

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3676
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019**

RAIL CONNECTIVITY TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

3676. SHRI PREM DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to improve rail connectivity in the North Eastern Region (NER) and bring down disparities within the region in terms of connectivity;**
- (b) whether all State capitals in NER will have rail connectivity by 2020 and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3676 BY SHRI PREM DAS RAI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.01.2019 REGARDING RAIL CONNECTIVITY TO NORTH EASTERN REGION

(a): In order to improve rail connectivity in the North Eastern Region, 15 New lines and 6 Doubling projects having a total length of 1,881 km have been taken up at a total cost of ₹70,066 crore which are in different stages of planning/ sanction/ execution. Completion of these projects will bring down the disparities within the N.E. Region. Out of 15 new lines, Bogibeel Bridge over river Brahmaputra along with linking lines project (73 km) has been commissioned and inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25.12.2018.

(b) & (c): All Northeast State Capitals (8 States namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim) are planned to be connected by broad gauge rail link.

State Capitals - Guwahati (Assam), Agartala (Tripura) and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) - have already been connected by broad gauge rail network.

Harmuti – Naharlagun (21.75 km) new broad gauge line was commissioned in February, 2015. (Naharlagun is at a distance of 10 km from Itanagar, the capital city of Arunachal Pradesh).

Kumarghat-Agartala (109 km) metre gauge section had been converted into broad gauge and commissioned in July, 2016. Thus, the capital of Tripura has been connected by broad gauge rail network.

The works have been taken up to connect the remaining capitals - Shillong (Meghalaya), Imphal (Manipur), Kohima (Nagaland) (project is upto Zubza which is approx. 17 km from Kohima), Aizawl (Mizoram) (rail connectivity is upto Sairang which is approx. 18 km from Aizawl) and Gangtok (Sikkim) (project is upto Rangpo which is 40 km from Gangtok).

Details of capital connectivity projects are as under:

S. No.	State	Capitals	Project	Target Date Commissioning
1	Arunachal Pradesh	Naharlagun (Itanagar)	Harmuti – Naharlagun (Naharlagun is around 10 kilometers from Itanagar)	Commissioned
2	Tripura	Agartala	Lumding – Silchar GC	Commissioned
			Kumarghat-Agartala	Commissioned
3	Manipur	Imphal	Jiribam - Imphal	2020-21
4	Mizoram	Aizawl	Bhairabi - Sairang (Aizawl) (Sairang is approx. 18 km from Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram)	2020-21
5	Nagaland	Kohima	Dimapur – Zubza (Zubza is approx. 17 km from Kohima)	2020-21
6	Meghalaya	Shillong	Byrnihat - Shillong	Not Fixed*
			Tetelia - Byrnihat	2020-21
7	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sivok – Rangpo (Rangpo is around 40 km short of Gangtok)	June, 2021**

* Target not fixed because progress of work affected due to obstructions from Khasi Student Union (KSU). NOC for land acquisition is not given so far by Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC).

**Forest Clearance awaited from Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC).