

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 35
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

LUMDING-SILCHAR GAUGE CONVERSION

35 SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion section was opened for passenger traffic without the technical certification of Commission of Railway Safety (CRS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount of expenditure incurred in the gauge conversion of this section as against the initial project cost;
- (d) whether the Railway Board carried out technical evaluation and vigilance inquiry on the quality of work and exorbitant hike in its cost; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 35 BY SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.12.2022 REGARDING LUMDING-SILCHAR GAUGE CONVERSION

(a) to (e): Lumding-Silchar Gauge Conversion project (292 km) was sanctioned in 1996-97 at a cost of ₹ 648 crore. Cost of the project was revised to ₹ 5187.76 crore in January 2016 with increased length of 410 kms. after including other connected Metre Gauge (MG) lines. An expenditure of ₹ 7832.08 crore has been incurred so far. Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) inspection was conducted for Lumding-Silchar Gauge Conversion section from 19.03.2015 to 21.03.2015 and from 22.06.2015 to 23.06.2015. After receipt of observations of CRS, 04 members team of Executive Directors from Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) was nominated by Railway Board for inspection of vulnerable locations and to certify the preparation of running of passenger trains.

After receipt of report of the technical team, a safety certificate was issued by General Manager/Northeast Frontier Railway and General Manager/Northeast Frontier Railway (Con.) jointly after compliance of items observed during CRS inspection before running of passenger trains.

A vigilance investigation was carried out on the basis of complaint received in Railway Board in 2015 on the aspect of irregularities in the construction work. During investigation, no vigilance angle was observed, however, some administrative issues were noticed. On perusal of investigation report, the Central Vigilance Commission directed to depute officers from Railway Board or RDSO to examine safety aspect with the reference to the observation made in complaint. In compliance, RDSO committee constituted by Railway Board inspected the site and the report was submitted to the Commission. After perusal, the Commission advised to close the case.
