

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2803
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.07.2019**

ELECTRIFIED RAILWAY NETWORK IN NORTH EAST REGION

2803. SHRIMATI PRATIMA BHOMIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had set any target and length in kms. of the new broad gauge rail network as well as electrification of existing network in the North East States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year and State-wise;**
- (c) whether the Government has plans to run electric trains in the existing electrified tracks connecting these 7 States;**
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;**
- (e) the details of difficulties being faced by the Government in achieving the target set; and**
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to overcome these difficulties?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2803 BY SHRIMATI PRATIMA BHOMIK TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 10.07.2019 REGARDING ELECTRIFIED RAILWAY NETWORK IN NORTH EAST REGION

(a) & (b): As on 01.04.2019, 491 Railway projects including 189 New Lines, 55 Gauge Conversion and 247 Doubling projects are in different stages of planning/ approval/ execution in Indian Railways. The total length of these projects is 48,861 km costing of ₹6.48 lakh crore. The total expenditure on these projects upto March, 2019 is ₹1.43 lakh crore and length commissioned is 9113 km.

Assam and North Eastern Region: As on 01.04.2019, 20 Railway projects including 14 New Lines and 6 Doubling projects falling fully/partly in Assam and North Eastern States, are in different stages of planning/ approval/ execution. The total length of these projects is 1,783 km and costing ₹68,401 crores. The total expenditure on these projects upto March, 2019 is ₹17,685 crores and length commissioned is 353 km. An outlay of ₹3,553 crores has been provided for these projects in Interim Budget 2019-20.

New projects included in Budget, subject to requisite Government approvals, in last 3 years i.e. 2016-17 to 2018-19 in North Eastern Region are as under:

S.No.	Name of project	State(s)	Length (in km)	Year of sanction	Latest Anticipated Cost (₹ in Cr.)	Interim budget outlay for 2019-20 (₹ in Cr.)
	New Line					
1	Salona-Khumtai	Assam	99	2017-18	5958	0.10
2	Sibsagar-Jorhat	Assam	62	2017-18	1296	0.10
3	Tezpur-Silghat	Assam	25	2017-18	3439	0.10
	Doubling					
1	Saraighat Bridge	Assam	7	2017-18	1127	0.10
2	Kamakhya-New Guwahati Quadrupling	Assam	10	2017-18	3062	0.10

Electrification: Ministry of Railways has planned to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) routes of Indian Railways by 2021-22 including North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram.

(c) & (d): At present, no rail route is electrified connecting these 7 States.

(e) & (f): The timely completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities (both underground & over ground), statutory clearances from various authorities, geological & topographical conditions of area, law & order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic considerations, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble Courts, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. and all these factors affects the completion time and cost of the project (which is finally worked out at the completion stage).

In the overall interest of the nation and to ensure that projects are completed in time without cost overrun, lot of monitoring is done in Railways at various levels (field level, Divisional level, Zonal level and Board level) and regular meetings are held with the officials of State Government and concerned authorities to resolve the pending issues that are obstructing the progress of projects.

To ensure that projects are completed even before time, Railway has adopted the concept of incentives to the contractor in the form of bonus clause in contracts which will further enhance the pace of execution of projects.

For important projects, capacity enhancement projects, last mile connectivity etc. institutional financing has been done by arranging loan of ₹1.5 lakh crore, which has increased Railways' capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.

Until and unless complete encumbrance free land is handed over by State Government to the Railways, no confirmed time frame can be fixed for completion of project(s) at this stage.
