

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2704
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

**DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROPOWER POTENTIAL OF
THE NORTH EASTERN REGION**

2704 SMT. S. PHANGNON KONYAK:

Will the Minister of **POWER** be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures being implemented by Government to harness the hydropower potential of the North Eastern Region;
- (b) manner in which these initiatives aim to address the challenges associated with hydropower development in the region; and
- (c) the financial assistance provided thereof?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) : The Government has taken several policy initiatives, for development of hydropower in the country including the North Eastern Region (NER) which are as under:-

1. A number of measures were approved on 08.03.2019 for promoting hydro power viz., (i) Declaring Large Hydro Power (projects with capacity more than 25 MW) as Renewable Energy source (ii) Hydro Purchase Obligation (HPO) as a separate entity within Non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) (iii) Tariff rationalization measures for bringing down hydro power tariff (iv) Budgetary support for Flood Moderation/Storage Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) (v) Budgetary support for Cost of Enabling Infrastructure, i.e. roads/bridges.
2. The scope for budgetary support has been subsequently widened to include the cost incurred for the construction of: **(a)** transmission line from power house to the nearest pooling point including upgradation of pooling substation of State /Central Transmission Utility, **(b)** ropeways, **(c)** railway siding, and **(d)** communication infrastructure.
3. Scheme of Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to fund the equity portion of the State Governments of NER for development of Hydro Electric Projects, capped at 24% of the total project equity subject to a maximum of ₹750 crore per project with provision to revisit the limit of ₹750 crore on case-to-case basis.
4. A number of hydro projects which were stuck up for a long time have been revived during last few years, due to persistent efforts and policies of the Government. These include Teesta VI (500 MW) and Rangit IV (120 MW) in Sikkim and Lower Subansiri (2000 MW) and Dibang project (2880 MW) in Arunachal Pradesh.

5. Waiver of ISTS charges on transmission of power from new Hydro Power Projects as well as Pumped Storage Projects(PSPs).
6. Ministry of Power vide orders dated 22.12.2021 and 11.05.2023 has indicated 58 HEPs with installed capacity of 44.7 GW in Arunachal Pradesh for implementation by hydro CPSUs. Memorandum of Agreement for 13 projects, totaling 12.7 GW, were signed between the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and CPSUs. Out of these 13 projects, investment approval has been accorded for two projects viz., Tato-I (186 MW) and Heo (240 MW).

(b) : These measures are envisaged to be beneficial for development of hydro projects in NER, which are located in remote and far-flung areas and require development of extensive associated infrastructure such as roads, bridges for transportation of heavy, large sized equipment & machinery to the project site. Further, CFA to fund the equity portion of the State Governments of NER for development of Hydro Electric Projects would encourage state governments to resolve the issues of delay in land acquisition, rehabilitation & resettlement and local law & order.

(c) : The details of Central assistance provided for the development of hydropower in the North Eastern States are as under:

1. An amount of ₹175.03 crore towards cost of Downstream protection works in respect of Subansiri Lower HE project (2000 MW) has been released.
2. An amount of ₹546.86 crores has been reimbursed against expenditure incurred towards Flood Moderation component of Dibang Multi Purpose Project (2880 MW).
