

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL SECRETARIAT
NONGRIM HILLS SHILLONG**

No. NEC/PLAN/I-10/2015

Dated the 6th February, 2015.

To

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar - 791111
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Guwahati - 781006
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Imphal - 795001
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong - 793001
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl - 796001
6. The Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland, Kohima - 797004
7. The Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok - 737101
8. The Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura, Agartala - 799001

Subject: Submission of Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC funding for the year 2015-16

Sir/ Madam,

This letter is for seeking the Annual Priority List for NEC funding for the year 2015-16. The detailed guidelines for preparation of Annual Priority List of projects was sent to the States vide letter No. NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013 dated 22nd November, 2013 and a subsequent guideline for reflecting regional planning issues was also issued vide letter No. NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013 dated 11th April, 2014. However, for ready reference copies of the guidelines are enclosed herewith.

2. It may be mentioned that during the first 3 years of 12th Five Year Plan period the budgeted amount for NEC has been constant at Rs. 770 crore. Further, in 2013-14 at RE stage it was reduced to Rs. 700 crore (10% cut) and in 2014-15 the same has been reduced to Rs. 579 crore (25% cut). Due to the massive cut in 2014-15, NEC has been able to sanction only a few new projects to the States out of the priority lists. Considering the cuts in the Plan budget, most of the projects retained from 2014-15 priority list would be sanctioned only in 2015-16.

3. In view of the low annual plan allocation of NEC this is to request you to kindly prepare the Annual Priority List of projects for NEC funding for 2015-16 by limiting the number of projects proposed to a realistic level of just one or 2 projects per

sector. The list may kindly be sent by 28th February, 2015 and should invariably be accompanied by Concept papers in the prescribed format as given in the guidelines.

Enclo: as above

Yours faithfully,



[[W. Synrem]

Economic Adviser (E&M) &
Link Officer for Planning Adviser

No. NEC/PLAN/I-10/2015

Dated the 6th February, 2015

1. The Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar - **791111**
2. The Commissioner & Secretary, P&D Development, Government of Assam, Dispur- **781006**
3. The Principal Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Mlanipur, Imphal-795001
4. The Principal Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong - **793001**
5. The Secretary, Planning & IProgramme Implementation Department, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl - **796001**
6. The Commissioner & Secretary (P&D), Government of Nagaland, Kohima - **797004.**
7. The Additional Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok-**737101**
8. The Principal Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala - **799001**



[D. Khound]

Economic Adviser (HR) &
Link Officer for Director (Planning)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL SECRETARIAT
NONGRIM HILLS SHILLONG – 793003

No. NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013

Dated 22nd November, 2013

To

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar – 791111
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Guwahati – 781006
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Imphal – 795001
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong – 793001
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl – 796001
6. The Chief Secretary, Government of Nagaland, Kohima – 797004
7. The Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok – 737101
8. The Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura, Agartala - 799001

Subject: Submission of Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC funding for 2014-15

Sir/ Madam,

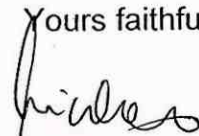
It has been the experience in NEC that the Annual Priority List of projects for NEC are received late from some States. Further, the number of projects proposed by some States are numerous and far in excess of the entire Annual budget of NEC. Furthermore, some of the proposed projects are not accompanied by Concept Paper which is essential for consideration by the State Government for inclusion in the Annual Priority List compiled and finally shortlisted by the State Planning Department.

Given the above circumstances, NEC has worked out “**Guidelines for Preparation of Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC Funding**” which is enclosed for guidance for preparation and submission of the Annual Priority List to NEC.

This is to request you kindly to prepare the Annual Priority List of projects for NEC funding for 2014-15 and submit the same by 31st December, 2013 positively.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully,




[Ameising Luikham]
Secretary, NEC

No. NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013

Dated 22nd November, 2013

Copy along with enclosures to:

1. The Secretary, Planning, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar – 791111
2. The Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & Development, Government of Assam, Dispur- 781006
3. The Additional Chief Secretary, Planning, Government of Manipur, Imphal – 795001
4. The Principal Secretary, Planning Department, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong – 793001
5. The Additional Secretary Planning, Government of Mizoram, Aizawl - 796001
6. The Addl. Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Planning & Co-ordination Department, Government of Nagaland, Kohima – 797004
7. The Additional Secretary, Development Planning, Economic Reforms & NEC Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, New Secretariat, Development Area, Gangtok – 737101
8. The Secretary, Planning & Coordination Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala - 799001


[J. Lhungdim]
Planning Adviser, NEC

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS FOR NEC FUNDING BY THE NORTH EASTERN STATES

1. Introduction:

The Guidelines for preparation and submission of "Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC Funding" have been worked out based on the NEC General Guidelines approved in the 58th NEC Plenary and the "Thrust Areas for NEC" approved in the 62nd NEC Plenary. These Guidelines have been necessitated to bring about clarity for facilitating preparation of annual priority list of projects for NEC funding by the north eastern States and also to smoothen the process of retention of projects by NEC.

2.1. Background:

The North Eastern Council (NEC) was set up as a Regional Advisory Body through the NEC Act, 1971. Following an amendment of the NEC Act in 2002, it became a Regional Planning Body. With the release of the Vision-2020 document by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2nd July 2008, which encapsulates the aspirations of the North Eastern people, it became incumbent on the State Governments in the region and the NEC to effectively live up to the expectations brought out in the Vision Document. In this regard, Section 4 (1) and 4 (2) of the amended NEC Act, which brings out the general direction for preparation of schemes and projects, and is relevant to project formulation is reproduced below:-

" (1) The Council shall function as a regional planning body for the north eastern area.

(2) While formulating the regional plans for the north eastern area, the Council shall give priority to schemes and projects which will benefit two or more States:

Provided that in case of Sikkim, the Council shall formulate specific projects and schemes for that State including the review of implementation of such projects and schemes."

6)

2.2. The NE States should therefore keep in view the above provision of the NEC Act while formulating proposals for taking up projects with NEC funding in the States.

3.1. Infrastructure and Thrust Areas:

NEC's intervention in the field of regional development in the NE Region has been predominantly confined to critical infrastructure related sectors like transport & communication and power. However, besides creating critical infrastructure, NEC has also been taking up schemes under the health, irrigation & flood control, industries, tourism, human resource development, science & technology, agriculture & horticulture, fisheries sectors and art & culture, etc. In order to bring about uniform and balanced development among the constituent States, a number of "Thrust Areas" were identified and approved in the 62nd NEC Plenary.

3.2. These are:-

- (a) Development of Cash Crops and fruits with focus on increasing the area of cultivation.
- (b) Popularisation of Science and Mathematics for school children to promote science and technology related professional studies.
- (c) Sponsoring youth for skill development for employment.
- (d) Providing stipend to students for nursing courses.
- (e) Promotion of Information Technology education in schools for students to have competitive edge for higher studies.
- (f) Development/upgradation of district industrial estates for promotion of value addition of locally available produces.
- (g) Increase preparedness for natural disaster management and mitigation of hazards.
- (h) Increase usage of remote sensing and GIS applications for planning, implementation and monitoring of projects.

3.3. Vision-2020 document has captured and outlined the aspirations of the people of the north eastern region. The States while formulating projects should keep in view the recommendations contained in the document.

3.4. In the beginning of every Five Year Plan, an exercise is carried out by the Working Groups in NEC which go threadbare into the performance and efficacy of various schemes and programmes of NEC implemented by the States in the NER. The NEC Working Group Reports which are circulated to all NER States contain several recommendations for consideration of implementation during the Five Year Plan period. State Governments in the NER should formulate and propose projects envisaged in the Working Group Reports.

3.5. State Governments in the NER should therefore, as far as possible, formulate and propose projects from the Thrust Areas, Vision 2020 Document and Working Group Reports having regional character that benefit more than one State in the NER. Small, diverse and stand-alone projects should be avoided.

3.6. State Governments while formulating project proposals should ensure that the synergy, convergence, sustainability, management of natural resources, etc. are explored and given due consideration for incorporating these aspects in the projects.

3.7. Innovative projects should be proposed in the form of pilot projects and should have demonstrative effect for replication in the State and by other NE States.

3.8. As regards critical infrastructure projects, States should note that such projects are normally identified in the beginning of each Five Year Plan period and such projects already included in the list for the FYP should not be proposed in the Annual Priority List. These projects normally entail heavy financial investment exceeding Rs.15 crore and are processed by NEC for obtaining in-principle approval from the Planning Commission and SFC/EFC clearance/approval from the Ministry of DoNER.

4.1. Sectors and schemes under NEC:

The Plan outlay for NEC is allocated every year by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance based on the Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) for NEC plan for

8)

FYP. The annual plan of NEC approved by the NEC Plenary every year includes projects of regional nature which are implemented through various Central public sector undertakings/Central organizations and institutions. Besides this, NEC also implements projects through the State Governments in the NER which falls in the sectors and sub-sectors listed in Annexure-I.

4.2. Accordingly, the State Governments should formulate and propose projects for the Annual Priority List which fit into the sectors and sub-sectors.

5. Project Cost:

NEC normally supports projects that do not exceed Rs.15 crore. The practice of clubbing many projects into one to increase the size of the project or the practice of splitting one project into many to bring it within the financial powers of NEC is not acceptable. Each location specific project would be counted as one. Projects costing above Rs.15 crore fall normally under critical infrastructure category and are processed by NEC through the SFC/EFC forum and such projects may not be included in the Annual Priority List.

6. Funding pattern:

Projects supported by NEC shall be in the ratio of 90:10 between NEC and State Government. It will be assumed that the State Government is ready to provide the State share for projects included in the Annual Priority List of projects to be funded by NEC. However, for gap funding the share of NEC would be lower than 90%.

7. Preparation of Priority List of Projects:

The following process shall be adopted for preparation of annual priority list:

- a) Each State will propose through the Planning Department, an “Annual Priority List of Projects” for NEC funding in the next Financial Year latest by 31st December of the preceding year. The Planning department should ensure that the proposed project originates from the concerned line department which will be implementing the project. Priority list once submitted shall, normally, not be changed or modified.

- (9)
- b) The Annual Priority List of Projects shall be accompanied by a Concept Paper for each project as per the Template/Proforma enclosed in Annexure - II. The concept paper should invariably accompany a "No - Duplication Certificate" that the project has not been taken up or is proposed to be taken up through other schemes/programmes of the Central/State Government or other sources of funding. Retention of any particular project would depend on its soundness. The State priority list will only be a suggestive guide. NEC will not be bound by the serialised priority. Projects in the Priority List which are submitted without Concept Papers in the prescribed template/proforma or the Concept Papers are incomplete/inadequate will not be considered for retention.
- c) States should propose a list of judiciously selected and limited number of projects for each sector keeping in view the current annual Plan allocation of NEC which may be available to the State Governments. Projects of regional nature which benefit more than one NE State shall be given priority for retention.
- d) NEC fund will not supplement or substitute normal plan programmes of either the State Governments or Union Ministries/Departments/Agencies unless and until there are specific reasons to be recorded in writing for an appropriate decision by the competent authority.
- e) Normally project implementation period should not exceed maximum 3-4 years. Long gestation projects should not be encouraged or taken up.
- f) The projects retained by NEC from the Annual Priority List will be communicated by NEC to the State Planning Department with a copy to the line department concerned for sending the DPR to NEC.
- g) If the State Government fails to submit DPR within two (2) months of retention, the project may become liable to be dropped.

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h) Three copies of DPRs should be submitted to NEC through the State Planning Department within two months of retention of projects.

8. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs):

a) Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) having civil, electrical and water supply, plant and machinery estimates should be prepared by the State Department concerned based on the current Schedule of Rates (SOR) and vetted by a competent engineering authority. Such DPRs should be prepared with all the items indicated in the "Check List" circulated by NEC to the State Governments.

b) In respect of DPRs related to Agriculture and allied sector (e.g. plantations, fisheries, animal husbandry, poultry etc.), skill development (e.g. coaching etc.) should be prepared having all the items indicated in the "Check List" which will be circulated separately by NEC.

9. Components/items not funded by NEC:

(a) Staff component, either work charged or regular, shall not be funded from NEC funds.

(b) NEC funds will not be used to fund land acquisition costs.

(c) Purchase of vehicle is not allowed from NEC funds.

(d) No maintenance work/cost will be funded from NEC funds.

(e) No working capital will be funded by NEC.

(f) Monitoring and evaluation charges are not provided to the States. This is done centrally by NEC.

ANNEXURE - I

SECTORS & SUB-SECTOR IN THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL

I	AGRICULTURE & ALLIED
i	Crop cultivation
ii	Spices (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
iii	Horticulture and Plantation Crops (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
iv	Animal Husbandry
v	Fishery
vi	Sericulture and Forestry
vii	Marketing
viii	Augmentation of Community Based Sustainable Livelihood Projects
II	POWER SECTOR
i.	System Improvement (Upgradation/ Improvement/ Construction of Power transmission & Distribution Lines and Sub-Station)
ii	Renewable Resources of Energy (RRE)
III	IRRIGATION, FLOOD CONTROL & WATERSHED MANAGEMENT SECTOR
i	Anti-Erosion, Flood Control and River Management and Water related projects
ii	Survey & Investigation of HEP/MPP, Water Supply related projects
iii	Minor/micro Irrigation projects
iv	Watershed Management projects
IV	INDUSTRIES SECTOR
i	Development/Upgradation of Industrial Infrastructure including that of the Industrial Estates/ Industrial Parks etc. (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
ii	Capacity Building Programmes in the Industries Sector with focus on Development of Entrepreneurship and Skill Upgradation of Industrial Workers
iii	Setting up of Integrated Inter-State Border Trade Centres/ Border Haats
iv	Setting up of Plastic Parks and other downstream Industries arising out of Assam Gas Cracker Plant, Oil Refineries etc
v	Integrated Handloom and Handicraft, Cane and Bamboo Industries

12)

V	TOURISM SECTOR
i	Destination development of important tourist locations (wildlife sanctuaries, sacred groves, Tea Tourism, adventure tourism, Historical/War Tourism, Village/Rural/Eco Tourism & Home Staying etc)
ii	Eco-tourism, Health tourism, Model Villages etc
iii	Events such as familiarization tours for international & domestic tour operators, Tourism Marts, Fairs, Festivals, Conferences related to promotion of tourism
iv	Printing of publicity materials as well as publicity, media campaigns and development of the much needed human resources for manning the different aspects of the tourism industry
VI	TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION SECTOR
i	Construction of Roads and Bridges
ii	Inter State Bus/ Truck Terminus
iii	Conversion of Timber Bridges
iv	Improvement of Airports
VII	MEDICAL & HEALTH SECTOR
i	Support to Specialized Health Institutes
ii	Support for development/ creation of infrastructure for speciality and super speciality facilities in the health centers/ institutes
iii	Support for development/ creation of infrastructure/ equipment for health centers/ hospitals/ paramedical and allied health institutes
VIII	HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT SECTOR
1	DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF SPORTS & YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN THE NER:-
i	Development of Sports and Youth Activities (Playgrounds, Galleries, Stadiums, Sports Hostels etc.)
2	DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SECTOR ACTIVITIES:-
i	Development and Promotion of Educational Activities (Schools & Colleges, Hostels, Laboratories, popularization of Science and Mathematics, Training Institutes etc.)
ii	Development for Social Welfare Sector (Old Age Home, Special needs Home, Orphanages, Shelter Homes etc.)
iii	Skill/ entrepreneurship development Training Programmes including Coaching for Employment and admission to Professional & Technical courses (<i>Thrust area approved by 62nd Plenary</i>)
iv	Teachers' Training Institute and programmes

v	Financial support to Employment Courses in the ITIs and Polytechnic Institutes
IX SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SECTOR	
i	Regional Management Information SYSTEM (RMIS) (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
ii	Support for Remote Sensing Service Centre (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
iii	Consultancy and R&D Programme
iv	Disaster Management programmes (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
v	IT APPLICATION RELATED PROGRAMME
vi	Information Technology Education Programme (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
vii	Public Awareness of Science & Technology (Science Centres, etc <i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
viii	Seismo & Technology & IT Oriented Programme (<i>Thrust area approved in 62nd Council Meeting</i>)
X INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATION SECTOR	
i	Information and Public Relations related Schemes
ii	Preservation and Promotion of Art & Culture
iii	Viability gap Funding for establishing Tribal Museums

ANNEXURE-II

MODEL CONCEPT PAPER TEMPLATE/PROFORMA

	ITEMS	Detailed information
A.	General Information about the Project	
i.	Name of the Project	
ii.	Objectives of the project	
iii.	Estimated Cost of project.	
iv.	Indicate sources and share of funding. (NEC, State share and other sources wherever applicable)	
v.	Availability of land and land size. Indicate clearly whether owned by Govt./leased/donated/community owned etc.	
vi.	Location of project	
vii.	Name of district and sub-division/block where proposed project will be located	
viii.	Proposing/Implementing Department	
ix.	Name of the executing Department/Agency	
x.	Enclose non-duplication certificate	
xi.	Whether the project falls within the Thrust Areas of NEC, Vision 2020 or Working Group recommendations. Specify.	
xii.	If project is of regional nature, give name of States which would also benefit.	
xiii.	If State specific project, give reasons why it cannot be funded from the State Plan	
xiv.	If project is covered under any CSS/Central scheme, name the CSS/Central scheme and give reasons why funding has not been obtained/sought from the Ministry concerned.	
xv.	Give details of convergence with other State schemes/CSS/CS built into the project. If not, state why	
xvi.	Give details of synergy built into the project with other Govt. schemes (e.g. technical and professional assistance).	
xvii.	Indicate sustainability of project including operation and maintenance of assets on completion of project	

xvii	Give details of the existing infrastructure and facilities available in the proposed project location and also in the district and sub-division/block	
B	Justification/ Rationale for the Project	
i.	State the nature and magnitude of the problem faced or the potential to be tapped. Elaborate the problems to be addressed or benefits that will accrue through the project. For social infrastructure project, also give the baseline of socio-economic parameters/indicators to justify the proposal.	
ii.	The development objectives proposed to be achieved	
iii.	Indicate the sections and number of population to be benefitted.	
iv.	For income generating activities/skill development indicate the number of beneficiaries targeted and the methodology for selection of beneficiaries. Indicate nos. of female and male beneficiaries separately.	
C	Project Description & Main Activities	
i.	Sector under which project is proposed (see Annexure-I of guidelines)	
ii.	Project description (Provide a brief write-up on the project)	
iii.	Component-wise cost of Project/main activities (e.g. buildings and other civil works, machineries, tools & equipments, miscellaneous fixed assets, agricultural inputs, training components etc.)	
iv.	List out basic Indicators for measuring achievement / Success of the Project	
D	Physical details	
	Year-wise phasing & Time frame for completion of project	
E	Financial details	
	Year-wise phasing	
F	Indicate if any statutory clearances including forest and Environmental Clearances etc. are required.	

Signature of Concept Paper preparing authority

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL SECRETARIAT
NONGRIM HILLS SHILLONG – 793003

No. NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013

Dated the 11th April, 2014

To

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar – 791111
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Guwahati – 781006
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur, Imphal – 795001
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7. The Chief Secretary, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok – 737101
8. The Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura, Agartala - 799001

Subject: Submission of Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC funding for 2014-15 – Additional Guidelines to fit into Regional Planning and Strategy.

Sir/ Madam,

This is in continuation of letter No. NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013 dated 22nd November, 2013 wherein “Guidelines for Preparation of Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC Funding” was enclosed for preparation and submission of the Annual Priority List to NEC. Subsequently reminders were also sent on dated 20.12.2013, 22.01.2014, 17.02.2014 and 19.03.2014 requesting for submitting the Annual Priority List for 2014-15.

2. NEC has now identified some areas for having “Regional Planning and Strategy for the NER”. It is advised that NE States should propose projects in their Priority List in line with the Additional Guidelines to fit into regional planning and strategy. Copy of the Additional Guidelines along with the areas identified for Regional Planning is enclosed.

3. It is also requested that State Governments which have already submitted their Annual Priority List may revisit the Priority List and submit a fresh list of projects along with Concept Paper in line with the proposed areas for regional planning and strategy.

Encl: as above

Yours faithfully,


[Ameising Luikham]
Secretary, NEC

No. NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013

Dated the 11th April, 2014

Copy along with enclosures to:

1. The Secretary, Planning, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar – 791111
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6. The Addl. Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Planning & Co-ordination Department, Government of Nagaland, Kohima – 797004
7. The Additional Secretary, Development Planning, Economic Reforms & NEC Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, New Secretariat, Development Area, Gangtok – 737101
8. The Secretary, Planning & Coordination Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala - 799001



[D. Khound]

Director (Planning)

Areas identified for Regional Planning for NER

Following an amendment of the North Eastern Council Act in 2002, NEC became a Regional Planning Body with the induction of three full time Members in NEC, of which two have their headquarters in Shillong and one in Delhi who is Member (NE) in the Planning Commission. The general directions to be pursued by the NEC, State Governments in the region and the Central Government for the overall development of the NER have been laid down in the NER - Vision-2020 document and this document, which was released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 2nd July 2008, encapsulates the aspirations of the North Eastern people.

B. With the Vision 2020 in mind, the NEC General Guidelines was formulated and was approved in the 58th NEC Plenary in 2010. One of the important components in the guidelines was the requirement for the NE States to send annual priority list of projects for funding by NEC. It was however noted that, the projects proposed by the NE State Governments were mainly State-specific projects without much linkages to regional planning. For bringing about more clarity in this regard, modified Guidelines for preparation and submission of "Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC Funding" was issued to all NE States vide letter No.NEC/PLAN/I-54/2013 dated 22.11.2013 drawing the attention of the State Governments in the NER to, as far as possible, formulate and propose projects from the Thrust Areas, NER - Vision 2020 Document and 12 FYP Working Group Reports having regional character that benefit more than one State in the NER.

C. In furtherance of the advice for proposing projects of regional character that benefit more than one State in the NER which was re-emphasised in the modified Guidelines for preparation and submission of Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC Funding, areas identified in the first instance for Regional Planning and Strategy for NER are brought out in the guidelines below for enabling the NE States to work towards achieving some common objectives and outcomes for the region. These are apart from the priority of the Central Government for development of major infrastructures in the region. It is important to mention here that the implementation of actionable points in NER Vision 2020 document has reached its midway point and the next half of the period is available for making attempts to achieve the various aspirations contained in the document.

D. **NE States to propose projects in priority list to fit into regional planning and strategy:** While the process for Regional Planning and Strategy on the areas mentioned in the guidelines would be taken up shortly by NEC, the completion of the final regional plan document is expected to take some time. State Governments in the region may therefore

prepare their annual priority list of projects for NEC funding for 2014-15 with reference to the general directions for fulfillment of common aims and goals for the region as contained in the NER Vision 2020 document and this note. NEC would be examining and considering projects submitted by the State Governments with reference to the aims and goals it has identified for the region.

E. The areas initially identified for Regional Planning and Strategy for NER are given below in the guidelines:-

Additional Guidelines for Preparation of Annual Priority List of Projects for NEC funding in line with the identified Areas for Regional Planning and Strategy for NER

1. Background:

The geographical positioning of NER in the midst of five countries encircling 98% of its landmass with more than 5000 kms of international border needs to be converted into an advantage. The emphasis should be for regional planning and strategy to take advantage of the international borders and transform NER into a zone primarily focused on export oriented economic activities with neighbouring countries and to South East Asia and beyond. Such an approach would be in furtherance with the Look East Policy of the Government of India as elaborated in the NER Vision Document 2020.

2. Working towards this direction would require a multi-sectoral approach in creation of enabling environment for sustainable agricultural growth, industrial activities and socio-economic development besides major infrastructure development. It would also require addressing developmental deficits in identified areas to make the region more robust in dealing with the impact of Look East Policy.

3. The areas initially identified for regional planning and strategy are as follows:-

a. Regional Planning for establishment of Special Economic Zones at the borders:

The NER has several roads that lead into the neighbouring countries. Some of the roads have already been developed by the Central Government in cooperation with the neighbouring country concerned and one example where substantial progress has been made is the Moreh – Tamu – Mandalay – May Sot (Thailand) road through Manipur. There are also other border towns in NER where Border

Haats have been developed too and have achieved a healthy degree of cross border trading activities. Such towns where substantial cross border trading have started may be targeted for provisioning of all requisite support facilities to further develop them into full fledged international trading towns which may include establishing Special Economic Zones, proper Land Custom Stations, Integrated Check Posts, Truck and Container Terminals, banking facilities etc. At the same time other locations which have potentials for being developed as a centre for border trade may also be identified. Regional plan should also cover the requirement for improvement and upgradation of road/rail/waterway/telecom connectivity to such towns and beyond.

b. **Regional Plan for establishment of industrial estates/parks:** Central Government has a number of schemes for establishment of industrial estates and IT parks in the States. States in the NER have been sanctioned such projects by the Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of IT, etc. In order to provide the requisite enabling environment for operation of industrial estates and IT parks, various growth centres across the State, specially in the border towns, could be identified. A regional plan and strategy to give impetus for creating enabling environment for establishment of industrial estates is necessary as the NER should be able to produce goods for local consumption as well as exports without which the Look East Policy could face the risk of turning NER into a dumping ground for cheap imported goods. The plan and strategy may also cover IT enabled services, medical tourism, cultural exchange programmes. There will also be a need to suggest policy incentives to be considered by NE States and modification of existing schemes, especially NEIIPP by the Central Government for attracting investments.

c. **Regional Plan for achieving self-sufficiency in selected produces:** The cost of living in NER is comparatively higher than other regions in the country partly due to high transportation cost as several essential produces have to be imported into the region from the mainland. Some of the produces where self-sufficiency may be

targeted could be in production of eggs, poultry, fish, meat, vegetables and fruits. A Regional Plan and strategy could be worked out for intensification of cultivation of such crops, fruits and rearing of birds and animals along with hatcheries, nurseries for planting materials etc. and establishment of marketing facilities and food processing units. Irrigation facilities should also be included in the plan for intensification of agricultural activities. Such identified areas could be named as Special Development Zone for taking up suitable projects on mission mode which may also include policy incentives for attracting investments on PPP mode mainly for economic activities for production of packaged products.

d. **Regional tourism plan:** The "Integrated Tourism Master Plan for NER" prepared by TCS has been sent to the Ministry of Tourism. To implement the Master Plan, which has recommended for establishment of 33 regional circuits across the NER, the State Level Project Management Agencies (SLPMAs) are being set up by the Ministry of Tourism. Apart from the regional circuits there is an urgent need to give thrust to the creation of rural tourism by facilitating development of small numbers of home stay houses in villages which have scenic natural beauty and natural eco-tourism settings. The plan may bring out the various options for development of circuits through PPP mode by attracting private investments, community owned approach and Government managed enterprises. Developing medical tourism in the border towns could also be integrated into such plans.

e. **Regional Plan for upgrading educational institutes:** The north eastern region has been witnessing a trend where students migrate in large scale to institutes in other parts of the country in pursuit of higher education causing heavy financial burden to the families. Such migration is not confined to students at university level but also among school going children. One of the reasons for this, apart from many others, is the poor educational infrastructure and lack of good faculty in the NER. Although recently, the Government of India has set up an IIT in Guwahati, an IIM in Shillong, an NIFT in Shillong and a number of National Institutes of Technology (NITs) in the region, these are still found to be inadequate to meet the increasing

demands for seats. To address the issue it would be important to develop a regional plan and strategy which may include providing infrastructure to existing educational institutions in selected cities/towns and transform them into premier educational centres, attract outstanding faculty members to serve in the NER by providing incentives, extend scholarships to students studying in premier educational centres in NER.

- f. **Regional Plan for skill/ vocational studies:** The north eastern States suffer from migration of educated unemployed to other parts of the country in search of skill education and upgradation for better employment opportunities. There is therefore a need for having facilities for providing a wide spectrum of skill training courses in the NER itself. The strategy should include leveraging the strengths of youth from NER in English speaking, music and fashion. English speaking could be improved further through technical collaboration with the British Council for training of college and school teachers in refining their English language and giving them certificates which will make them employable in the neighboring countries. Courses in which the youth from the region has innate aptitude like music, beauty care, health care, fashion design, IT enabled services could be given the thrust it deserves. The plan may cover integrating fine arts like music and culture studies in school education curriculum besides upgrading/ establishing institutes for skill and vocational courses. Institutes like the Central Institute of Vocational Education in Bhopal, Advanced Training Institute in Hyderabad, College of Physical Education in Bhopal, Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Trades in Gwalior, Tata Football Academy in Jamshedpur and many more can and should be replicated in the NER. An enabling environment should be created and incentives and facilities provided so that private education providers are encouraged and attracted to venture into this region for empowerment of the youth.
- g. **Regional Plan for improving access to technical and professional courses:** Youth from the NER are generally found to be weak in mathematics and science and therefore land up pursuing higher education in humanities which limits their

employment opportunities. If the right facilities are available for encouraging youth in NER to take up mathematics and science, it will enhance opportunities for students who will be pursuing courses that will lead them to become doctors, engineers, technicians, scientific researchers etc. This could be achieved if a regional plan and strategy is developed for popularization of mathematics and science among school children in NER. This may include setting up of dedicated institutes for maths and science besides upgradation of infrastructural facilities for maths and science in existing schools right from the primary school level. To demystify science and maths and make it challenging for the school children, the strategy could include setting up science centres, planetarium, scheme for special tuition classes etc.

h. **Development of inter-state roads in the State borders:** Most of the inter-state roads in NER originate from Assam and enter into the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur. There are several such roads where the last mile (a few kilometers) before crossing the border lies mainly in Assam. It has been the experience of the States neighbouring Assam that such roads remain neglected and are left in very poor condition hampering smooth traffic and provoking adverse sentiments from the people of the neighbouring States. Such neglect leads to unhappiness and bad feelings and creates social tensions in the border areas. A regional plan and strategy to develop and maintain the last section of such inter-state roads need to be evolved.

i. **Conduct study on the efficacy of 10% earmarking for NER by Central Government:** After several years of implementation of 10% earmarking of schemes by Central Ministries for the NER, it has become necessary now to conduct a study on such an approach in terms of its appropriateness and efficacy of schemes for NER and make recommendations for improvement in the approach and delivery including a close monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The study may also cover the extent of CSS and Central Sector Schemes availed by the NE States and the difficulties faced in accessing such schemes. As done by the Ministry

of Textiles by launching a North East Textile Policy, other Central Ministries could also consider recommending to the Central Ministries for formulating and evolving North east specific schemes that suits the land and conditions of the NER.

- j. **Study Land Use Policy and practices for replication:** Mizoram is a forerunner in the development of an innovative land use approach in tribal areas which has resulted in scientific planning of land resources, appropriate utilisation of land, regulated use of land resulting in improved agricultural production, augmenting income to the poor farmers and increasing production of raw materials for commercial activities. The New Land Use Policy of Mizoram could be studied for replication in tribal areas in the rest of NER.
- k. **Sports policy for NER:** The National Advisory Council (NAC) has been carrying out several consultations to recommend a Sports Policy for NER. This report could be used to develop a regional plan with State specific interventions for developing sports in NER and promote sports disciplines in States/communities which have the highest potential and natural talent for earning medals in national and international competitions.
- l. **Drawing up of a long term Master Plan for Telecom/ IT Development in the NE Region:** The North Eastern Region suffers from poor telecom and internet connectivity. To leverage the potential of the youth for getting gainful employment in the IT Sector, improvement of mobile telecom services and high speed broadband internet connectivity is very important. For this purpose, one holistic integrated and time bound action plan could be prepared by pooling together the piecemeal works carried out by different agencies like BSNL, private mobile operators, railtel, PGCIL, etc.
- m. **Regional Plan for providing and improving tertiary and secondary health care facilities in NER:** The Central Government has set up NEIGRIHMS in Shillong with the objective of providing tertiary health care treatment for the entire NER. However, patients still continue to travel outside the NER for investigation and treatment. This is causing huge financial burden to the families of the patient and

the objective of setting up a tertiary facility in NER remains unfulfilled. One of the reasons is the lack of good super-specialists in the NER. Given the fact that the majority of the population cannot afford to go outside the NER for specialized medical treatment, strategy needs to be evolved for attracting super-specialists, training specialist to become super-specialists, training nurses and health care workers to assist super-specialists etc. Further, except for the States of Assam and Manipur, all the other six States of the NER are presently facing acute shortage of medical specialists. Practically none of the PHCs and CHCs in these States is having the prescribed number of specialists. A regional plan is needed for ensuring that within a given timeframe, all NE States are in a position to man the secondary health care sector to meet the IPHS manpower standards.
