

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4347

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015

RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have formulated any action plan to improve rail connectivity in the North-East Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated and spent on the construction of rail lines in North-Eastern States during the last three years State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to complete the pending projects in a time-bound manner, project-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Indian Railways have laid a great emphasis on improvement in Railway infrastructure in the North Eastern Region. Accordingly, an all time high outlay of over ` 5200 crore was provided and spent for new lines, gauge conversion and doubling projects in the North Eastern Region in 2014-15 against the total outlay of about ` 15000 crore for all such projects in the country. Again in 2015-16, a still higher outlay of ` 5338 crore has been provided for these projects in North Eastern Region.

Railway projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio- economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands which covers connectivity in backward areas also. Accordingly, funds are allotted project-wise and not region-wise/state-wise. In 2012-13 and 2013-14, outlays of ` 2279 crore and ` 3392 crore were provided and spent for the projects of new line, gauge conversion and doubling in North Eastern Region. With a view to complete the projects in this region expeditiously, Ministry of Railways has enhanced the outlays substantially in 2014-15 and 2015-16. As a result, more than 450 km of Broad Gauge track has been commissioned in North Eastern Region in 2014-15.