

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3614  
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2002  
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN STATES  
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

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

(a) whether special emphasis is being laid by the Government on the development of North-Eastern States during the Tenth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposals, scheme-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER, DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION ( SHRI ARUN SHOURIE )

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

The Approach Paper to the Tenth Five year Plan adopted by the National Development Council aims to ensure enhancement of adequate consumption of food and other consumer goods, access to basic social services especially education, health, drinking water and basic sanitation, expansion of economic and social opportunities for all, reduction in disparities, greater participation in decision making etc. In the light of the objectives laid down in the Approach Paper, State Governments of the North Eastern Region have identified priority areas in their Tenth Plan. The strategies proposed for achieving the objectives include inter alia increased efficiency, providing an environment for private participation, adopting policies that would spur a wide range of economic activities that will generate employment.

Central Government has a predominant role in the development of the North Eastern Region. As an initiative for the development of the North Eastern Region including Sikkim, all the Central Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) have been earmarking at least 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the States. Emphasis would be on full utilization of the earmarked fund by the respective Ministries for development of infrastructure and provisioning of basic services in the region.

The role of North Eastern Council (NEC) is important for balanced development of the region. In the Tenth Plan by the NEC will focus inter alia on completing on-going priority works, initiation of a few major projects to have better impact on areas of intervention instead of taking up large number of small projects, better monitoring and improvement in the execution of projects, improvement of the air connectivity within the region.

In addition to the above emphasis would be for better implementation of the Hill Area Development Programme for designated Hill Districts of the region to improve the living conditions of hill people by providing roads, communication services, health care services, water supply, education facilities etc.

Emphasis would also be for better implementation of the Border Area Development Programme to take care of the special problems faced by the people living in the border areas and provide assistance to the states for removal of the critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure.