

an>

Title: Need to take steps for development of railways in North-Eastern Railways.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue of railways in the North-East. North-East is the most neglected area as far as railways are concerned. There is no double-tracking of railway lines yet in the last 60 years, nor any track has been electrified so far. The Bogibeel bridge which is hanging fire for the last 14 years is still incomplete.

There is another proposal for 4<sup>th</sup> railway bridge over the river Brahmaputra connecting Keshpur and Naogaon. So I want the hon. Railway Minister to take up the electrification of over 2,000 kilometres of railway track on both sides of the river Brhmaputra, to double-track the railway tracks on both sides of the river Brhmaputra and also to separate NF Railway Zone from the rest of Bihar and Bengal and make it exclusively for the northeast zone only. Full employment to the local youths of northeast should be ensured because youths of northeast region are deprived in railway employment.