

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3209
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2015
RAILWAY NETWORK
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to connect South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries through railway network for promoting better relations among the nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including Raxaul town; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (c): At present, India has rail connectivity with the following South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

(i) Pakistan: Attari(India)-Wagah(Pakistan) and Munabao(India) – Khokrapar (Pakistan).

(ii) Nepal: Raxaul(India)-Birganj(Nepal).

(iii) Bangladesh:Gede(India)-Darshana(Bangladesh);Singhabad(India)- Rohanpur- (Bangladesh); Petrapole (India) – Benapole (Bangladesh).

Besides above rail links, the details of other identified cross-border rail links are as under:-

(I) Nepal:- Surveys have been undertaken for:

- (i) Jogbani (Bihar)- Biratnagar (Nepal)(18 kms),
(ii) Jayanagar(Bihar)- Bijalpura (Nepal) with extension to Bardibas (69 km),
(iii) Nepalganj Road (Uttar Pradesh)-Nepalganj (Nepal)(12 km),
(iv) New Jalpaiguri(West Bengal)- Kakrabhita via Panittanki (Nepal)(46 km) and
(v) Nautanwa (Uttar Pradesh)-Bhairahwa (Nepal) (15 km).

In addition, a new line from Kushinagar to Kapilvastu (150 km) has also been taken up for survey. Out of the above rail links, Jogbani-Biratnagar and Jayanagar- Bijalpura-Bardibas sections have been sanctioned and construction work taken up. The remaining rail links have, however, not been sanctioned.

(II) Bhutan:- Surveys taken up for:

- (i) Hasimara (West Bengal) – Phuensholing (Bhutan) (18 km),
(ii) Rangia (Assam)- Samdrupjongkhar via Darranga (Bhutan)(48 km),
(iii) Kokrajhar (Assam) – Gelephu (Bhutan)(58 km),
(iv) Banarhat (West Bengal)- Samtse (Bhutan) (23 km) and
(v) Pathshala (Assam)-Nanglam(Bhutan) (51 km).

However, no decision has been taken up on the funding and implementation of these projects.

III Bangladesh:- For providing additional connectivity to Bangladesh, a New Line from Agartala (India) to Akhaura (Bangladesh) (13 km) has been sanctioned. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) for execution methodology has been signed between Government of India and Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh.