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Title: Need to expedite the construction of National Highway No. 54 (E).

SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): The road connectivity of northeastern zone is very poor. In the year 2001 a dream project was sanctioned by the Union Government namely East-West Corridor Project. Under the project, NH-54 (E) is to connect the northeastern states with other parts of the country. Initially government's target for completion of work was 2009, but due to some reason Government further declared that it will be completed within December 2014. Fourteen years have passed, still the project is under construction. The cost of the project has also become high due to delay. Few days ago one of the leading local newspapers has published that construction company namely NKC-JKM(JB) was engaged in the year 2011 for construction work of the road with a length of 40km vide Package number AS-21 and AS-22, from Harangajo to Maibang. The company failed to complete the allotted works satisfactorily till date. On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 project director of NHAI visited that particular area to see the progress of work. But, the problems persisted and looking at the development, it is difficult to say when it will be completed.

On the other hand, mega block for the gauge conversion of railway line from Lamding to Silchar is underway and is to be completed by March, 2015. Road connectivity is the only way of carrying essential commodities of that area. Only four to five months is workable season in that region.

I want to know from the honorable minister the present status of the work and the time by which is it likely to be completed.