

10.4 NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL (NEC)

29. The NEC was set up in August, 1972 under an Act of Parliament for ensuring a balanced and coordinated development of the North-Eastern States. The Secretariat of the NEC is located at Shillong. The Council is meant to be an advisory body to discuss the matters of common interest to the Union and North-Eastern States, formulate a unified and coordinated regional plan (in addition to the State Plan), and review the implementation of projects and schemes included in the regional Plan.

30. The projects recommended and financed by the NEC are implemented by the State Agencies or by the Central Public Sector Undertakings / Organizations. The NEC Plan funds consist of Central Assistance, Loans from the LIC and SLR borrowings. Since its inception, the NEC has been giving much importance to infrastructure development projects like transport and communication sectors and power development. Projects with inter-State ramifications have been given priority. In the Ninth Plan, the NEC is focusing its attention on (i) Development of productive infrastructure; (ii) Completion of on-going projects on priority basis; (iii) Development of manpower through strengthening of technical and professional institutions; and (iv) Timely completion of projects covered under the PM's New Initiatives announced for the North Eastern Region etc.

31. To make the Council more effective, it has been felt necessary to redefine its role and also to restructure it. The restructuring of the NEC has been receiving attention and appropriate legislative action to amend the NEC Act is under process. The Ninth Plan outlay for the North-Eastern Council is Rs.2450 crore. During 1998-99, against an outlay of Rs.471 crore, the actual expenditure was Rs.368.55 crore. The revised budget estimate for 1999-2000 was Rs.425 crore. The budget estimate for 2000-01 has been fixed at Rs.450 crore.