

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:322
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011
RAILWAY PROJECTS IN N.E. REGION
Chakravarty Smt. Bijoya

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the inaccessibility, difficult terrain and lack of connectivity in the North- Eastern Region are some of the reasons for the slow progress of railway projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereon;
- (c) the number of railway projects sanctioned and under implementation in the North-Eastern Region during the 11th Five Year Plan alongwith the physical and financial progress of such projects against the targeted date of completion;
- (d) whether the Railways propose to undertake survey work/laying of new railway lines including conversion of M.G. line to B.G. line from Rangai to Lakhimpur in different places of Assam; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith other steps taken to step up investment and implementation of project on faster mode in the North-Eastern Region?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIDINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 322 BY SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25.08.2011 REGARDING RAILWAY PROJECTS IN N.E. REGION.

(a): Yes, Madam. Poor connectivity, bad road conditions, frequent road blockages and adverse law and order situation are adversely affecting progress of the projects.

(b): Railway is maintaining close coordination with State Governments for providing adequate security at the project sites and with Border Roads Organization / State Governments for improvement in road / bridge infrastructure.

(c): During 11th Five Year Plan, 5 New Line projects covering a length of 344.8 Km at an estimated cost of Rs. 7349 Crore and 2 doubling projects covering a length of 65.5 Km at an estimated cost of Rs. 448 Crore have been sanctioned in North Eastern Region. These projects are in various stages of execution and expenditure of Rs. 380 Crore has been incurred on these projects upto 31.03.2011. Projects are progressing as per availability of resources and targets for their completion have not been fixed.

(d): Rangiya-Lakhimpur gauge conversion is a part of already sanctioned Rangiya-Murkongselek (510 Km) gauge conversion project. The project is in progress. Rangiya-Rangpara North section is expected to be completed by March, 2012 and Rangpara North-North Lakhimpur section is expected to be completed by March, 2013. For other sections, target dates are under finalization depending upon progress achieved and likely availability of funds.

(e): To step-up investment and implementation of railway project in North East Region, a dedicated North East Region Rail Development Fund (NERRDF) has been created. NERRDF is a non-lapsable fund with 25% amount from Railway's Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) and 75% from Ministry of Finance as an additionality and it will be utilized for funding of National Projects of North Eastern Region.