

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION. NO. 2086**

TO BE ANSWERED ON  
*Thursday, May 12, 2016/ Vaisakha 22, 1938 (Saka)*

**QUESTION**  
**DEFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORTH-EASTERN REGION**

2086. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- a) whether it is a fact that the entire North-Eastern region of the country is still suffering on account of deficient infrastructure;
- b) whether it is also a fact that the deficient infrastructure in the region has blocked industrial growth of the area; and
- c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to address this problem?

**ANSWER**

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of  
Development of North Eastern Region  
[Dr. Jitendra Singh]

- a to c: Improvement in road, rail, air, communication, waterways and telecom network are essential for development for North Eastern Region. Government has taken a number of initiatives to address the deficit in infrastructure including connectivity projects.
- A. To improve the telecom capacity in the country, the Government has set up International Internet Gateway (IIG) at Agartala, by availing the service from the Bangladesh Submarine Company Ltd. After the formal opening of the International Internet Gateway, Tripura will be the third state in the country to have such a gateway after Mumbai and Chennai. All the North Eastern States are going to benefit from this internet gateway. Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for North-Eastern Region at a cost of Rs.5336.18 crore under implementation under which mobile connectivity in Arunachal Pradesh and 2 Districts of Assam and in other States of North East along with seamless mobile connectivity along all National Highways and augmentation of District optical fibre connectivity are planned to be completed by March, 2018.
- B. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has formulated the Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North-East (SARDP-NE), for upgradation of 10141 km road stretches of National Highways and State Roads in the year 2005-06. Out of 10141 km of roads included under SARDP-NE, 6418 km has been approved by the Government

for implementation under Phase 'A' and the Arunachal Pradesh Package of Roads & Highways, and balance 3723 km has been approved only for preparation of DPR under Phase 'B'. The projects are targeted for completion by March, 2017 for Phase 'A' and March, 2018 for Arunachal Pradesh Package.

- C. Ministry of Railways has taken up 19 major railway projects consisting of 12 new lines, 3 gauge conversions and 4 doubling projects in North Eastern Region. Recently, Ministry of Railways has completed four major projects ie., (i) Harmuti-Naharlagun – connectivity to Itanagar, (ii) Dudhnoi-Mendipathar – Meghalaya (iii) Rangia-Murkongselek - gauge conversion – north bank of Brahmaputra River (iv) Lumding-Silchar – Gauge conversion completed. Two major projects about to be completed: (i) Arunachal – Jiribam – Gauge conversion, (ii) Katakhal-Bhairabi – Gauge conversion.
- D. With respect to the Civil Aviation, there are 11 nos operational airports in the region viz Agartala, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Guwahati, Imphal, Jorhat, Lengpui, Lilabari, Shillong, Silchar and Tezpur. Out of these Guwahati and Imphal are international airports. Guwahati can handle D category aircrafts like A-300 whereas Agartala, Imphal, Dimapur, Dibrugarh, Lilabari, Silchar, Jorhat, Lengpui and Tezpur can accommodate A-320 type aircraft. Shillong airport can handle ATR-72 type aircraft, which is being upgraded for A-320 operation. In addition to this the Greenfield airport at Pakyong (Sikkim) is under construction and development of non-operational airport at Tezu for operationalising which is expected to be completed by Dec.-2017. There is plan to construct a Greenfield airport at Itanagar and development and operationalising Civil Enclaves at Along, Passighat and Ziro subject to providing land by the State Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. Ministry of DoNER, through North Eastern Council (NEC), has approved seven important airport development projects through viability gap funding to improve the air connectivity. It is also providing viability gap funding for unserved airports.
- E. Inland Waterways Authority of India's (M/o Shipping) role in development of Infrastructural facility in North Eastern Region is limited to development of waterways declared as National Waterways. River Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 km) has been declared as National Waterway – 2 in 1988 and since then this waterway is being developed and maintained with fairway of targeted depth and width, terminals with cargo handling facilities and navigational aids for movement of cargo vessels. This waterway is operational and vessels are moving on it.

Besides, 19 new waterways of North Eastern Region have also been declared as national waterways by "National Waterways Act, 2016" notified on 26.03.2016. Feasibility Study / Detailed Project Report of these new waterways are underway and as per the outcome of the study reports further contours for development of these waterways would be drawn up.

- F. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and North Eastern Council (NEC) also provide funds to States to bridge infrastructural gaps

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