

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3059
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
EXPLOITING NATURAL RESOURCES IN NER
Suklabaidya Shri Lalit Mohan

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to exploit the vast natural resources of water bodies and natural gas in the North East Region for generating power;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) the funds likely to be allocated for this purpose; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for overlooking these resources for the economic development of the region?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d): It is accepted as a policy that the vast resources of water-bodies and natural gas in the North Eastern Region have vast potential to generate power. As per information received from Central Electricity Authority, the total identified hydro-electric potential in the North Eastern Region is 63,257 MW. The capacity which has been developed is 1179 MW. The major capacity under construction is 3453 MW. In addition, there are several small power projects in the State sector. The capacity of the gas/HFO based power projects in the pipeline is 810.1 MW. The Planning Commission have informed the Ministry that expenditure during the Xth Plan by the power sector in the North Eastern Region is estimated at Rs. 3743.98 crores.

Having taken cognizance of the vast potential for power generation in the Region, the North Eastern Council decided in its last meeting in New Delhi in November 2006 to convene a special sectoral meeting of the Council to specifically discuss the issue with the stake holders. The meeting is scheduled to be held at Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh on 16-17th January, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister to DONER and all CMs/Governors of the North Eastern Region have been invited to attend. Besides, NEC have also decided that the Union Ministry would review the power sector in the region with all concerned on a monthly basis.