

12.02 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER
REVITALISATION OF NORTH
EASTERN COUNCIL**

Title: Statement regarding revitalisation of North Eastern Council.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the North Eastern Council (NEC) was established in 1972 through an Act of Parliament, The North Eastern Council Act, 1971, for securing the balanced development of the North Eastern Region, and for inter-State coordination. In addition, the Council was entrusted with the task of reviewing the measures taken by the North Eastern States for the maintenance of security, and public order in the Region. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. Those who want to go out, please go silently.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: The NEC Act was amended in 2002. The amended NEC Act provides that NEC will function as the Regional Planning Body for the North East and will formulate specific projects and schemes, which will benefit two or more States. In addition, the NEC will review the implementation of projects and schemes, and recommend measures for effecting coordination in the matter of implementation of such projects and schemes. The NEC Act also provides that NEC will review the measures taken by the North Eastern States for the maintenance of security and public order, and make necessary recommendations to the States.

Pursuant to a decision of the Union Cabinet in July 2003, to include, *inter alia*, 'Revitalisation of NEC' in the list of Priority / Thrust items for 2003-04, and a directive to the Ministry of DoNER to draw up a time-bound Action Plan for its implementation, an 11-Member Committee was constituted to recommend measures to operationalise the revised mandate of NEC, and to revitalise it.

The Committee held wide ranging consultations with Members of the North Eastern Council, senior State Government officials, intellectuals, Civil Society Groups, Members of Parliament from the North East and other stakeholders in the North Eastern region including senior officers of various Ministries of the Government of India, and the Planning Commission. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government on 30th July 2004.

The Ministry of DoNER examined the Report of the Committee in consultation with concerned Ministries and Departments. The Government of India has, by and large, accepted the recommendations of the Committee. The recommendations relate to the organisational and functional restructuring of the NEC Secretariat, setting-up of sectoral empowered committees, measures for regional planning for sustainable growth and development, financing of the regional plan from GBS in place of the NLCPR, measures for implementation of the regional plan, monitoring and evaluation of development projects, role of NEC in border trade, and operationalising NEC's mandate relating to security and public order.

The Government has also accepted the recommendations relating to the nomination of the Minister, Development of North Eastern Region, as Chairman, NEC. Similarly, the recommendations relating to the nomination of three Members of NEC has also been accepted. It has also been decided to nominate Member (North-East), Planning Commission as one of the Members of NEC. The nomination of the remaining two Members will be based on their experience of North Eastern Region and expertise in socio-economic planning. The nominated Members will be given the same status, terms and emoluments as are being enjoyed by the Members of the Planning Commission.

The aforesaid decisions taken by the Government will go a long way in restructuring and strengthening NEC to enable it to play its role more effectively as a catalyst in the process of sustained economic growth and development of the North Eastern Region.
