would have given the desired impetus to the development of North East. The Committee expect the Ministry to avail any such opportunities, where international aid is proposed either for a region or for any North Eastern District in particular, with requisite enthusiasm and vigour.

Reply of the Government

At present, there is no separate project assisted by World Bank for rural livelihood sector implemented by MDONER. However, the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and National Urban Livelihood Mission are two schemes of Government of India that are under implementation in the Livelihood Sector, implemented by concerned Ministries (Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs). However, the recommendation of the Committee is noted for compliance.

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 10)

Need for piped water and better connectivity

The Committee observe that piped water is still not a reality for several districts in the North Eastern States. Taking cognizance of this, the Committee urge the Ministry to take up the matter with Ministry of Jai Shakti so that piped water reaches every household under 'Jal Jeevan Mission'. Another major issue limiting the physical progress of the North East region is connectivity by road, rail and air. Frequent landslides and hostile terrain used to make construction/maintenance activities difficult and expensive, but not anymore as under various latest initiatives, the Government is willing to face the challenges head on. In this context, the Committee would also like to highlight the fact that operation of night flight is still a distant dream for many North Eastern Airports. Hence they would urge the ministry to work in close liaison with Ministry of Civil Aviation so that 'night landing' of flights could be enabled in different international airports in the North Eastern region.

Reply of the Government

Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission, since August, 2019 in partnership with States, to provide tap water connection to every rural household by

2024. Jal Jeevan Mission was launched after subsuming restructuring the erstwhile National Rural drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Water is a state subject as such it is the State who plan, design, approve, implement, operate and maintain water supply system and this department supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing technical and financial assistance. Under NRDWP, the aim was to provide piped water supplied in every habitation at the service level of 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd) whereas, under JJM, the focus has been shifted from coverage of habitation to coverage of every rural household i.e. to provide water of prescribed quality on regular and long-terms basis through tap water connection at the service level of 55 lpcd, by 2024.

Committee's recommendation for taking up the matter " regarding enabling of night landing of flights in International airports of NER" with Ministry of Civil Aviation has been noted for compliance.

2. At the time of launch of JJM on 15.08.2019, 2.83 lakhs rural household of NER were having tap water connection. Since then, more than 47.94 lakhs tap water connections have been provided and as such as on 08.05.2023, out of 94.87 lakhs total rural household 50.76 lakhs are having provision of tap water supply in their premises. The State wise details is enclosed as **Annexure**.

3. Under JJM , the year wise details of financial allocation, release expenditure of Ne States is as under:

(Amount in ₹ Crore)

Financial year	Gross budgetary	Allocation	Release	Expenditure
2019-20	10,000.66	1,200.62	1,050.07	674.67
2020-21	11,000.00	2,551.44	1,570.03	2,088.59
2021-22	45,011.00	9,261.85	8,982.36	6,052.62
2022-23	55,000	10,115.10	8,979.28	8,384.07

Comment of the Committee
Please see Para 14 of Chapter-I

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 11)

Other Issues

Apart from the above, certain other issues are predominantly peculiar to the development of NER. The Committee hold that NER has abundance opportunities not only in matters of tourism and scenic beauty but also is home to peculiar flora and fauna, including medicinal plants and herbs. The Committee would like the Ministry to explore the possibilities and come up with MoUs with different medical institutions/Department of AYUSH in the country which can undertake studies and explore the untapped sources of medical plants found in NER.

Reply of the Government-

As per the information furnished by Ministry of Ayush; National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of Ayush, Government of India is presently implementing “Central Sector Scheme for Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants” throughout the Country including the North Eastern Region (NER) States. For implementation and monitoring of NMPB’s Scheme, annual grant is released to Regional Cum Facilitation Centre (North Eastern Region) and Nucleus Centre Maintenance Grant to State Medicinal plants Boards (SMPBs) of NER.

So far no MoU as such, has been signed by NMPB with any Institute / Department of Ayush in the Country which can undertake studies and explore the untapped sources of medical plants found in NER.

However, under the Scheme, for development of Medicinal Plants Sector, project based support is provided to:

- State Forest Departments for Conservation, Resource Augmentation of medicinal plants and Support to JFMCs / BFMCs for value addition, drying, warehousing etc.
- Research & Development projects on various aspects of medicinal plants to Government as well as private universities / research institutions / organizations across the Country.

- For establishment of Herbal Gardens, Quality Planting Material etc. and also for organizing seminars / workshops for dissemination of awareness among people about medicinal plants.

NMPB has released a total of ₹ 57.76 crore to States of North Eastern Region (NER) for above mentioned activities with respect to development of Medicinal Plants Sector during 2017-18 to 2022-23.

Suggestion of the Committee has also been noted for further compliance.

CHAPTER III

Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies

NIL

CHAPTER IV

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT'S
REPLIES HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE**

NIL

CHAPTER V

Observations/ Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited

Observations/Recommendations(Para No 3)

NEED for special schemes for the socio-economic realities of NER

One issue in NER identified by the Department is lack of target population in adequate numbers or lack of demand from the States to absorb funds completely. In this scenario, the Committee are of the view that the Central Ministries/Departments should formulate/devise schemes specific to NER taking into account unique needs and aspirations and socio-economic realities of the local people, to avoid lapsing of their 10% GBS. Moreover as MDoNER has also endorsed the view that remaining funds can be used in some other schemes, the State Departments need to follow the advice. Hence the Committee desire that the Ministry plan a video conference with the NER states on the matter and advise them accordingly in future.

Reply of the Government

Ministry of DoNER, during the quarterly review meetings under 10% GBS, has requested all State Governments to send their suggestions/ changes they require in the existing schemes of various Central Ministries/ Departments directly to the concerned Ministries/ Departments with a copy to MDoNER so that NER-specific schemes can be designed and existing schemes can be modified suitably. The response of the State Governments in this regard is not very encouraging. All Ministries and Departments have been requested to extend maximum handholding support to the NER states and the Ministries have agreed to do so. Matter will again be taken up during subsequent review meetings.

Comment of the Committee Please see Para 8 of Chapter-I

NEW DELHI;

August, 2023
Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL
CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES (2023-2024)

The Committee sat on Monday, the 7th August, 2023 from 1500 hrs. to 1530 hrs in Room No. '52-B', First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal – Chairperson

MEMBERS

2. Kunwar Danish Ali
3. Shri Sudarshan Bhagat
4. Shri P. P. Chaudhary
5. Shri Dilip Saikia
6. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Kashyap
7. Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanji Kundariya
8. Shri K. Muraleedharan
9. Shri Kamlesh Paswan
10. Dr. K.C. Patel
11. Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat
12. Shri Jual Oram
13. Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma
14. Shri Pratap Simha
15. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh
16. Smt Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo
17. Shri R.K.Singh Patel

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Anita Bhatt Panda | - | Additional Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Muraleedharan. P | - | Director |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee then took up for consideration and adoption of the following three draft Reports:

- (i) XXX XXX XXX
- (ii) Action Taken Report on the subject 'Estimates and Policy Aspects of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region'; and
- (iii) XXX XXX XXX.

3. The Committee after due deliberations adopted the draft Reports. The Committee, then, authorised the Chairperson to finalize the draft Reports and present the same to Lok Sabha.

The Committee, then, adjourned.

APPENDIX II

ANALYSIS OF Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 18th Report of the Committee on Estimates (Seventeenth Lok Sabha)

(i)	Total number of recommendations/observations	11
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government: (Sl. NO. 1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and 11)	10
	Percentage of total recommendations	90.91%
(iii)	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply: (NIL)	00
	Percentage of total recommendations	00%
(iv)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee: (NIL)	00
	Percentage of total recommendations	00%
(v)	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final reply of Government is still awaited: (Sl. No. 3)	01
	Percentage of total recommendations	9.09%