

Title: Need to ensure early completion of Agartala-Sabroom extension of Railway Line *via* Belonia project in north-eastern region.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA WEST): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the survey of Agartala-Sabroom Extension of Railway Line *via* Belonia was completed in May, 2000 for a length of 110 km. at an estimated cost of Rs.370 crore. It may be mentioned that this project is not only one of the long-standing demands of the people of Tripura, but it would also connect one of the remotest regions of the country by rail services for both passengers and goods. There is also a possibility of trade through Chittagong Port in Bangladesh, which is only about 75 km. from Sabroom. This could lead to transformation of the North-Eastern region.

I would urge upon the Government to take up the project at the earliest.