

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 269
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2023

RAILWAY EXPANSION IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

*269 SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new Railway stations that have been established in the North Eastern Region from 2016 to 2023;
- (b) their distribution among the eight States of the region;
- (c) the number of stations of the region that have been modernised; and
- (d) the progress of Indian Railways in connecting the remote areas on the one hand and various States on the other?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 269 BY SHRI RAKESH SINHA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 24.03.2023 REGARDING RAILWAY EXPANSION IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

(a) and (b): Since 2016, total 29 new railway stations have been established in the North East Region, out of which 12 new railway stations are in Assam, 04 new railway stations are in Manipur, 01 new railway station is in Nagaland and 12 new railway stations are in Tripura.

(c): Upgradation/modernization of stations on Indian Railways is a continuous and on-going process and works in this regard are undertaken depending upon need, volume of passenger traffic and inter-se priority, subject to availability of funds and priority is accorded to higher category of stations over lower category of stations while sanctioning and executing the works. Apart from the process of continuous upgradation, major modernisation inputs have been given at 26 stations of North East Region states.

Recently, the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme has been launched for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach. It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping etc. keeping in view the necessity at each such station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballast less tracks, 'Roof Plazas' as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long term.

Presently, the scheme envisages to take-up 1275 stations over Indian Railway Including 59 stations in the North East Region states.

(d): Railway projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise/Region-wise, as Indian Railways' projects may span across State/Region boundaries. However, as on 01.04.2022, total 19 railway projects (14 New Lines and 5 Doubling) of total length 1,909 km costing ₹77,930 crore, falling fully/ partly in North Eastern Region are in different stages of planning/ approval/ execution, out of which 409 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹30,312 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022. These include-

- (i) 14 New Line Projects covering total length of 1,181 km at a cost of ₹61,520 crore, out of which 361 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹27,458 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.
- (ii) 5 Doubling Projects covering total length of 728 km at a cost of ₹16,410 crore, out of which 48 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹2,854 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in budget allotment and commensurate commissioning of infrastructure projects. Average annual Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/ partly in the North Eastern Region, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹5,531 crore per year from ₹2,122 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 161% more than average annual Budget allocation during 2009-14. Annual allocations for these projects have been increased to ₹4,909 crore in Financial Year 2019-20 (131% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹4,669 crore in Financial Year 2020-21 (120% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹7,542 crore in Financial Year 2021-22 (255% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹9,970 crore in Financial Year 2022-23, (370% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14). For Financial Year 2023-24, highest ever budget allocation of ₹10,269 crore has been proposed for these projects, which is 384% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14 (₹2,122 crore per year).

During 2014-22, 1544 km sections (377 km of New Line, 972 km of Gauge Conversion and 195 km of Doubling), falling fully/ partly in North Eastern Region have been commissioned at an average rate of 193 km per year, which is 190% more than commissioning during 2009-14 (66.6 km per year).

For overall Indian Railways, as on 01.04.2022, total 452 Railway projects (183 New Lines, 42 Gauge Conversion and 227 Doubling) of total length 49,323 km costing ₹7,33,087 crore are in different stages of planning/ approval/ execution, out of which 11,518 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹2,34,619 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022. These include-

- (i) 183 New Line Projects covering total length of 20,937 km at a cost of ₹3,99,625 crore, out of which 2,831 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹1,13,188 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.

- (ii) 42 Gauge Conversion Projects covering total length of 5,667 km at a cost of ₹50,250 crore, out of which 3,488 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹19,235 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.
- (iii) 227 Doubling Projects covering total length of 22,719 km at a cost of ₹2,83,212 crore, out of which 5,199 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹1,02,196 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in budget allotment and commensurate commissioning of infrastructure projects. Average annual Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works of Indian Railways during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹26,026 crore per year from ₹11,527 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 126% more than average annual Budget allocation during 2009-14. Annual allocations for these projects have been increased to ₹39,836 crore in Financial Year 2019-20 (246% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹43,626 crore in Financial Year 2020-21 (278% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹56,716 crore in Financial Year 2021-22 (392% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹67,001 crore in Financial Year 2022-23 (481% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14). For Financial Year 2023-24, highest ever budget allocation of ₹67,199 crore has been proposed for these projects, which is 483% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14 (₹11,527 crore per year).

During 2009-14, 7599 km (1727 km New line, 3997 km Gauge conversion and 1875 km Doubling) sections have been commissioned at an average rate 1520 km per year. Commissioning during 2014-22 has been increased to 20628 km (3970 km of New line, 5507 km of Gauge conversion and 11151 km Doubling) sections at an average rate 2579 km per year, which is 70% more than commissioning during 2009-14(1520 Km/Yr.)
