

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1809

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013

RAILWAY LINKS WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Ganeshamurthi Shri A.;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details and the present status of progress made in developing railway links with our neighbouring countries including Trans Asian Railway (TAR), country and project-wise;
- (b) whether India and Bangladesh have recently signed any pact to expedite the railway link projects between the two nations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the names of the ongoing rail link projects and the time frame for completion of these projects; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken to improve the rail connectivity with neighbouring countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KOTLA JAYA SURYA PRAKASH REDDY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1809 BY SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE, SHRI B.B. PATIL, SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI AND SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.03.2013 REGARDING RAILWAY LINKS WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

(a) to (d): The development of rail links to neighbouring countries is taken up by Ministry of Railways in close coordination with Ministry of External Affairs. The present status of progress made in developing railway links with neighbouring countries are as under:-

(i) For providing connectivity to Nepal, five routes were surveyed as under: -

S. No.	From	To	Distance	Estimated cost
	(in Kms.)		(in ` Crore)	

1	Jogbani (Bihar)	Biratnagar	18	239
	(Nepal)			

2	Jayanagar	Bijalpura (Nepal)	69	470
	(Bihar) & extn. To Bardibas			

3	Nepalganj Road	Nepalganj (Nepal)	12	149
	(Uttar Pradesh)			

4	Nautanwa	Bhairahawa	15	176
	(Uttar Pradesh)	(Nepal)		

5	New Jalpaiguri	Kakarbhita	46	358
	(West Bengal) via Panittanki			
	(Nepal)			

Out of the five routes surveyed, two projects, namely, Jogbani-Biratnagar New Line and Jayanagar-Bijalpura Gauge Conversion with

extension to Bardibas have been sanctioned. For the Jogbani – Biratnagar project, the work on Indian portion has been taken up. The availability of land in Nepal portion is yet to be confirmed by the Government of Nepal. The Final Location Survey for the Gauge Conversion work of Jayanagar to Bijalpura has been completed.

(ii) For providing connectivity to Bhutan, five routes were surveyed as under:-

S. No.	From	To	Distance (in Kms.)	Estimated cost (in ` Crore)
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1	Hasimara	Phuentsholing (West Bengal)	18	271
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2	Rangia (Assam)	Samdrupjongkhar Via Darranga	48	583
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3	Kokrajhar	Gelephu (Assam)	58	304
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4	Banarhat	Samtse (West Bengal)	23	206
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5	Pathshala	Nanglam (Assam)	51	751
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However, none of the projects are sanctioned at present.

(iii) In Sri Lanka, the work of reconstruction of Railway Lines in northern province from Talaimannar to Medawachchiya has been undertaken by IRCON International Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking of Ministry of Railways, to facilitate better connectivity through the ferry service from Rameshwaram in India to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka and onward to the hinter land of Sri Lanka.

(iv) For providing additional connectivity to Bangladesh, a New Line from Agartala to Akhaura (13 Kms.) has been sanctioned. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for development of railway infrastructure to establish rail link between Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh) was signed between Government of India and the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh on February 16, 2013.

(v) The proposed alignment of the Southern Corridor of the Trans Asian Railway (TAR) enters India at Attari in Punjab from western side and exits at Gede in West Bengal towards Bangladesh and again re-enters at Mahishashan in Assam and will exit at Moreh in Manipur on the eastern side towards Myanmar.

In line with TAR framework, the work of new line between Jiribam and Imphal is under construction. Furthermore, a survey of a new line from Imphal to Moreh has been taken up in 2012-13. It will facilitate the rail link with Myanmar via Tamu and Kalay in Myanmar in the future thereby strengthening the TAR network.

(vi) The completion time of the works will be dependent on land acquisition and availability of funds.