

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA

Starred Question No.*120

To be answered on
Thursday, December 20, 2018/Agrahayana 29, 1940 (Saka)

QUESTION

Development work on connectivity to North-Eastern States

*120. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that many North-Eastern States are not connected with the main land;
- (b) if so, the development work relating to road, railways and airways carried out during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether any special scheme for attracting tourists to visit North Eastern States has been introduced; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*120 for answer on 20.12.2018

(a) and (b) The road and rail connectivity to the States in the North Eastern Region is through the Siliguri Corridor.

In the last three years, 2273 km of National Highways have been sanctioned for the North East Region. Under the SARDP-NE including Arunachal Package of Roads and Highways, 6418 km of road stretches and state roads have been taken up to improve the connectivity in the North East Region (NER). In order to expedite road construction, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has set up a company named 'National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.' (NHIDCL) for construction/upgradation/widening of National Highways in the Region. Under Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP) roads stretches aggregation about 5301 km in NER have been approved for improvement. Out of this, 3246 km road length has been approved for development of Economic Corridors in the North East. Length of roads constructed during the last three years, state-wise, is placed at **Annexure-I**.

The 'North East Road Sector Development Scheme' (NERSDS) was launched by this Ministry during 2015-16 for upgrading critical interstate roads. Under the scheme so far Tura-Mankachar Road (Meghalaya-Assam) has been completed and Harmoti-Doimukh Road (Assam-Arunachal Pradesh) as well as Wokha-Merapani Road (Assam-Nagaland) is under implementation.

In respect of Rail Connectivity, during the last three years the entire North East Region has been converted to the Broad Gauge (BG) network. The State wise details are at **Annexure-II**. Further, new lines have been sanctioned for Salona-Khumtai, Sibsagar-Jorhat, Tezpur-Silghat sections; Bongaigaon-Goalpara-Guwahati, Digaru-Hojai, Saraighat Bridge sections have been taken up for doubling and Kamakhya-New Guwahati section has been taken up for quadrupling in the last three years.

In respect of Air Connectivity, modernization and development of Airports have been taken up. This includes construction of a new integrated terminal building at Guwahati, Imphal and Agartala Airports; Extension of Runway at Dibrugarh Airport; Strengthening of Runway,

Taxiway at Dimapur Airport; and upgradation works at Tezu Airport. The Greenfield Airport at Pakyong has been completed and is now operational. Moreover, Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN) has been launched to provide connectivity to unserved and underserved Airports within the country and to promote regional connectivity by making the airfare affordable through Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The North East has been kept as a priority area under RCS-UDAN.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism has identified several segments like Eco-Tourism, Rural Tourism, Medical Tourism, Wellness Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Cruise Tourism, Sustainable Tourism, Agri-Tourism, Promotion of Cuisines as having huge potential for the North East Region. The Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism is aimed at developing theme based tourist circuits in the Country, including the North East Region. Under this scheme, projects worth Rs.1265.29 crore have been sanctioned for the North East Region in the last three years and Rs.743.59 crore has been released for the same. The Ministry of Tourism also organizes the 'International Tourism Mart' in the North East States for promotion of the North East Region. A new scheme namely "North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme" (NESIDS) has been approved, under which projects of physical infrastructure relating to water supply, power, connectivity in areas that have a potential to enhance tourism have been taken up by this Ministry.

Annexure referred to in reply parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*120 for answer on 20.12.2018

Length of roads constructed during last three years

Name of State	Total (Kms)
Arunachal Pradesh	341.86
Assam	409.00
Manipur	116.00
Meghalaya	69.00
Mizoram	159.00
Nagaland	59.00
Sikkim	40.00
Tripura	45.00
Total	1238.86

Annexure referred to in reply parts (a) and (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.*120 for answer on 20.12.2018

State wise details of conversion from MG to BG in the last three years

Name of State	Rail Link
Arunachal Pradesh	Balipara–Bhalukpong
Assam	Rangiya-Murkongselek
Assam	Lumding-Silchar
Tripura	Kumaraghat-Agartala
Manipur	Arunachal-Jiribam
Mizoram	Kathakal–Bhairabi