

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4308
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015
RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT FUND
Gogoi Shri Gaurav

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have cancelled a number of railway projects because they are not commercially viable in North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have been empowered to take funds from international banks and donors like World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for such railway projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Railways to create the North-East Railways Development Fund?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): All the ongoing projects in the North Eastern Region are commercially unviable but none of the sanctioned projects in this region has been cancelled. In fact, Indian Railways have laid a great emphasis on improvement in Railway infrastructure in the North Eastern Region and accordingly an all time high outlay of over ` 5200 crore was provided for new lines, gauge conversion and doubling projects in North Eastern Region in 2014-15. Again in 2015-16, a still higher outlay of ` 5338 crore has been provided for these projects. In 2014-15, more than 450 km of Broad Gauge track has been commissioned in North Eastern Region.

(c) & (d): The bilateral/multilateral funding agencies like Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) do fund Railway infrastructure projects. However, no Railway projects in the North Eastern Region are currently funded by JICA/World Bank/ADB.

(e): The proposal to set up North Eastern Region Rail Development Fund was not cleared by Controller of Government Accounts, Ministry of Finance.