

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3837
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

RAIL DISTANCE BETWEEN GUWAHATI AND DIBRUGARH

3837 SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the construction of a new railway line between Salona and Khumtai has been started and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the timeline of the project and its expected date of completion;**
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any feasibility studies or surveys to find routes to shorten the rail distance between Guwahati and Dibrugarh; and**
- (d) if so, the findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament,

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other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

As on 01.04.2024, 18 Railway projects (13 New Lines and 05 Doubling), of total length of 1,368 Km, costing ₹74,972 crore falling fully/partly in the North East Region, are at various stages of planning and implementation, out of which 313 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹40,549 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 (₹ n Cr.)
New Lines	13	896	81	34,616
Doubling	5	472	232	5,933
Total	18	1,368	313	40,549

Zone-wise/year-wise details of all Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

Average Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and other works, falling fully/ partly in North East Region is as under:-

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Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹ 2,122 Crore/year
2024-25	₹ 10,376 Crore (Nearly 5 times)

Commissioning of infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the North East Region is given below:-

Period	New Track Commissioned	Average Commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	333 Km	66.6 Km/year
2014-24	1,728 Km	172.8 Km/year (Nearly 3 times)

During the last 3 years (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and current Financial Year i.e. 2024-25), 21 surveys (17 New line & 04 Doubling) of total length 2,499 km falling fully/partly in the North East Region, have been sanctioned.

Salona and Khumtai are already connected via Lumding on railway network. To provide direct rail connectivity, a survey for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Salona - Khumtai (99 Km.) new line project has been completed. However, as per survey, the project has low traffic projection.

Guwahati and Dibrugarh are already connected through existing railway network and section between Guwahati – Lumding is a double line section. Further, doubling of Lumding – Furkating (140 km) has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹ 2,124 crore and works have been taken up. Moreover, Final Location Survey (FLS) for doubling of remaining section Furkating – Tinsukia – Dibrugarh (241 km) is taken up.