

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No 1949

To be answered on
Thursday, August 8, 2024/Sravana 17, 1946 (Saka)

QUESTION
Agartala-Akhaura railway project

1949. Smt. Mahua Maji:

Will the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, after the opening of Agartala- Akhaura railway project, Government is planning any other economic development project for North Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government is planning to open any passenger train through Agartala-Akhaura rail route; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
[Dr. Sukanta Majumdar]

(a)&(b) The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region under its various schemes namely North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS), Schemes of North Eastern Council (NEC), Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) is sanctioning various infrastructure projects that will boost the economic development of the North Eastern Region.

As informed by Ministry of Railways, as on 01.04.2024, 18 railway infrastructure projects (13 new line and 05 doubling), of total length of 1368 km costing Rs. 74972 crore, falling fully/partially in North Eastern Region, are in planning/approval/construction stages, out of

which 313 km length has been commissioned. Since 2014, budget allocation in infrastructure projects and safety works falling fully/partially in North Eastern Region is about five times i.e. Rs.10376 crore for financial year 2024-25 against Rs.2122 crore per year during 2009-14.

Further, there has been 2.6 times increase in average track commissioned i.e. 172.8 km per year during 2014-24 against 66.6 km per year during 2009-14.

Benefits of railways projects in the NER include integration of people of North East with the mainstream of the country, faster movement of the essential goods and agricultural products, increase in employment opportunity for the people of this region, Socio-economic Development of the area, development of tourism industry and increase in industrial activities in the region.

(c)& (d) As informed by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the current physical progress of Bangladesh portion of the Agartala-Akhaura cross border rail link is 98%. The Indian Portion of the Agartala-Akhaura rail route is complete.
