

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Laying of New Railway Lines

*425. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the proposals received from the Government of Assam and other North-Eastern States for laying new railway lines;

(b) the details of the surveys conducted for laying of new railway lines under North-East Frontier Railways during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) the details of the new rail routes out of the above proposed new railway lines found remunerative and approved;

(d) the funds allocated for the construction of new railway lines under North-East Frontier Railways during each of the last three years; and

(e) the time by which these new railway lines are likely to be laid ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) Proposals have been received from the Govt. of Assam and the other North Eastern States for laying new lines as under :

1. Assam	Lekhapani to Kharsang Dibrugarh to Jorhat via Moranhat Guwahati to Byrnihat
2. Arunachal Pradesh	Mukongselek to Pasighat Harmuti to Itanagar
3. Mizoram	Bhairabhi to Sairang/Aizwal
4. Manipur/Nagaland	Diphu to Imphal via Karong
5. Meghalaya	Dudhnoi to Depa
6. Sikkim/West Bengal	Sevok to Giellakhola-Gangtok
7. Tripura	Kumarghat to Agartala Agartala to Sabroom

(b) The following surveys were conducted for laying of new lines in the North East Frontier during the 8th Five Year Plan :

- Final location survey for new line from Kumarghat to Agartala.
- Construction of new line from Lanka to Silchar with the alternative of gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar.

3. Updating survey for a new line from Diphu to Karong.

4. New line from Lekhapani to Kharsang.

5. New line from Harmuti to Itanagar.

6. Final Location Survey from Dudhnoi to Depa.

(c) None of the rail routes out of the above works was found remunerative but the following works out of the above have been approved.

1. Construction of new line from Kumarghat to Agartala.

2. Gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar.

3. Construction of new line from Diphu to Karong (to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances).

4. Construction of new line from Harmuti to Itanagar.

5. Construction of new line from Dudhnoi to Depa.

In addition, it has been decided to take up construction of Bogibheel bridge on the river Brahmaputra with rail and road links on both sides. The work has been sanctioned and the survey is in progress.

(d) Funds allocation for the construction of new railway lines under North East Frontier Railway during each of the last three years has been as under :

Year	Rupees in crs.
1995-96	40.50
1996-97	36.00
1997-98	81.02

(e) The lines would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. However, projects in the North East are being given priority and efforts are being made to obtain extra allocation of funds for these works from the Planning Commission so that they can be completed early.

Central Investment in Rural Housing

*427. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central investment in rural housing has been enhanced in accordance with the targets fixed and achieved during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Year-wise and State-wise;