

NE

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

A Monthly Newsletter on the North Eastern Region of India

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"The greatest curse for a man is to remain a slave. The grossest crime is to compromise with in justice and wrong... the highest virtue is to battle against inequity, no matter what the cost may be."

Subhas Chandra Bose

CONTENTS

- DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION
- PACKAGE OF ROADS AND HIGHWAYS UNDER SPECIAL ACCELERATED ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN NORTH EAST STATES
- REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS
- CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PLASTIC ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CIPET), GUWAHATI, ASSAM
- PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (PWMC), GUWAHATI
- ASSAM GAS CRACKER PROJECT
- CHIEF MINISTER ATTENDS FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN
- BASIC ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON CAPACITY BUILDING TO SELF HELP GROUPS
- EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FOR NORTH EAST REGION (EDF-NER)
- RUBBER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN NORTH EASTERN REGION
- READERS COLUMN
- LETTERS TO EDITOR

DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFERENCE TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

(i) Repatriation of Bru migrants from Tripura to Mizoram

Due to attacks on minority Reang tribals by Mizo villagers, a number of Bru (Reang) families from Western Mizoram migrated to Northern Tripura from October 1997 onwards. The number of such Bru migrants who are sheltered in six relief camps set up in Kanchanpur District of Tripura is about 30,000 (5000 families).

Due to persistent efforts of MHA with Govt. of Mizoram, repatriation process has since started. As a result of regular follow-up on this issue, Govt. of Mizoram has since prepared a movement plan of 2786 Mizoram Bru families from Tripura to Mizoram according to which repatriation of Bru families had been planned in two spells between 18th to 25th and 25th October to 3rd Nov., 2010. However, the repatriation of Bru migrants could not take place in Oct., 2010 because of rains and landslide in Mamit Dist. of Mizoram. The repatriation process started in Nov., 2010 and upto 10th Dec. 2010, 149 Bru families sheltered in relief camps of Tripura were repatriated to Mizoram. As on 13th January 2011, 322 Bru families (about 1877 people) have been repatriated. Additional 450 people are likely to be repatriated. Senior Officers of Ministry of Home Affairs have also been regularly discussing this matter with the officers of Govt. of Mizoram. The position is being monitored at the highest level for early and smooth repatriation process.

Necessary assistance in the form of Grants-in-aid is being provided by MHA to Mizoram State for rehabilitation of Bru migrants in various Districts of Mizoram. During 2010-11, Grants-in-aid of Rs.2.43 crore has been released to the State Govt. Further Rs. 9.97 crore was released in advance towards repatriation process.

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(ii) 11th Meeting of Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh

The 11th Meeting of the Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh was held in Dhaka from 19-20 January, 2011. Bangladesh delegation was led by Mr. Abdus Sobham Sikder, Home Secretary of Bangladesh and Indian delegation was led by Mr. G. K. Pillai, Home Secretary of India. Both the delegations included representatives from the ministries and departments concerned of their respective governments. During his visit, Mr. G. K Pillai called on HE Advocate Shahara Khatun, Home Minister of the Government of Bangladesh. He also called on HE Dr Dipu Moni, Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh.

Issues related to security, border management, and enhancement of cooperation of law enforcement agencies including, smuggling of arms and narcotic drugs, fake Indian currency notes (FICN), activities of extremists and terrorists, insurgency, trafficking of women and children, repatriation of prisoners, border fencing, immigration issues, follow up of the Joint Boundary Working Group meeting, etc. were discussed during the meeting.

Discussions took place on the issues in a free, frank, friendly and cordial atmosphere. Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the current level of cooperation on security related issues between Bangladesh and India. They emphasized on further strengthening of interaction between the authorities of the two countries dealing with security related matters for mutual benefit. Both sides agreed to strengthen border coordination efforts to address cross border illegal activities.

(iii) Execution of Instruments of Ratification of Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

India and Bangladesh signed the Protocols for exchange of instruments of Ratification in respect of Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters; Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons; and Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking on 13.1.2011 in Dhaka and exchanged the Instruments of Ratification. With the exchange of Instruments of Ratification, these Agreements have come into force with effect from January 13, 2011.

PACKAGE OF ROADS AND HIGHWAYS UNDER SPECIAL ACCELERATED ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN NORTH EAST STATES

(Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has been according administrative approval, technical approval and financial sanction for construction/ reconstruction/ widening and improvement of National Highways and other Roads under the National Highways - Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North Eastern States. In this context the works approved and

sanction accorded during the months of September to December, 2010 include the following:-



Serial No.	Details of the work approved	Amount of financial sanction (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Improvement of Hunli-Anini state road (138.50 Km) to 2 lane NH standards in Arunachal Pradesh	198.60
2.	Forest Compensation and shifting of utilities such as electrical power lines and water supply utilities in between Potin to Pangin sector of NH-229 in Arunachal Pradesh	6553.0
3.	2 laning of Pasighat-Pangin Road (NH-229) of the stretch of 28 km to 41.30 km (corresponding to existing km 28.0 to 42.0 km (net length = 13.303 km) in Arunachal Pradesh	6326.72
4.	2 laning of Pasighat-Pangin Road (NH-229) of the stretch of 57.0 km to 71.596 km (corresponding to existing 59.0 km to 76.0 km (net length = 14.597 km) in Arunachal Pradesh	5353.38
5.	2 laning of Pasighat to Singer river from 0.0 km (Pasighat) to Singer river (existing ch. 22.00 km) (net length = 19.887 km) in Arunachal Pradesh	9254.92
6.	Improvement of Roing to Hunli (90 km) to 2 lane NH standards in Arunachal Pradesh	149.25
7.	Construction of road from Boasimla in Arunachal Pradesh to Anada Tea Estate (Pthalipam) in Assam via Dollungmukh circle (100 km) (Phase-I 0.00 km to 25.00 km) of MDR standard under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Inter-State Connectivity (ISC) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh	2436.35

8.	Compensation toward pre-construction activities except forest for 2 laning from Pasight to Singer River from 0.0 km (Pasighat) to Singer River (net length = 19.887 km) in Arunachal Pradesh under Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads and Highways of SARDP-NE	88.69
9.	Forest compensation from Pasighat to Yingkiang road via Mariyang, the State Road connecting Yingkiang district Headquarter with Trans in Arunachal Pradesh	2296.94
10.	Compensation towards pre-construction activities except forest for 2 laning from 57.0 km to 71.596 km of Pasighat-Pangin Section (NH-229) in Arunachal Pradesh	416.56
11.	Compensation towards pre-construction activities except forest for 2 laning from 28.0 km to 41.30 km of Pasighat-Pangin Section (NH-229) in Arunachal Pradesh	225.78
12.	Re-construction/ Raising/ Strengthening of NH-44 from 175.900 km to 191.000 km including construction of paved shoulders in the State of Assam	4646.22
13.	Construction of 2 lane Silchar Bypass with paved shoulders, excluding Bridge across river Barak under SARDP-NE, Phase-A in Silchar NH Division, in Assam.	103.89 crore
14.	Acquisition of Land and Structures, utility shifting, boundary pillars for construction of Hailakandi bypass from 18.800 km to 26.00 km of NH-154 under SARDP-NE, Phase-‘A’ in the State of Assam	1459.00
15.	Periodic Renewal from 54.00 Km to 64.00 Km and from 83.00 to 86.00 (length = 10.00 Km) of NH-39 under Golaghat NH Division in Assam	290.00
16.	Periodic Renewal from 432.00 Km to 439.00 Km, 443.00 Km to 447.00 Km and from 495.526 km to 502.585 (length = 18.059 Km) of NH-37 under Jorhat NH Division in Assam	541.00
17.	Periodic Renewal from 274.00 Km to 279.00 Km, 284.00 Km to 294.00 Km, 294.00 Km to 308.00 Km and from 312.00 Km to 317.00 Km (length = 35.00 Km) of NH-37 under Nagaon NH Division in Assam	838.00
18.	Periodic Renewal from 69.00 Km to 83.00 (length = 14.0 Km) of NH-39 under Golaghat NH Division in Assam	391.00
19.	Periodic Renewal from 5.00 Km to 9.280 Km and from 12.295 Km to 18.00 Km (length = 9.985 Km) of NH-37 A under Nagaon NH Division in Assam	245.00
20.	Periodic Renewal from 0.00 Km to 2.876 Km (UL) (length = 2.876 Km) of NH-54 at Silchar town under Silchar NH Division in Assam	207.26
21.	Periodic Renewal at 38.00 Km to 49.00 Km (length = 12.00Km) of NH-52 under Rangia NH Division in Assam	390.40
22.	Periodic Renewal at 598.000 Km to 618.600 Km (length = 20.60 Km) of NH-37 under Dibrugarh NH Division in Assam	423.00
23.	Consultancy services for detailed project preparation for up-gradation of Ranikor-Nonghyllam- Maheshkhola-Baghmara road to 2 - lane under Phase-A of SARDP-NE, Total length= 139 km in Meghalaya	63.15
24.	Consultancy services for detailed project preparation for up-gradation of Wakhkaji-Phlangdiloin- Ranikor (Tentative Length= 30 km) and Domiasiat- Mawthabah road (Tentative length = 5 km) to 2 lane under Phase-A of SARDP-NE, Total length = 35 km in Meghalaya	22.61
25.	Renewal between 183/00 km to 208/00 km total (16=16) on NH-54 selected stretches in the State of Mizoram	1001.00
26.	Periodical Renewal between km 48/00 to Km 93/00 (Total = 45 km) on NH-44 selected in the State of Mizoram	645.07
27.	Strengthening of existing pavement from 185.000 km to 200.000 of NH-39 (Dimapur-Kohima-Mao-Maram road) in the State of Nagaland	1313.94
28.	Improvement of road to two lanes from Maram to Paren from km 107.650 to 117.057in the State of Nagaland	2045.00
29.	Upgradation of single lane road to intermediate lane from Ramam bridge (West Bengal) to Sombarey under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Inter State Connectivity (ISC) in West Sikkim (length = 29.00 km) in the State of Sikkim	2824.00
30.	Consultancy services for detailed project preparation for up-gradation to 2-lane from 87.00 km to Dalu via Baghmara (141.00 km) (Total length = 117 km) NH-62 under Phase - ‘B’ of SARDP-NE	70.88
31.	Construction of double lane national highway for realignment stretch between 20.00 km to 27.00 km on NH-31A (Sevok - Gangtok road) in the State of West Bengal under Phase - A, of SARDP-NE	11031.00
32.	Consultancy for feasibility study, sub-soil investigation, detailed design and preparation of DPR for the construction of Lohapul viaduct between 14.230 km to 15.131 km (Net length = 410 m) on road Sevoke- Gangtok	41.20

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Republic Day was celebrated with befitting grandeur all over North East with people coming out in large numbers, thus reasserting their faith in the Indian Constitution and defying ban calls and threats by militant outfits. In Assam, the National flag was unfurled by the Governor, Shri J B Pattanaik who presided over the celebrations. Many cultural

items were also performed.

In Manipur, the function was spectacular with lakhs of people lining up on the streets to cheer the marching police personnel, the home guards, the cadets and a whole line up of armed forces personnel, besides school children dressed in

their bright uniforms. This was followed by a truly captivating show of famous dances of Manipur. Both the people from the plains and the hills of the state put up performances and received much appreciation from the large audience. This was followed by tableaux depicting various themes.



Governor Shri Gurbachan Jagat who presided over the function honoured brave police personnel with police medals. Reports have been received about celebration of Republic day with fervent patriotic zeal from other States in the North East India.



CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PLASTIC ENGINEERING & TECNOLOGY (CIPET), GUWAHATI, ASSAM

Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET)- Guwahati started functioning in the year 1999 at Changsari, Guwahati. The new building complex of CIPET, Guwahati was dedicated to the Nation on 26th September, 2002. The academic activities started on 16th August 1999 with the 1st Batch of PGD-PPT students. The institution has hostel facilities. Testing laboratory of the Centre has been accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) and has been recognized by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for testing of Plastic materials and products. The main objective of CIPET is to develop skilled manpower for the plastics and allied industries through various Long-term programs. During the academic year 2010-11, 669 students are undergoing training under various long-term courses viz. Diploma in Plastics Mould Technology, Diploma/Post-Diploma in Plastics Technology and Postgraduate Diploma in Plastics Processing and Testing. Apart from long-term academic programs, the centre is also conducting various short-term Courses/EDP/ tailor-made programs/in-plant training programs etc. to train the unemployed youth of the North Eastern

Region. During the year 2010-11 (upto October, 2010), the centre has conducted 29 short-term programs with 766 participants.

CIPET is equipped with the latest sophisticated plant and machinery for design, development of dies and tools, plastics processing, testing and evaluation of plastics products and CAD/CAM facilities. CIPET has well qualified trained faculty/technical personnel to impart qualitative training in the field of plastics engineering. CIPET renders technology support services to plastics and allied industries in application development, Testing and standardization, information and documentation, setting up of testing laboratories, setting up of tool room/processing industries etc. It engaged expert guest faculties drawn from reputed establishments/organizations on need basis to cater the training required.

CIPET has actively participated in the North East International Platofair 2010 and successfully organized the seminar on “Plastic Materials & End Use Application- Emerging Opportunities in North Eastern Region” during 21st to 24th , May 2010.

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (PWMC), GUWAHATI

Plastic Waste Management Centre (PWMC) - a Unit of CIPET Guwahati has started functioning from August, 2009 onwards. The project has started with an investment of Rs.7.90 Crores. The centre is regularly conducting 6-months job oriented course, “Machine Operator-Plastic Processing & Recycling Technology”. Recently, 160 students sponsored by Ministry of DONER have successfully completed 6 month operator course on

“Plastic Processing and Recycling Technology”. PWMC-Guwahati is also rendering Technology Support Services to NGOs of the region for converting plastics waste into value added recyclates.

The Centre was inaugurated jointly by Shri Srikant Kumar Jena, Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India and Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam, on 22nd July, 2010 in which Shri Bijoy Chatterjee,

Secretary (C&PC), Dept. of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Govt. of India and senior officials from Central & State Governments participated. The Centre has also organized Faculty Development Program on “Plastic Processing” for

the benefit of 20 faculty members of CIPET.

The centre is equipped with latest plant & machinery to cater to the needs of plastic recycling industries and NGO's located in and around Guwahati.

ASSAM GAS CRACKER PROJECT

The Assam Gas Cracker Project was approved by the Government on 18th April, 2006. The project is located at Lapetkata, District Dibrugarh, Assam. The cost of the project is Rs. 5460.61 crores (fixed cost). A Capital Subsidy of Rs. 2138 crores on fixed cost basis (phased during the construction period or 5 years at constant prices) and a feedstock subsidy of Rs. 908.91 crores spread over 15 year operation period at constant prices has been agreed to be provided by the Government of India for this project. GAIL (India) Ltd., is the main promoter of the project with an equity holding of 70%. Oil India Ltd (OIL), Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Assam Industrial Development Corporation (Government of Assam) are the other promoters of the project holding 10% of the equity each. The Feedstock for the project is natural gas and naphtha. Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Oil and natural Gas Commission (ONGC) will supply natural gas, while NRL will supply naphtha. 7.35 MMS/CMD of gas and 1.6 Lakhs tonnes per annum (TPA) of Naptha will be required for the project. The project will produce 2.20 lakhs tonnes of ethylene. The principal products are polyethylene (HDPE)/Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) totalling 220,000 TPA. The project scheduled for completion in April 2012.

The progress made so far is indicated below:

- **Joint Venture Company** :- An agreement for constituting a Joint Venture Company namely 'M/s Brahma Putra Cracker & Polymer Limited (BCPL)' was executed on 18.10.2006. The company was incorporated on 8th January 2007.
- **Appointment of Project Management Consultant** :- M/s Engineers India Limited has been appointed as the Project management Consultant.
- **60 months Project implementation Schedule** :- The project is scheduled for commissioning in April 2012. There were some delays in the initial phases but the implementation plan has been reworked and slippages are being arrested to ensure timely completion. Overall physical progress is 26.4% as on 15.11.2010 against the cumulative schedule target of 50%.
- **Land for the project** :- 1157 acres of land for the plant, BCPL township and CISF Township has been taken possession. Land development & infrastructure works are under progress. Land acquisition for railway siding is expected to be completed soon.
- **Feedstock agreement for gas and for naphtha** :- The feedstock agreement for supply of Natural Gas is signed with OIL & ONGC and for naphtha supply agreement is signed with NRL.
- **Financial closure** :- A Consortium led by Punjab National bank was appointed as lead arranger for

finalizing the financial closure. Financial closure has been successfully completed on 1.10.2009 and load agreements for Rs. 1756 Crores have been signed.

- **Status of licensors' selection for various technology units of the project** :- Contracts have been awarded to licensors for LLDPE/HDPE and PP units. Process Technology Licensors are selected. Basic design and engineering packages have been received from licensors. Material requisition and ordering of equipment and contracts are in progress. All the 16 critical material requisitions (MRs) and 10 critical tenders have been ordered.
- **Major physical activities at the site** :-
 - 33 Contractors are currently working at site.
 - 64 buildings and infrastructure facilities are currently under construction.
 - Construction of bachelor and guest house accommodation, CISF barracks and armory at BCPL Township have been completed.
 - Civil and structural works for all the process units namely cracker, polyethylene & polypropylene units and gas processing, gas sweetening & gas de-hydration units are under progress.
 - Out of the total 56.19 lakhs cubic meter of borrow earth required for site grading including railway siding, 38.69 lakhs cubic meter have been filled as on 15.10.2010. Due to incessant rains, there was constraint to access borrow earth pits. The situation improved due to finding additional earth pit site and good weather conditions.
 - Out of the total requirement of 17,418 piles, 12641 piles have been constructed as on 20.10.2010.
- **Financial Commitment** :- The financial commitment of Rs. 5764.02 crores has been made as on 15.11.2010. Actual expenditure incurred as on 30.11.2010 during the year 2010-11 is Rs. 513.42 crore and cumulative expenditure is Rs. 1267.44 crore.
- **Capital Subsidy** :- Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals released Rs. 37.43 crores during the FY 2007-09, Rs. 100.00 crores during FY 2008-09, Rs. 316.31 crore during 2009-10 and Rs. 512.74 crores during 2010-11. So far, Rs. 966.48 crores has been released to M/s. BCPL towards capital subsidy. An additional amount of Rs. 579 crore approved by the Ministry of Finance in the first supplementary grant during 2010-11, towards Capital Subsidy to AGCP, will be released to BCPL as per their requirement in 2010-11 and balance Capital Subsidy amount shall be drawn as per the project requirement in the year 2011-12.

- **Business Plan for 2010-11 :-** Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited has submitted a business plan of Rs. 2272.32 crores for the year 2010-11. The major activities envisaged during 2010-11 are plant & machinery (Rs. 1547.08 crores), site related facilities (Rs. 340.55 crores), engineering costs (Rs. 113.34 crores), and others (Rs. 42.00 Crores). The proposed funding mechanisms for this business plan are equity – Rs.317.07 crore, capital subsidy – Rs. 923.27 crore, debt- OADB – Rs, 109.30 crores and debt-lenders – Rs. 922.68 crore.

The total cumulative expenditure as on 30.11.2010 is as given below:

2007-08 Rs. 108.43 crores

2008-09	Rs. 112.64 crores
2009-10	Rs. 532.95 crores
2010-11(as on 30.11.2010)	Rs. 571.71 crores
Total	Rs. 1325.73 crores

All other related activities i.e requirement/ engagement of manpower; deployment of CISF personnel at BCPL site; corporate social responsibility activities and revised cost estimate of AGCP beyond approved cost are being reviewed from time to time and a preliminary meeting on revised cost estimate of AGCP was held under the chairmanship of Secretary (C&PC) on 21.10.2010 and 8.11.2010. EIL/BCPL are presently working on the revision of the project cost.

CHIEF MINISTER OF SIKKIM ATTENDS FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN

The Fifth Annual General Body Meeting of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Human Resource Development Department was held in December, 2010. The meeting was presided over by Chief Minister, Sikkim who is also the President of the Mission in the State.

The Chief Minister in his speech said that education is universally accepted as the major instrument to combat the present world and the State Government has put its best to provide possible assistance to the teachers.

Stressing on training of teachers, the Chief Minister said that the task of transformation in the system of education could never be achieved unless the teachers are well trained, satisfied and positive in their work.

Minister HRDD in his speech highlighted the progress made so far by the SSA and added that five schools have been identified as Inclusive Schools for children with special needs at each district.

Secretary HRDD highlighted the progress report of SSA and mentioned that the State is likely to become the first State in the country to fully comply with all the provisions of the Right to Education Act by 2015.

The meeting was attended by the Minister for Health Care, Human Service and Family Welfare Minister, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, Heads of the Department, District Collectors of the four Districts and Senior Government attended the meeting.

BASIC ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON CAPACITY BUILDING TO SELF HELP GROUPS

The Rural Management & Development Department, North District organised a day long basic orientation programme on capacity building to Self Help

Group(SHG) of North District on 17th December,2010 at Zilla Bhawan, Pentok under the centrally sponsored scheme, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FOR NORTH EAST REGION (EDF-NER)

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) organized 8 Export Awareness Workshops (one in each state of NER) with a total estimate of Rs. 16.00 lakhs under EDF-NER (Rs. 2 lakhs each State) for creating awareness on scope and opportunities in NER for exports.

In the meeting of Empowered Committee of EDF-NER held on 26.8.2010, it was decided to organize one day monitoring and mentoring workshop in the each state of NER with an assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakh per workshop to be organized by NERAMAC, NEHDC, NEITCO, MISME, NEDFI and ICC, Kolkata.

RUBBER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN NORTH EAST REGION

Rubber Board is implementing various schemes in the North East for the socio economic development of the local people through rubber planting. Rubber plantations provide large number of employment opportunities to local people both in the immature phase of 6-7 years and the mature yielding phase of around 25 years. The current price of rubber is around Rs. 200/- per kg. On an average, a satisfactorily maintained rubber plantation yields 1500 kg

of rubber per hectare per year in the North East. At a very conservative estimate of 1200 kg/ha/year, the current gross income from one hectare of rubber plantation in NE region comes to Rs. 2.40 lakh and the net income Rs. 2.00 lakh per year at the current price rate. The socio economic as well as ecological benefits of rubber planting in NE region are given below.

Socio economic benefits of planting rubber:-

- Rubber planting is a gainful self-employment activity and a sustainable livelihood system for the youth.
- It generates direct employment opportunities of around 1000 man days during the immature phase and provides permanent job to 7 persons per 10 ha of mature plantation.
- A large number of indirect employment opportunities are also created for setting up nurseries, production and distribution of plantation inputs, intercropping, beekeeping, rubber & rubber wood processing/trading etc.
- Ancillary income through honey, rubber seed and cover crop seed collection/ sale/ oil extraction etc. is possible.
- Rubber plantations have proven to be an effective programme for economic settlement of tribal people in the region.
- When production level increases in the region, there is scope for export of rubber and rubber products to neighbouring countries.

Ecological benefits of rubber planting:-

- Scientifically raised rubber plantations provide a green leguminous ground cover and green umbrella cover that protect the soil.
 - Rubber tree has almost all the attributes of a forest tree.
 - It purifies the atmosphere through carbon sequestration.
 - It improves soil properties through addition of organic matter, keeps the soil cool, and enriches fertility and increases porosity and water intake capacity of the soil.
- In the North East, around 4.5 lakh ha of land is suitable for rubber planting out of which 101685 ha has already been planted by 87528 growers. The following table gives the details of potential area, planted area and the number of growers in the different states of NE.

Potential area, planted area and number of growers in the different states of NE

State	Potential area for planting (ha)	Planted area (ha) 2009-10) -p	Plantation units (2009-10)- (no) -p
Tripura	100,000	55,340	47,108
Assam	200,000	28,118	24,026
Meghalaya	50,000	8,746	8,749
Manipur	15,000	4,155	3,808
Mizoram	50,000	934	709
Arunachal Pradesh	25,000	1,457	1,496
Total	450,000	101,573	87,788

The Rubber Board is promoting scientific rubber planting, harvesting, primary processing and marketing, in the NE region through the various programmes listed below:-

- New planting and replanting of rubber
- Boundary protection
- Setting up demonstration plantation in Farmers' field
- Block planting
- Roller subsidy
- Smoke house subsidy
- Supply of fertilizers and rain guarding materials
- Construction of Group Processing Centre
- Transportation subsidy for latex transportation
- Training of growers, workers etc.
- Tappers training schools
- Short duration tappers training in farmers field etc.

During the year 2007 to 2009 around 51500 growers have planted rubber in 43500 ha in the NE region. Annually around Rs. 15.5 crore is disbursed to the growers of the NE region as planting subsidy. Rubber planting is a livelihood

as well as profit and employment generating activity utilizing the land available within the local people.

Apart from employment generation, rubber cultivation has helped to develop infrastructure facilities like community rubber processing and Trading Centres, District Development Centres, rubber nurseries etc. in different locations in the rural areas of North East. Civil constructions, road, electric lines etc made by the Board for its office cum residential complexes, Regional Research Stations, Training Centres in different parts of NE have contributed in infrastructure development of the localities. Rubber Board is promoting formation of village level associations of rubber farmers and Self Help Groups, which bind the local people and help them solve their problems. Rubber Board acts as a facilitator. The rural youth in NE region who have taken up rubber planting are leading a peaceful life with much better social and economic status.

The Rubber Board funds for all its development, research, training and other related activities, come as Plan allocation from the Government of India.

READERS COLUMN

The NE monthly Newsletter is published in English, Assamese, Bengali and Manipuri and has circulation of 40,000 copies. Ministry of Home Affairs brings out the publication incorporating important information/developments concerning North Eastern States.

Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Newsletter, would request for inputs for the Newsletter from the Government agencies, institutions and individuals highlighting the area specific issues, problems, special features including potential for tourism, environmental protection or special efforts/achievement in various fields. Views and write-ups from general public are also invited on specific issues/problems and possible measures for resolution thereto related to North East.

Articles should be sent in a hard copy format accompanied by floppy/CD version along with photographs. Articles should be accompanied by an abstract of a maximum of 150-200 words. Readers are encouraged to send comments and suggestions (upto

300-400 words) on published articles. All letters should have the writer's full name and postal address. The selected articles will be incorporated in the monthly NE Newsletter in its subsequent editions with due editing and contribution will be welcomed and suitably rewarded.



LETTERS TO EDITOR

1. Please arrange to send free copy of monthly NE newsletter (English) on regular basis on the below mentioned address.

Sd/-
Arun kr. Churiwala,
ANZ Securities,
A.T.Road, Opp. Hotel Palace,
Nr.Siding Rly.Gate,
Tinsukia 786 125 (Assam)

2. Please send me a copy of NE Newsletter regularly in English language at the following address.

Sd/-
Mr. Abhishek Kumar,
Assistant Registrar,
Qtr No. SB-46, South Campus,
University of Hyderabad,

Gachibowli,
Hyderabad-500046

3. Your Newsletter has great importance for me giving information about NE Region. As a development activist and researcher I am grateful to the Newsletter in many ways. I request you to send me the Newsletter in English on a regular basis at my address.

Sd/-
Biva Apartment,
33, R. K Chatterjee Road,
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