

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *209

To be answered on
Thursday, August 7, 2025/ 16 Sravana , 1947 (Saka)

QUESTION
Infrastructure and Logistics in the Northeast Region

***209 # Shri Rameswar Teli:**

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

- (a) the status of ongoing railway connectivity projects in the Northeast region, the details of the amount invested in railway projects and the total length of rail lines commissioned till 2024;
- (b) the details of the progress of works related to construction of national highways and bridge development; and
- (c) the progress of air connectivity in the Northeast region since 2022 and the number of new routes commissioned under the 'UDAN' scheme, the details thereof?

ANSWER
The Minister of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *209 FOR 07th AUGUST, 2025 REGARDING
Infrastructure and Logistics in the Northeast Region

(a) Railway Connectivity in North Eastern Region:

- (i) Prior to 2014, only four States of Assam, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura in North Eastern Region were connected with Railway Network by Meter Gauge/ Broad Gauge. Further, only the State Capitals of Assam and Tripura were connected with Railway Network by Meter Gauge/ Broad Gauge. In 2025, seven North Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya (Mendipathar), Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura are connected through Railway network. Further, the State capitals of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Tripura are now connected with Railway Network.
- (ii) The details regarding commissioning of sections (New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) falling fully/partly in North Eastern Region (NER) during 2009-14 and 2014-2025 are as under: -

Period	New tracks Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	333 Km	66.6 Km/year
2014-25	1,840 Km	167.27 Km/year (about 3 times)

- (iii) The Ministry of Railways have informed that the railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise/UT-wise/District-wise as these projects span across State/UT/District boundaries, and the data in this regard is maintained by them Financial Year wise. As on 01.04.2025, 12 railway projects (08 New Line and 04 Doubling) having a total length of 777 Km costing Rs. 69,342 crore falling partly/fully in North Eastern Region (NER) have been sanctioned, out of which, 278 km has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs. 41,676 crore has been incurred up to March 2025. It is pertinent to mention that Bridge No. 164 bridge (703 Meter long) over river Iring at Noney, Manipur, constructed as a part of Jiribam – Imphal (111 Km) New Line project is the World's tallest Railway Pier Bridge with height of 141 meters.

(b) Construction of National Highways and Bridges in North Eastern Region:

- (i) The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have informed that the length of National Highways in North Eastern Region has increased from 10,905 km in 2014 to 16,207 km at present. The State-wise length of National Highways in 2014 and 2025 is as under:

Sr. No.	State/UT	Length of NHs in 2014 (km)	Length of NHs in 2025 (km)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	2,027	4,367
2	Assam	3,634	4,077
3	Manipur	1,452	1,840
4	Meghalaya	1,171	1,156
5	Mizoram	1,222	1,499
6	Nagaland	741	1,670
7	Sikkim	149	709
8	Tripura	509	889
	Total	10,905	16,207

- (ii) Further, in 2014, only the State capital of Manipur had four lane National Highway connectivity. In 2025, the State capitals of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland have four lane or higher National Highway connectivity.
- (iii) A total of 180 national highways projects having a length of 3,813.45 Km costing ₹77,056.32 crore and 10 projects of standalone bridges costing ₹5,987.11 crore are under different stages of implementation in the North Eastern Region, which, inter-alia, includes 12.625 km long four lane bridge over Brahmaputra between Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya on NH-127B. It is pertinent to mention that 9.15 km long Dhola-Sadiya Bridge in Assam is one of the longest bridges in the country.

(c) Air Connectivity in North Eastern Region:

- (i) The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme - Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) on 21.10.2016 to enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports in the country and make air travel affordable to the masses.
- (ii) A total of 90 routes have been operationalised in the North Eastern Region (NER) under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), connecting 12 airports and heliports across the NER states. These include 10 airports — Pasighat, Tezu, Hollongi, Jorhat, Lilabari, Rupsi, Tezpur, Dimapur, Shillong, and Pakyong — and 2 heliports, namely, Jiribam and Tamenglong.

- (iii) Further, since January, 2022, 42 RCS routes have been operationalised in North Eastern States. Three new aerodromes have been operationalised during the period, which include Hollongi Airport (Arunachal Pradesh), and Heliports of Jiribam & Tamenglong in Manipur.
- (iv) Besides UDAN, under the Scheme of 'Providing Air Connectivity in NER, Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is provided to M/s Alliance Air for providing air connectivity in the North Eastern Region (NER).
- (v) The Krishi Udan Scheme which seeks to converge various initiatives by eight Ministries/Departments, namely, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region. The Scheme aims to ensure seamless, cost effective, time-bound air transportation and associated logistics for all Agri-produce originating especially from Northeast, hilly and tribal regions of the country, so that it improves their value realisation. The Scheme covers 58 airports in the country, inter-alia, including, a total of 13 such airports in the North Eastern Region.
- (vi) Between 2014 and 2025, four Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) in North Eastern Region have been upgraded to operational Air Terminals, out of which, two ALGs at Hollongi (Donyi Polo) Airport and Ziro were operationalised after 01.01.2022.
