

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2124

To be answered on

Thursday, August 06, 2026/ Shravana 15, 1948 (Saka)

QUESTION

Infrastructure projects in NER

2124. Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

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

- (a) the details of projects sanctioned and completed under schemes of the Ministry during the last five years;
- (b) whether Government has assessed the impact of infrastructure development projects in the North Eastern Region (NER);
- (c) the details of funds allocated and utilized by North Eastern States under Central schemes; and
- (d) the measures taken to improve connectivity, employment and investment opportunities in NER?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Under the various schemes of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, a total of 718 projects have been sanctioned and 800 number of project have been completed during the last five years.
- (b) The schemes of this ministry as and when are submitted for approval for cabinet are duly assessed by the third-party evaluation/impact assessment.
- (c) & (d) Under the 10% Gross Budgetary Support mechanism, since 2014-2015 to 2025-2026, cumulative expenditure of Rs 7.12 lakh cr(prov.) has been made against the cumulative allocation of Rs 6.97 lakh cr (RE) by the non-exempted Ministries/Departments for development of NER. This expenditure has created durable assets, which has increased rail, road and air connectivity and has shown improvement in connectivity, employment and investment opportunities in NER.

Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) organized Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025 to catalyze trade and investment in the North Eastern Region. The focus sectors of the summit identified for attracting investment in the North Eastern Region

were Tourism and Hospitality; Agro-Food Processing & allied sectors; Textiles, Handloom and Handicrafts; Healthcare; Education and Skill Development; IT/ITeS; Entertainment & Sports; Infrastructure and Logistics; and Energy. Collectively, the Summit and its pre-event roadshows garnered investment interests of ₹ 4.48 lakh crore through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), letters of intent, and qualified leads from private investors, public sector undertakings, and major industrial conglomerates. The investment will enhance industrial capacity of North Eastern Region as well as provide employment opportunities.

Further, under the various schemes of the Union, several infrastructure projects have been completed under the following sectors:

(i) Road Connectivity:

The length of National Highways (NH) in NER has increased from 10,905 km in 2014 to 16,207 km as on 31.03.2025. Since the inception of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), 17,666 road works of 89,503 Km and 2,396 bridge works have been sanctioned in the North Eastern States, out of which, construction of 16,547 road works of 81,448 Km and 2,126 bridges has been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 53,353.49 crore, including State share.

(ii) Railway Connectivity:

The budget allocation for railway sector during the last five years has increased significantly in the North Eastern Region, from Rs. 2122 crore/year (2009-14) period to currently Rs. 11,486 crore in FY 2025-26. The following ongoing Railway Projects directly augment India's growing infrastructure connectivity under Act East Policy:-Bhairabi-Sairang New Line (51 Km), Agartala-Sabroom New Line (112 Km), Agartala-Akhaura New Line (5 Km), Jiribam-Imphal New Line (111 Km), Murkongselek-Pasighat New Line (27 Km).

(iii) Telecom Connectivity:

As of December, 2025, 6355 Gram Panchayats have been made service ready for providing high speed internet services in North Eastern Region. Till Dec-2025, 3718 mobile towers have been commissioned in NER covering 5366 villages/locations under various Government funded mobile projects.

(iv) Air Connectivity:

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched the Regional Connectivity Scheme (UDAN) on 21st October, 2016. UDAN is a market-driven initiative where the development

of regional air connectivity routes is determined by market forces. Airlines assess the demand and supply needs for specific routes and lead the process under the scheme. The number of operational airports in the North Eastern Region (NER) has increased from 9 in 2014 to 17 in 2026.

(v) Power:

A number of Hydro Electric Projects with a total installed capacity of 5796 MW have been taken up in NER. The major projects include Subansiri Lower (2000MW), Dibang Multi Purpose project (2880 MW), Teesta Stage VI (500 MW) etc. Under the NER Power System Improvement Project for six States (Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland) for strengthening of the Intra-State Transmission and Distribution Systems (33kV and above), an estimated cost of ₹6700 crore has been allocated. The comprehensive scheme for Strengthening of Transmission and Distribution System in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim at an estimated cost of ₹9129.32 crore has been sanctioned.

(vi) Inland Waterways:

The number of National Waterways in the NER has increased from 1 to 20 and ₹1,040 cr have been spent on various Waterways Projects in the region. This ensures better connectivity leads to more jobs, business growth, and long-term development of the region.
