

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †3461

To be answered on
Wednesday, March 17, 2021/Phalguna 26, 1942 (Saka)

QUESTION
Look East and Act East Policy

†3461. SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:

SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the targets fixed by the Government for Hon. Prime Minister's ambitious look East and Act East Policy have been achieved;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether any time frame has been fixed in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of
North Eastern Region
[Dr. Jitendra Singh]**

(a) to (d) The 'Act East Policy' announced in November, 2014 is the upgrade of the "Look East Policy" which was promulgated in 1992. It aims at promoting economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop a strategic relationship with countries in Indo-pacific region with a proactive and pragmatic approach and thereby improving the economic development of North Eastern Region (NER) which is a gateway to South

East Asia Region. The policy has been continuously evolving since early 1990s and involves intensive and continuous engagement with South East Asian countries in the field of connectivity, trade, culture, defence and people-to-people-contact at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

Connectivity is an important element of Act East Policy. Efforts in this direction include Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link between India and Bangladesh, Intermodal transport linkages and inland waterways through Bangladesh, Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and the Trilateral Highway Project connecting the North East with Myanmar and Thailand. Under India-Japan Act East Forum, projects such as Road and Bridges and modernization of Hydro-electric power project have been undertaken. Among other initiatives assistance has been extended in the form of medicines/medical supplies to ASEAN countries during the pandemic. Scholarships with offer of 1000 PhD fellowships have been offered at IITs for ASEAN countries participants. India is also implementing Quick Impact Projects in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam to provide development assistance to grass-root level communities in the fields of education, water resources, health etc.
