

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.55
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019**

RAIL CONNECTIVITY ALONG BORDER AREAS

†*55. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any blueprint to connect border areas with railways and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the number of railway projects under implementation in the country including Rajasthan at present;**
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any time limit in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) whether any scheme is proposed for introduction of new trains or expansion of rail network in Rajasthan, especially in Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, Churu and Bikaner districts in the near future and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.55 BY SHRI NIHAL CHAND TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.11.2019 REGARDING RAIL CONNECTIVITY ALONG BORDER AREAS

(a) and (b): Presently, Indian Railways have taken up 498 Railway projects including 188 New Lines, 55 Gauge Conversion and 255 Doubling Projects which are in different stages of execution/planning/sanction. This also includes 31 projects falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan consisting of 11 New Lines, 06 Gauge Conversion & 14 Doubling projects.

India share international border with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Presently, India has International Rail connectivity with Pakistan at 02 locations, Nepal at 01 location and with Bangladesh at 04 locations. Similarly, rail infrastructure exists along the border areas in the State of Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam and North Eastern Region.

To further strengthen the Railway infrastructure in border areas and to promote international rail connectivity, 14 projects have been commissioned/taken up. Details of these projects are appended.

(c): The timely completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities (both underground and over ground), statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic considerations, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake,

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flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble Courts, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. and all these factors affect the completion of the project. Hence, no confirmed time frame be fixed for completion of projects.

(d): Indian Railways do not run trains on State-wise or district-wise basis as railway network and trains run across State/district boundaries. However, to cater inter alia to the needs of passengers of stations of Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh, Churu and Bikaner and catchment areas thereof, 06 pairs of Mail/Express and 03 pairs of Passenger trains have been introduced and 06 pairs of Mail/Express and 02 pairs of Passenger trains have been extended during the period April, 2017 to November, 2019 (till date).

In addition, Indian Railways have decided to extend 12259/60 Sealdah-New Delhi Duronto Express upto Bikaner and 54604/05 Ludhiana-Churu Passenger upto Ratangarh located on the Churu-Bikaner section.

Besides, introduction of trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility, availability of resources, etc.

APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.55 BY SHRI NIHAL CHAND TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.11.2019 REGARDING RAIL CONNECTIVITY ALONG BORDER AREAS

(a) & (b): Details of on-going projects taken up for connectivity in Border Areas of India are as follows:-

| SN | Name of Project | Length (km) | State | Current Status |
|------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Agartala-Sabroom new line | 115 | Tripura | Commissioned in July 2019 |
| 2. | Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh) rail link | 08 | West Bengal to Bangladesh | Commissioned in April 2017 |
| 3. | Eklahi-Balurghat New Line | 87 | West Bengal | Commissioned in December 2004 |
| 4. | Haldibari Internation Border New Line | 03 | West Bengal | Civil Work completed & Engine rolling done. |
| 5. | Agartala (India)-Akhura (Bangladesh) New Line | 12 | Tripura to Bangladesh | Work has been taken up. |
| 6. | Jogbani (India) to Biratnagar (Nepal) New Line | 19 | Bihar to Nepal | Work in Indian portion (8 km) completed & work taken up in balance portion. |
| 7. | Jayanagar (India) to Bardibas (Nepal) Gauge Conversion & New Line | 69 | Bihar to Nepal | 35 km completed & work taken up in balance portion. |
| 8. | Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramula Rail Link - New Line | 272 | Jammu & Kashmir | 161 Km Commissioned & work taken up in balance portion |
| 9. | Rishikesh-Karanprayag new line | 125 | Uttarakhand | Work taken up |
| 10. | Thiyat-Hamira-Sanu new line | 59 | Rajasthan | Work taken up |
| 11. | Balurghat-Hilli New Line | 30 | West Bengal | Land acquisition not yet completed. |

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| SN | Name of Project | Length (km) | State | Current Status |
|------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 12. | Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj Gauge Conversion | 282 | Bihar | 260 Km Gauge Conversion commissioned. Narkatiaganj-Guhana (22km) work taken up. |
| 13 | Bahraich Nanpara-Nepalganj Road Gauge Conversion | 56 | Uttar Pradesh | Included in budget subject to requisite Government approval |
| 14. | Kapilvastu-Basti New Line | 91 | Uttar Pradesh & Nepal | Included in budget subject to requisite Government approval |
