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## **INITIATIVES BY THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN STATES**

(Source – Ministry of Development of North East)

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Ministry of Development of North East has been consistently pursuing its efforts towards development of North East through various development measures and projects under the schemes formulated by the Government of India for development of socio-economic infrastructure in the North Eastern Region. In this process 7<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Summit of the North Eastern Council was held in Kohima on 31<sup>st</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August wherein position with reference to Telecommunication, Information Technology, E-Governance was dealt with in detail and following conclusions were reached:-

### **Telecom Sector**

- i) DoNER to take up the matter of restriction on mobile telephony within 0-500 metres of the international border with the Ministries of Home and Defence in the light of the peculiar situation of the Region.
- ii) Regarding stringent requirements for verification of customers, the suggestion to use the electoral photo identity card as proof of identity may be examined by the Department of Telecommunication in consultation with the MHA. Other similar ideas may also be explored to enable the people of the North-East to have hassle free and quick connection.
- iii) BSNL will take steps to introduce online billing facility in the Region and quick incorporation of payments made to overcome multiple billing and settlement disputes.
- iv) To address the lack of adequate skilled manpower in the NER, the North Eastern Council in consultation with BSNL and other service providers will consider setting up of a Regional Institute for Training of Telecom Personnel, preferably at Dimapur.
- v) The Department of Road Transport and Highways as well as the State Governments should examine and give effect to the proposal for providing service ducts in all new roads and existing roads where widening work is undertaken to facilitate and economize the laying up and maintenance of cables and to minimize disruption.

vi) The large number of check posts and long procedures lead to avoidable delays and increase the cost of transportation. The States should streamline the system which should be made uniform for the whole Region.

vii) The states should have a single window, time bound and efficient system for according clearances for laying of cables. Restoration charges should be rationalized so as to not become deterrent.

viii) The pros and cons of underground cable network *vis-à-vis* other alternatives like PGCIL Cable, submarine cable and a cable through Brahmaputra should be clearly studied by the BSNL in view of the peculiar conditions in the Region. Ministry of DoNER should ask the PGCIL to include in their proposed study of the transmission needs of the Region, the utility of the network from the point of view of providing alternate connectivity on their cables.

ix) State Electricity Boards should give priority to ensure regular, uninterrupted and quality power for running the telecom and IT network.

x) DoNER should constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of. Shri P.P.Shrivastav, Member, NEC, for better coordination and synergy among various stakeholders with a view to achieve optimum results at accelerated pace by identifying problems, integrating networks and resolution of conflicts.

xi) The States should facilitate acquisition of land for setting up of telecom infrastructure and also provide security for the officials wherever required.

### **Information Technology**

(i) The North-East States should endeavor to develop themselves into preferred IT destinations by creating an enabling environment with appropriate policy intervention and PPP models.

(ii) The IT industry should not be misled by the false portrayal of the North-East as a Region beset with terrorism and insurgency. The fact is that large swathes of the Region have impeccable law and order situation. Ministry of DoNER and the NE States should take appropriate measures to dispel such a notion from the minds of potential investors.

(iii) Quality infrastructure should be created to position the Region as an attractive and viable destination for the IT industry.

(iv) The states should give highest importance to use IT to lift the quality of life of their people, particularly in the rural areas.

(v) The States should take appropriate measures for promotion of local entrepreneurship in IT. A scholarship based system of identifying, nurturing and promoting IT talent should be introduced.

(vi) The North-East Region should position itself to become the back office for the Southeast Asian and Far East Asian countries.

(vii) The IT industry is likely to have much lower attrition rate in the Region as the people are generally attached to their heritage. The States and the NASSCOM may highlight this crucial aspect which is becoming a major concern of the industry.

(viii) The State Governments are unable to find resources for running the CICs and are requesting for the extension of status-quo for a few more years. Further, questions were raised regarding the viability of converting the CICs into CSCs at many places. The Department of Information Technology should take into account the concerns of the states before taking a final decision.

(ix) The DOEACC, an autonomous society of the Department of Information Technology, has centres at Aizawl, Imphal, Tezpur (with extension centres at Guwahati and Kohima). The centres should be established in all the States of the Region.

(x) The Government should work towards a One India Plan for Bandwidth so that the North-East States do not suffer from this handicap.

(xi) The IT and Higher Education Departments in the NE States should extend requisite support to NASSCOM for the NASSCOM Assessment of Competence in IT Skills. They should remain fully involved with the whole process since it has long term implications for employment, training and modification of curriculum. NEC and North Eastern Regional Educational Council should sensitize the Vice-chancellors of Universities and College Principals for sensitizing the eligible students for taking NAC.

### **E-Governance**

i) Many of the NE States do not provide IT enabled citizen centric services at present. National Informatics Centre has to upgrade existing technical support to the North-East States for e-Governance. The States should provide content as well as update it regularly.

ii) The States should undertake Capacity Building programmes for employees at all levels.

iii) For optimum utilization of the CICs (CSCs afterwards), awareness campaigns should be organized in remote and interior areas.

iv) DIT should expeditiously resolve the issue of State Wide Area Network with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and the network should be in place for all the NE states by 31.03.08.

### **Other initiatives**

a) The Eighth Sectoral Summit of the North Eastern Council on the North Eastern Council on Education, Art & Culture and Sports was held in New Delhi on 20-21 August 2007. The Summit was attended by senior functionaries of the State, including Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers and senior officials, apart from representatives of the Central Ministries. A number of important recommendations emerged as a result of the extensive deliberations which Ministry of DoNER will follow up with the Ministries concerned.

b) As a follow up of the decisions taken in the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit on Telecom & IT, the Ministry has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.P. Shrivastav, Member-NEC, to suggest ways for expanding and improving the quality of telecom and IT services in the Region. The Committee has been asked to submit its Report within three months.

c) The Ministry is taking follow-up action in the aftermath of the visit of Thai Commerce Minister to the NE in June 2007. A Joint Working Group, co-chaired by Secretary, DoNER and the director General, Department of Trade Negotiations of Thailand, has been established for overseeing the organization of the North East India Investment Opportunities Week to be held during the first week of October 2007. Secretary, DoNER attended the first meeting of the JWG in Bangkok on 16.8.2007 to finalize the issues and arrangements connected with the event. In this regard, Minister, DoNER also took a review meeting with the Ministries concerned on 3.8.2007.

d) As part of its mandate for Capacity Building, the Ministry has sponsored 240 candidates for training in a variety of disciplines like Architecture, Electronics, Dress Making, etc. at Regional Vocational Training Institutes of the Ministry of Labour & Employment. The courses, which are of 1-2 years duration, commenced in August 2007. The Ministry also organized a one-week training programme for government officials in micro-financing at the National programme for government officials in micro-financing at the National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NISEBUD), Noida of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Industries.

e) In order to create awareness about the rich biotic wealth of the North-East, the Ministry supported an Agri Biotechnology Seminar organized by ASSOCHAM in Kolkata on 3.8.2007.

f) Secretary, DoNER held an inter-ministerial meeting on 6.8.2007 to discuss matters pertaining to the Look East Policy and the Role of the North-East in this regard and two meetings on 28.8.2007 to follow up the progress of the recommendations made in the Summits on Power and Inland Water Transport.

**INITIATIVES BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS FOR FRIENDLY,  
POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN INDIA AND  
BANGLADESH**

(Source – NE Division, Ministry of Home Affairs)

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1. The Eighth Home Secretary Level Bilateral Talks between India and Bangladesh were held in New Delhi on 2-3 August, 2007 in a warm, friendly, positive and constructive atmosphere.
2. During the meeting, both sides approached all issues on the basis of mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's position and sensitivities, on the basis of reciprocity and mutual confidence. Both sides renewed their commitment to ensure that co-operation between the two countries is further widened, and to address issues of concern in a spirit of mutual understanding.
3. Both sides strongly condemned terrorism and extremism and underlined the need to strengthen the existing bilateral arrangements. Both sides also agreed to revive the mechanism of the Joint Working group (JWG) at the level of Joint Secretaries in the Ministries of Home Affairs and decided that the meetings could be held at regular intervals alternatively in India and Bangladesh.
4. Noting that terrorism is a common threat, it was reiterated that the use of the territory of either country would not be allowed for terrorist and criminal activities, both sides agreed with the necessity of real time exchange of actionable information between the security agencies of the two countries, in addition to the existing mechanisms of information sharing between the BSF and BDR.
5. Both sides agreed to initiate swift action on information received about groups and elements and other fugitives from the law of either country taking shelter in the other country.
6. On the issue of incidents of border firing and death of unarmed civilians during such firings along the border, both sides expressed satisfaction at the improved situation along the border in the recent months and agreed to take appropriate steps to further improve the situation.
7. Both sides expressed the need for initiating cooperation in the field of capacity building of police forces, carry forward the cooperation in the field of countering drug trafficking, the talks ended on a note of satisfaction and

commitment on both sides to carry the process of further widening and deepening bilateral relationship between the two countries forwarding a significant and meaningful manner.

### **Other initiatives**

(i) Negotiations between the representatives of the Government of India and the NSCN were held at Dimapur, Nagaland on July 31, 2007. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere with free and frank exchange of views.

NSCN expressed that people were concerned for an early conclusion of the talks. After reviewing the status of the talks and the ceasefire, it was decided to extend the ceasefire indefinitely, with effect from August 1, 2007, subject to progress in the talks. Both sides agreed to strengthen the monitoring mechanism to ensure that the ground situation remains conducive for the continuance of the ceasefire.

(ii) A Tripartite meeting of the representatives of the Government of India, Government of Assam and United People's Democratic Solidarity (UPDS) was held on 30.07.2007. The meeting reviewed the functioning of the Suspension of Operations (SOO) arrangement and observance of agreed ground rules.

After discussion it was mutually agreed to extend the SOO agreement by Six months beyond 01.08.2007.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH BY NATIONAL HYDRO POWER CORPORATION – CONSTRUCTION OF HYDRO PROJECT** (Source – Ministry of Power)

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NHPC the largest Central Govt. hydro power utility in India, presently implementing 13 projects with installed capacity of 5655 MW in the country is constructing 2000 MW Subansiri Lower HE Project the largest hydro project of country in Arunachal Pradesh. The project sanctioned by Govt. of India in Sept. 2003 at an estimated cost of Rs.6285 crores is under active stage of implementation. In addition of Subansiri Lower, NHPC has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh on 24.6.2007 for execution of Dibang Multipurpose Project (3000 MW) costing about Rs.14530 crores and Tawang I & II HE Project (1500 MW) costing about Rs.6600 crores. These projects involve an investment of about Rs.27,000 crores in coming years in Arunachal Pradesh which is the largest ever investment made by NHPC in any state.

On completion, Subansiri HE Project, Dibang Multipurpose Project and Tawang-I&II will be generating annually 7421 MU, 10668 MU & 6636 MU respectively. On completion of all the above four projects the revenue earned by

the beneficiary state/s will amount to about to Rs.600 crore in the form of 12% free power. Subansiri Lower HE Project will be commissioned in 11<sup>th</sup> Plan itself while Dibang and Tawang projects will be commissioned in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan and beyond.

With execution of these projects by NHPC whole North Eastern region will have benefits both tangible and intangible in nature. The local project area will have the benefits like development of public health center, school, and community center. Resettlement and rehabilitation package of these projects will include providing financial assistance for construction of cattle shed or poultry farm, Agriculture land depending on availability, subsidy for seeds/fertilizers / land management, vocational training to the locals, preference in allotment of shops in NHPC's shopping complex, Special measure for tribal and renovation / relocation of religious structures. With the implementation of these basic amenities like road, communication network, electricity, medical facilities will improve in North-Eastern states.

Prior to NHPC, Brahmaputra Board was implementing the projects in Arunachal Pradesh. Ministry of Water Resources in the year 2000 had handed over Lower Subansiri projects (7300 MW) comprising Subansiri Lower, Subansiri Middle and Upper projects as well as Lower Dihang (Siang) projects (13400 MW) comprising Lower Siang, Middle Siang and Upper Siang projects to NHPC. NHPC has been engaged since then in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, conducting S&I and preparing DPRs of projects in Subansiri, Siang, Dibang and Tawang basins. NHPC has so far prepared Pre-feasibility Reports of 25 schemes with an installed capacity of 17403 in Arunachal Pradesh under the '50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiatives' of Government of India.

### **INITIATIVES BY MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ TO REDRESS REGIONAL IMBALANCE IN DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS.**

(Source – Ministry of Panchayati Raj)

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#### **(i) Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme**

The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme covers 250 districts across 27 States in India. The programme is designed to redress regional imbalance in development. The programme has two components, one a capacity building fund of Rs. 250 crores per annum and two, an united development grant. Panchayats and Municipalities are the units of Planning and implementation under the Programme.

The programme covers 25 districts in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. These districts

are Upper Subansiri in Arunachal Pradesh; Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Dehemaji, Golpara, Hailakandi, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Marigaon, North Cachar hills in Assam; Chandel, Churachandrapur and Tamenglong in Manipru; Ri Bhoi, South Garo Hills and West Garo Hills in Meghalaya; Lawangtlai and Saiha in Mizoram; Mon, Tuenang and Wokha in Nagaland; Sikkim North in Sikkim; and Dhalai in Tripura. The districts in Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura and three of the districts in Assam, namely, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar and North Cachar Hills are not covered under parts IX and IX A of the Constitution was set up by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in pursuance of the decision taken at the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee for financial and administrative empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006. The Committee submitted its interim report recommending the institutional mechanism for implementation of the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme in these areas. Alternative provisions applicable to these areas were accordingly included in the Chapter 5 of the Programme Guidelines on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee. The Programme Guidelines can be accessed at Ministry's website, [brgf.gov.in](http://brgf.gov.in).

**(ii) Release of Activity Mapping Document by the Government of Assam.**

The Constitution (Article 243 G) provides for devolution i.e. the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to function as institution of self government for twin purposes of (i) making plans for economic development and social justice for their respective areas (ii) implementing programme for economic development and social justice in their respective areas, for subjects devolved to the PRIs, including those listed in the Eleventh schedule and subject to such conditions as the State may, by law, specify. While the States have enacted laws to devolve functions to the PRIs, these remain largely on paper in the absence of identification and assignment of the activities, which each level of Panchayat is to perform, and the lack of corresponding transfer of funds and functionaries to the Panchayats to perform those activities. The Government of Assam has done a detailed Activity Mapping exercise and issued a notification on 25.6.2007. The document describes the functions and each activity within each function assigned to the Zila, Anchalik, Gaon Panchayat with details of the functionaries devolved to Panchayats. The Activity Mapping includes the Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Indira Awas Yojana, Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, National Rural Employment Guarantee programme, Mid Day Meals Scheme, 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Grants and the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme. The State Government has however, not yet indicated the budgetary transfer to match the functional devolution. This is a vital missing element without the devolution of functions will remain a paper exercise. However, this is a good beginning.

## **LAUNCHING OF RURAL BUSINESS HUBS (RBH) - INITIATIVE TO COMBINE VALUE ADDITION TO THE INHERENT SKILLS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH PRODUCTION AND MARKETING FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD**

(Source - Ministry of Panchayati Raj)

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### **Rural Business Hubs (RBH)**

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) launched a Rural Business Hubs (RBH) initiative to combine value addition to the inherent skills of local community with production and marketing capabilities of CII member companies so that sustainable livelihood and incomes could be augmented for local craftsmen, farmers, producers, etc. The RBH initiative envisages quality rural products like handloom, handicrafts, agro products, herbal products, bio-fuels etc. finding a place in the market and withstanding competitions from products of large and established corporates. The joint initiative aims at the extension of fruits of economic liberalization to the residents in the rural areas of the country. RBH works on the platform of 4 Ps i.e. Public-Private-Panchayat-Partnership meeting the following essential criteria:-

- must be actively facilitated by the Panchayati Raj Institutions(PRI);
- must be a business activity;
- must be carried out in rural areas;
- should create productive livelihood and incomes; and
- should generate new employment.

Under this scheme area specific craft and products are identified on the basis of expression of interest and recommendations of Panchayats, State Governments, Handicrafts Division of the Ministry of Textiles and organizations like NABARD. Member companies of CII are encouraged to enter into Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with the concerned Panchayats and facilitators for establishing Rural Business Hubs and thereby ensuring product/skill development, quality management, processing and marketing of rural products and crafts with a market oriented approach.

Till date, more than 950 products/blocks have been identified, listed out and provided to potential investors. About 97 MoUs have been signed in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh on different products viz. processed food, milk, handlooms, handicrafts, garments, carpets, weaving, blue pottery, stone carving, bio diesel, Decentralized Power Generation Units, Rural BPOs etc.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2007, for the first time in the entire North-eastern region, two RBH MoUs have been signed at Dimapur in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister for Panchayati Raj. YAS & DoNER and Chief Minister, Nagaland. One MoU was

signed between Jaipur Rugs and Jalukie Town Council in the field of carpet making and the other was signed between the Nagaland Foods Pvt. Ltd. and Ungma Village Council Mokokchung in the field of horticulture.

to be continued

## **NEWS NOTES**

### **a) Administration at doorsteps in remote areas**

Setting a fine example of good governance, the state government of Tripura is physically sending officials in the process of reaching out its administrative benefits to the remotest corners of the state which are very difficult to access. Bishwopara village in the Amarpur sub-division in south Tripura, located across the famous Dumbur Lake, is so remote that the nearest market, Nutan bazaar, takes a good 4 hours of trekking with the nearest regular administrative office 6 kms away. Here, despite the terror spread by the many militants who come here, create disturbance and slip away to Bangladesh regularly, as also the fact that the weed ridden lake is very difficult to cross by boat or any other method, officials are regularly going and attending to the people.

Aided by security forces who are ever ready to guard the officials against any attack by hidden militants, the officials take doctors along and hold free medical camps wherein the entire populace gets checked and treated. The villagers are given free medicines and ration. Students are given free books and other study materials. Introduction of solar energy has ensured that the people are able to run their appliances unhindered.

Over 300 families of this remotest village have benefited from this present camp here.

### **b) New Achievements in Field of Higher Education in Tripura**

With a literacy rate of 80.14% (above national average) Tripura is one of the North-Eastern states which is striving hard to keep abreast of the national pace of development. When it comes to higher education it is not ready to lag behind. The academic deluge started with the establishment of two Medical Colleges, NIT. Central University continues with yet another series of openings. The picture of recent achievement in this field is stated below.

### **c) Tripura Institute of Technology**

Tripura Institute of Technology (TIT) is a new addition in the field of technical higher education in Tripura. Inaugurated by the Chief Minister Manik Sarkar on August 16 at the Narsingarh Polytechnic Institute, the new Degree

College of Engineering began its journey with a capacity of 240 seats consisting of civil, mechanical, electronics and telecommunication and computer science streams. With this it will be the third institute after NERIST and Kokrajhar Institute to offer both degree and diploma courses. This institute has a total capacity of 750. However, for smooth running of the institute a separate administrative block for TIT will be constructed. For this purpose a plan worth Rs.9.47 crore has been taken. The building will be constructed this year only.

**d) Khumullwng Government Degree College**

To accommodate the ever-rising number of students at graduation level in general category the government has come up with yet another degree college at Khumulwng. This degree college was inaugurated by the Chief Minister on August 20 amid much fanfare and enthusiasm. Since it has been set up in the ADC headquarters it will facilitate educational development especially among the tribals.

**e) Led by Baichung Bhutia, India wins Nehru Cup 2007**

India's stupendous victory in the just concluded Nehru Cup captained by 31 year old young icon from Sikkim Baichung Bhutia has pushed in fresh adrenalin in the blood of thousands of football lovers and players of our North East. Like most of the football players of our region, Baichung too comes from a lower middle class rural background – his home is in a sleepy little village called Tinkitam in South Sikkim. This footballing tornado could never risen to this level had he not received a scholarship and hostel facility from the Sports Authority of India at the age of nine years. Baichung has played for some of the leading football clubs of the country, including East Bengal and Mohun Bagan (where he plays even now) Apart from Baichung, the Indian national team of 12 players which won the Nehru Cup 2007, had four more players from the North East.

**f) Multiplex Cinema Hall opens in Guwahati**

Despite the many attempts by the militants to destabilize Guwahati, the city has shrugged off the fear of miscreants and have gone ahead to try and live life kingsize. The Guwahati of today presents the picture of a vibrant city on way to become a full fledged modern day metropolis. Wide and clean roads with flyovers have replaced many potholed narrow lanes, and plush airconditioned shopping malls have given a new meaning and joy to shopping. To make life more enjoyable and offer evening entertainment even to the common people, the State Government started giving permissions to open up multiplexes from April this year. August 31<sup>st</sup> saw the opening of a glitzy multiplex, Fun Cinemas in the city. Although starting with Hindi movies, the multiplex promises to be a boon for Assamese cinema by way of offering platforms to showcase regional films as well. Many more multiplexes are being planned in Guwahati and Shillong to start with, other NE States would follow.

**g) Mobile Revolution in Mizoram**

North East has always been considered as a remote, distant place. But it's not the case now. Technology is a great leveler. Mobile revolution has bridged the physical distance and brought the place emotionally and technologically closer to the rest of the nation. This is the story of modern Mizoram.

It's the new language and new mode of communication that is redefining the relationship amongst the Mizos and between Mizo and the rest of the country. The new Gizmos have also changed the old worldview and brought about a new type of dynamics in the relationship. The service provider which operates in southern Madurai is also there in Mizoram. This has really reinforced the connectivity and unity of the whole nation.

"I think that mobile phone is very useful for me. Because I have to go out all the time meet people all the time but now I can do my job through mobile phone. And people can easily reach me over the phone."

Today mobile shops in their thousands have mushroomed in the area which provide a wide range of handsets, from hi-tech ones to the less expensive and simple ones. The capital city Aijawl alone has over fifty nine thousand mobile users for a population less than ten lakh and the number of landline users is fast declining. This is an indication that Mizoram is on the verge to revolutionize satellite communication.

**h) India Posts starts freight service in the NE**

Aiming at providing quality freight service to the North East, the Department of posts has started its own freighter aircraft service through India Posts, to ferry mail, parcels and logistics between Kolkata - Guwahatii - Imphal and Agartala from August 29<sup>th</sup>. The first freighter which has been put into service is a Boeing 737 leased from Indian. This will carry a payload of 15 tonnes at a time.

**READERS COLUMN**

Ministry of Home Affairs would welcome inputs for the NE Newsletter from the Government agencies, institutions and individuals highlighting the area specific problems, special features including potential for tourism, environmental protection, developmental aspects or special efforts as could contribute to the socio-economic development of the North East. The views of intellectual/professionals like minded people in North-Eastern State highlighting area specific potential/problems and possible measures for resolution thereto are also invited.

It is requested that special articles/columns should be sent in a hard copy format accompanied by floppy/CD version. Special articles should be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150-200 words. Papers should not have been simultaneously submitted for publication to another journal or news paper. Readers are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (300-400 words) on published articles to the Readers column. All letters should have the writer's full name and postal address.

### **LETTERS TO EDITOR**

With due respect, I beg to state that I came to know that you are publishing a monthly magazine "NE Newsletter" free of cost. Therefore I request you to send the magazine as regularly at the given address.

Shri Samir Kumer Banik,  
Sc./Teacher,  
Govt. School, Kutsapo,  
Phek, Nagaland.

The NE Newsletter magazine really gives a good opportunity for collecting various important information on the plans/projects/schemes undertaken and implemented by the Government of India, for all round Socio-economic development, particularly for the people of the North East Region of India through NEC and State Governments concerned. It is only helpful to know the policy and programmes of the Central Government but also a kind of valuable gift. Sir, when I was in Nagaland with my husband on that time in every month I use to read out this magazine regularly, but now I am in West Bengal (Burdwan) that is why I cannot get this magazine to read. So, I would like to request you that kindly send me NE Newsletter copy free of cost as regularly at the given address then I shall be very grateful to you.

Smt. Swapana banik,  
Budbud, Burdwan, West Bengal

I am a regular reader of your above cited newsletter that immensely benefited me from long time. I appreciate all the matter published in your newsletter. You have also been regularly sending the copy to my office address. But recently my office has been shifted to the following address:-

Dr. Probin Ch. Acharya,  
Director,  
ABITA Gramin Krishi Unnayan Prakalpa,  
Rajgarh link Road-1, Guwahati, Assam

I have learned that Ministry of Home Affairs, NE Division brings out a monthly 'NE Newsletter'. Kindly allow me to owe a copy of each publication of the said magazine.

N.R. Singh,  
R.F. Govt. College,  
Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh- -792120