

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3805
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

PENDING PROJECTS IN NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

3805. DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Railway Projects/proposals of North-Eastern Railway lying pending in Railway Board;**
- (b) the details of the said projects likely to be completed;**
- (c) whether the projects/proposals of Thawe Station are pending in Railway Board, if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether proposals/projects pertaining to running of trains from said junction are pending in Railway Board since long, if so, the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) whether these projects/proposals are deliberately being delayed to give benefit to the large number of private bus operators from this area, if so, the details of the action taken in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): Proposals/requests/suggestions/representations, both formal and informal for Railway projects/Works across the country are received on the basis of demands raised by State Governments, Members of

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Parliament, Ministries of Central Government, elected representatives, Railways' own requirements, organizations/rail users etc. at various levels including Railway Board, Zonal Railways, Division Office etc. As receipt of such proposals/complaints/suggestions is a continuous and dynamic process, centralized compendium of such requests is not maintained. However, these are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken from time to time.

To augment and increase line capacity of rail network situated in North Eastern Railway, as on 01.04.2024, total 20 Railway infrastructure projects (10 New Line, 02 Gauge Conversion and 08 Doubling), of total length of 1,695 Km, costing ₹24,288 crore of North Eastern Railway are at various stages of planning and implementation. Out of these 366 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹9,310 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The status of work is summarized as under:-

Plan Head	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Expenditure upto March 2024 (₹ in Cr.)
New Line	10	811	48	3066
Gauge Conversion	2	250	-	8
Doubling /Multitracking	8	634	318	6236
Total	20	1695	366	9310

Total 43 Nos. of surveys (6 New Line and 37 Doubling), of total length of 1710 Km in North Eastern Railway, have been sanctioned during last three years (2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024) and current Financial Year (2024-2025).

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Thawe Junction is already connected with existing railway network by Siwan-Hathua-Thawe-Tamkuhi Road railway line. However, to further improve the mobility, 1.1 Km long Thawe bypass line connecting Gopalganj and Sasamusa railway stations has been sanctioned.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc.

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of Railway projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units (ii) prioritization of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (vi) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects. This has led to substantial increase in rate of commissioning since 2014.

Ministry of Railways has launched 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme' for development of Railway stations on Indian Railways. This scheme envisages development of stations on a continuous basis with a long-term approach.

It involves preparation of Master Plans and their implementation in phases to improve the amenities at the stations like improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, platform surfacing and cover over platform, cleanliness, free Wi-Fi, kiosks for local products through schemes like 'One Station One Product', better passenger information systems, Executive Lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings, landscaping, etc. keeping in view the necessity at each station.

The scheme also envisages improvement of building, integrating the station with both sides of the city, multimodal integration, amenities for Divyangjans, sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballastless tracks, etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of City Centre at the station in the long term.

So far, 1337 stations have been identified under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, out of which 59 stations, including Thawe station, fall under North Eastern Railway.

For development works at Thawe station under this scheme, tenders have been awarded and works of extension of platforms, improvement of platform surfacing, platform shelters, toilets, circulating area, parking facilities, approach road improvement, etc. have been taken up.

Further, upgradation/development/redevelopment of stations over Indian Railways is a continuous and ongoing process and works in this regard are undertaken as per requirement, subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Development/redevelopment/upgradation of Railway Stations is complex in nature involving safety of passengers & trains and requires various statutory clearances such as fire clearance, heritage, tree cutting, air-port clearance etc. The progress also gets affected due to brownfield related challenges such as shifting of utilities, (involving water/sewage lines, optical fiber cables, gas pipe lines, power/signal cables etc.), infringements, operation of trains without hindering passenger movement, speed restrictions due to works carried out in close proximity of tracks and high voltage power lines, etc. and these factors affect the completion time. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Development/upgradation/modernization of stations including under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is generally funded under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities'. The details of allocation under Plan Head-53 are maintained Zonal Railway-wise and not work-wise or station-wise or State-wise. Thawe station falls under North Eastern Railway. For this zone, an allocation of ₹550 Cr. has been made for the financial year 2024-25 under Plan Head-53.

Receipt of proposals from Zonal Railways, inter alia, pertaining to introduction of new train services, their examination and decision thereon is an ongoing process. Presently, Thawe Junction is being catered by 30 train services which include 06 Mail/Express services. In addition to these regular services, 03215/16 Thawe-Patna Special is also catering to the said station. Besides, introduction of new train services is an on-going process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of resources etc.
