

**Brief on the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the Editors  
Conference**

- To synergize the process of development of the region, the Central Government created the Department of Development of North Eastern Region in 2002, subsequently elevating it to the level of a full-fledged Ministry. The Ministry has come to play an ever increasing role and responsibility for taking the NER to the position of equal eminence in the growth story of the country. It is seen as a catalyst in mobilizing focus and efforts in accelerating development in the Region.
- DONER is coordinating the mandatory allocation and spending by Central Ministries for the NER. As a result of this, the budgetary provision for the North Eastern States in Central Plan of various Ministries / Departments has steadily increased from Rs.3211 crore in 1998-1999 to about Rs.16,342 crore in 2009-10.
- The Ministry of DoNER is also mandated to coordinate with various Ministries/Departments primarily concerned with development and welfare activities in the North Eastern Region. The Ministry has organized Special Summits in major sectors like power, road, rail, air connectivity, tourism, inland waterways, flood & erosion control, commodities, HRD, sports, art, culture, telecommunications, information technology, agriculture and banking. The Ministry of DoNER is regularly following up the conclusions arrived at through a process of reviews at the level of Hon'ble Minister, DoNER and Secretary DoNER. The reviews involve the Central Ministries/Organizations concerned and State Governments.
- The Ministry is actively engaged in meeting the infrastructure needs of the Region through its Scheme of Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources. Under the Scheme, up to 31.03.2010, 1121 projects have been taken up for implementation and Forty Two (42) projects have been sanctioned under special package for BTC Area. The total approved cost of these projects is Rs.8625 crore.
- Ministry of DoNER is seen as a catalyst in mobilizing focus and efforts in accelerating development in the Region. The process of development cannot be sustained solely through Government intervention. The private sector participation is most essential. Ministry of DoNER is providing the necessary platform for the private sector to interact thereby paving the way for future investments. The Ministry has been encouraging this process by organizing North East Business Summits to showcase the potential of the North Eastern Region. It has also initiated the process of attracting private investment which includes foreign investments. As a result of these endeavours more than Rs. 7,000 crore of investment has been mobilized.

- Besides indicating gaps and directing investments, Ministry of DoNER is also involved in monitoring the implementation of important projects and schemes in the North-East. Apart from regular coordination, the Ministry is closely monitoring the implementation of certain key infrastructure projects assigned by the Prime Minister.
- The Ministry has taken the initiative to organize Development Seminars in the backward districts of the North-East Region. The Seminars are attended by officials of major Central Ministries apart from senior officials of the State concerned and public representatives. The Development Seminars provide vital inputs from the grass-roots for planning and development by different agencies.
- The Ministry is implementing a North Eastern States Roads Project to be assisted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Total cost of the project in the first investment programme is US \$ 298.6 million. A total length of 522.6 kilometres of roads and bridges covering six (6) NE States is proposed to be taken up for construction/upgradation.
- The North Eastern Council has taken up important programmes/ projects in power, transport and health sectors. It is providing gap funding to Air India for operation of ATR flights in the Region. Improvement of 10 airports in NEER, viz., Guwahati, Lilabari, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Silchar, Tezpur, Imphal, Agartala and Umroi (Meghalaya) was taken up during 10<sup>th</sup> Plan. Improvement of seven airports have already been completed and works on Silchar, Dibrugarh and Umroi are in different stages of progress. The Council provided a project support of nearly Rs. 2500 crore during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan and nearly Rs. 1800 crore during the first 3 years of 11<sup>th</sup> Plan.
- Ministry of DoNER has sanctioned the development of Tezu Airport at a cost of Rs.79.00 crore during 2009-10, to be funded through NEC's budget. The project is being implemented by the AAI. The airport will be ready for ATR-72 type aircraft operations by March 2012.
- The North Eastern Council has played a major role in the economic upliftment of the region through infrastructure development in the power sector. The increase in generation capacity of North East has been made possible due to the active involvement of the North Eastern Council. The NEC since its inception has contributed a total of 673.50 MW of capacity addition (630 Hydro & 43.50 thermal), which is about 30 % of the present installed capacity. With the commissioning of the new generation project of the Baramura Gas Based Thermal Power project (unit-V) in Tripura a capacity addition of 21 MW will further be added to the present installed capacity. The total investment in the projects has been of the order of Rs.2734.96 Crores, out of which the NEC's share is 64.50%, i.e. Rs.1764.09 Crore. In addition to generation, NEC is also supporting transmission and distribution networks.

- NEC also supports institutions like Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, Regional Dental College, Guwahati, Regional College of Nursing, Guwahati, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati, Government Ayurvedic College, Guwahati, etc.
- The NEC has implemented a Project called 'North Eastern Community Resource Management Project (NERCORMP)' with financial support from International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD). The main aim of the project was to provide supplementary income to the families living in project area. The project was under carried out in six districts in Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur.
- NERAMAC, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has been playing a significant role by sourcing, procuring & marketing cash crops like ginger, fresh pineapple, cashew nut etc from the farmers & growers of the North Eastern Region. It has taken up its role as a dynamic and vibrant marketing organization essentially to support the farmers of North East. It endeavors to give importance to sustain farmer's interest in production by application of post harvest technology thereby arrest decline in prices arising from larger output of farm produces.
- NEDFi, the premiere development financial institution of the NER, functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of DONER. NEDFi has positioned itself not merely as a lending institution but also as an agency providing escort and other support services to the first time entrepreneurs of the Region to acquire competitive edge. The Corporation has taken several skill development initiatives for regional development in addition to its core business of providing term finance to industry and infrastructure. Significantly, the Corporation has been able to extend financial assistance to projects spread all over the eight North Eastern states in consonance with the market demand, in a wide spectrum of sectors, e.g., power, hospitality sector, infrastructure, etc. Since its inception, NEDFi has laid emphasis on inspiring entrepreneurial spirit by promoting first generation entrepreneurs including women entrepreneurs and designed schemes exclusively to suit them.
- The NEHHDC, a PSE under DONER , plays an important role in promoting the NE arts and crafts through its showrooms in various cities and by organizing exhibitions. It is also involved in organizing training programmes for the artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs.
- The Ministry of DoNER is conducting a number of programmes for the people of the North Eastern Region for acquiring skills and competencies. The basic objective is to provide skills and competencies for self-employment and employability and also assist in providing any other specialized inputs

required for Human Resource Development in sectors. The Ministry has tied up with national and regional institutes and centres of excellence like National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida, National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Kolkata, Central Institute of Plastic Engineering Technology (CIPET), Guwahati and Imphal, Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGET), Engineering Projects (India) Ltd., New Delhi, Tool Rooms at Indore, Jamshedpur, Aurangabad and Ahmedabad, Central Tool Room & Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar and Organisations, like NEDFi, Guwahati, Apparel Exports Promotion Council (AEPC), Gurgaon and Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments (IDEMI), Mumbai etc. to impart training to the youth and officials from the State Government in various sectors.

- The Central Government has agreed to extend the relaxation of LTC Rules to allow non-entitled Central Government employees to travel by air and to convert one block of HTC to LTC for travel to the NE States for a further period of 2 years after the expiry of present relaxation on 1-05-2010.

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