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Title: Need to expedite the completion of gauge conversion of railway line from Lumding to Badarpur in Assam.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (KARIMGANJ): Government is aware that people of Barak Valley, Mizoram and Tripura are very much dissatisfied due to the delay and negligence of Railways in conversion of Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge line from Lumding to Badarpur in Assam. There is a strong resentment amongst public of the region which may gather momentum in the days to come as everybody feels that after independence the rail network has developed throughout India except for this region.

This project of conversion, started in 1996, was to be completed by 2006, but railways went on extending the time of completion repeatedly. In this manner, due to one reason or the other, the work dragged on for nearly 18 years, and now the Railways have decided the date of completion as 1st January 2014. People are apprehending that the project will not be completed within this period also.

Therefore, I request the Railway Minister to complete this project within the stipulated time-frame.