

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1547

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH DECEMBER, 2017

DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

1547. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of all-weather sea, rail and road links required by the Defence Forces in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands region;
- (b) the steps taken to develop infrastructure as required by the Forces in the difficult terrain;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to create fast-track implementing agency to develop infrastructure in the region in a time-bound manner and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry has received any representations from MP, Andaman regarding the construction of Port Blair-Diglipur new rail line project in Andaman; and
- (e) if so, whether Government plans to construct rail link between Port Blair and Diglipur and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE (DR. SUBHASH BHAMRE)
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

रक्षा राज्य मंत्री

(डा. सुभाष भामरे)

(a) to (c): In general, defence Forces are dependent on civil infrastructure for sea, rail and road connectivity in Andaman & Nicobar Islands region. In addition, Border Road Organization under Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been entrusted with construction / improvement of approx. 24km of North-South Road in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. In response to the representation from Hon'ble Member of Parliament, it has been agreed that the construction of line from Port Blair to Diglipur by Indian Railways will provide alternate connectivity, in addition to existing road / sea routes. However, Indian Railways has indicated its inability to undertake the project due to huge financial implication.
