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THE NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL ACT, 1971

(Act No.84 of 1971)

An Act

to provide for the setting up of a Council for the North-eastern areas of India to be called the North Eastern Council and for matters connected therewith.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Twenty-second year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. Short title and commencement –

- i. This Act may be called the North Eastern Council Act, 1971.
- ii. It shall come into force on such date, being a date not earlier than the day appointed under clause (b) of section 2 of the North-Eastern Areas (Re-organization) Act, 1971, as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

2. Definitions – In this Act unless the context other-wise requires,

- a. "**Council**" means the North Eastern Council set up under Section 3;
- b. "**North Eastern Areas**" means the area comprising the States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura and the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram; and
- c. "**State**" include the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

3. Setting up and composition of the North Eastern Council.

(1) There shall be a Council to be called the North Eastern Council which shall consist of the following members, namely:

- a. The person or persons for the time being holding the office of the Governor of States or the office of Administrator of the Union Territories in the North-eastern areas;
- b. The Chief Ministers of the States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura and of the Union Territory of Mizoram; and
- c. One of the Counsellors to the Administrators of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh appointed under Section 18 of the North-East Frontier Agency (Administration) Supplementary Regulation, 1971, to be nominated by the Administration:

Provided that if there is no Council of Ministers in any State referred to in clause (b) or in the Union Territory referred to in that clause; the President may nominate not more than one person to represent such State or Union Territory in the Council for so long as there is no Council of Ministers in such State or Union Territory.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the President may, if he deems it necessary so to do, nominate a Union Minister to be a member of the Council.

(3) One of the members of the Council to be nominated by the President shall be the Chairman of the Council.

(4) The President may, if he deems it necessary so to do, nominate another member of the Council to act as Vice-Chairman of the Council.

4. Functions of the Council:

(1) The Council shall be an advisory body and may discuss any matter in which some or all of the States represented in that Council, or the Union and one or more of the States represented in that Council, have a common interest and advise the Central Government and the Government of each State concerned as to the action to be taken on any such matter, and in particular, may discuss and make recommendations with regard to:

- a. any matter of common interest in the field of economic and social planning;
- b. any matter concerning inter-State transport and communications;
- c. any matter relating to power or flood control projects of common interest.

(2) For securing the balanced development of the North-Eastern Areas, the Council shall forward proposals;

- i. formulating for the State represented in the Council a unified and co-ordinated regional plan (which will be in addition to the State Plan) in regard to matters of common importance to that area;
- ii. regarding the priorities of the projects and schemes included in the regional plan and the stages in which the regional plan may be implemented; and
- iii. regarding the location of the projects and schemes included in the regional plan, to the Central Government for its consideration.

(3) The Council shall –

a. review, from time to time, the implementation of the projects and schemes included in the regional plan and recommend measures for effecting co-ordination among the Governments of the States concerned in the matter of implementation of such projects and schemes;

b. where a project or scheme is intended to benefit two or more States, recommend the matter in which;

i. such project or scheme may be executed or implemented and managed or maintained; or

ii. the benefits there from may be shared, or

iii. the expenditure thereon may be incurred;

c. on a review of progress of the expenditure, recommend to the Central Government the quantum of financial assistance to be given, from time to time, to the State or States entrusted with the execution or implementation of any project or scheme included in the regional plan;

d. recommend to the Government of the State concerned or to the Central Government the undertaking of necessary surveys and investigation of projects in any State represented in the Council to facilitate consideration of the feasibility of including new projects in the regional plan.

(4) The Council shall review from time to time the measures taken by the States represented in the Council for the maintenance of Security and public order therein and recommend to the Governments of the States concerned further measures necessary in this regard.

5. Meetings of the Council –

1. The Council shall meet at such time as the Chairman of the Council may appoint in this behalf and shall, subject to the other provisions of this section, observe such rules of procedure in regard to transaction of business at its meetings as it may lay down from time to time.

2. The Chairman or in his absence the Vice-Chairman, if any, or in the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, any other member chosen by the members present from amongst themselves, shall preside at a meeting of the Council.

3. The proceedings of every meeting of the Council shall be forwarded to the Central Government and also to the Government of each State represented on the Council.

6. Nomination of Certain Officers to attend the meeting of the Council.

In order to assist the Council in the discharge of its functions, each of the Ministries of the Central Government dealing with matters relating to Defence, Finance, Home Affairs and Planning shall nominate an officer to attend the meetings of the Council.

7. Officers and Staff of the Council.

1. The Council shall have a Secretariat staff consisting of a Secretary, a Planning Adviser, a Financial Adviser and a Security Adviser and such other officers and employees as the Central Government may, by order, determine.

2. The Secretariat staff of the Council shall function under the direction, supervision and control of the Chairman of the Council.

3. The office of the Council shall be located at such place as may be determined by the Council.

4. The Administrative expenses of the said office, including the salaries and allowances payable to, or in respect of members of the Secretariat Staff of the Council, shall be borne by the Central Government out of the moneys provided by Parliament for the purpose.

8. Repeal – The North Eastern Council Act, 1970 (26 of 1970) is hereby repealed.

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Ministries/Departments

- GROUP I Coal; Defence; Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; Information and Broadcasting; Jal Shakti; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Mines; Minority Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs; Road Transport and Highways; Shipping; Youth Affairs and Sports.
- GROUP II Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); Corporate Affairs; Culture; Earth Sciences; Finance; Health and Family Welfare; New and Renewable Energy; Power; Science and Technology; Tourism.
- GROUP III Civil Aviation; Home Affairs; Housing and Urban Affairs; Labour and Employment; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Social Justice and Empowerment; Steel.
- GROUP IV Prime Minister; Atomic Energy; Communications; Development of North Eastern Region; Electronics and Information Technology; External Affairs; Human Resource Development; Law and Justice; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Textiles; Tribal Affairs; Women and Child Development.
- GROUP V Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Commerce and Industry; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Food Processing Industries; Panchayati Raj; Railways; Rural Development; Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.