

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3207  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025**

**VANDE BHARAT TRAIN FROM DIBRUGARH TO SILIGURI**

**†3207 SHRI RANJIT DUTTA:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Government has any proposal/plan to launch Vande Bharat train from Dibrugarh to Siliguri via Vishwanath Chariali in Assam to enhance connectivity in the North-Eastern region, if so, the details thereof; and**

**(b) the details of the steps taken to improve basic railway infrastructure and services in Assam to boost regional connectivity and economic development?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) and (b) Siliguri is located at a distance of about 7 km from New Jalpaiguri. To cater to the needs of the passengers of Dibrugarh-Vishwanath Chariali-New Jalpaiguri sector, 15925/15926 Dibrugarh-Deoghar Express (weekly) has been introduced w.e.f 05.03.2024. Moreover, Dibrugarh-New Jalpaiguri sector is presently being catered by 13 pairs of trains. Besides, introduction of new train services, including Vande Bharat trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, etc.**

**Besides, Railway Projects are sanctioned and executed Zonal Railway wise and not Division wise/ District wise/ State wise, as Railway projects may span across Division/ District/ State boundaries.**

**As on 01.04.2024, 18 Railway projects (13 New Line and 05 Doubling), of total length of 1,368 km costing ₹74,972 crore falling fully/partly in the North East Region including the State of Assam, 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. These include:-**

<b>Plan Head</b>	<b>No. of projects</b>	<b>Total Length (in Km)</b>	<b>Length Commissioned (in Km)</b>	<b>Exp upto March 2024 (₹ in Cr.)</b>
<b>New Lines</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>34,616</b>
<b>Doubling</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>5,933</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>40,549</b>

**Commissioning of infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the North East Region including the State of Assam, is given below:-**

<b>Period</b>	<b>New Track Commissioned</b>	<b>Average Commissioning of new tracks</b>
<b>2009-14</b>	<b>333 Km</b>	<b>66.6 Km/year</b>
<b>2014-24</b>	<b>1728 Km</b>	<b>172.8 Km/year (Nearly 3 times )</b>

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

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

**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) prioritisation 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 the rate of commissioning since 2014.**

**Development/upgradation of stations on 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. The priority for development/upgradation of stations is accorded to higher category of station over lower category of station while sanctioning and executing the works.**

**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 for development under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme out of which 50 stations are located in the state of Assam. The names of stations identified for development under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in the state of Assam are as following:**

<b>State</b>	<b>No. of Amrit Stations</b>	<b>Names of Amrit Stations</b>
<b>Assam</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Amguri, Arunachal, Chaparmukh, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Diphu, Duliajan, Fakiragram Jn., Gauripur, Gohpur, Golaghat, Gosai gaon halt, Haibargaon, Harmuti, Hojai, Jagiroad, Jorhat Town, Kamakhya, Kokrajhar, Lanka, Ledo, Lumding, Majbat, Makum Jn, Margherita, Mariani, Murkeongselek, Naharkatiya, Nalbari, Namrup, Narangi, New Bongaigaon, New Haflong, New Karimganj. New Tinsukia, North Lakhimpur, Pathsala, Rangapara North, Rangiya Jn, Sarupathar, Sibsagar Town, Silapathar, Silchar, Simaluguri, Tangla, Tinsukia, Udalguri, Viswanath Chariali, Guwahati</b>

**Development / upgradation / modernisation of stations including under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is generally funded under Plan Head-53 'Customer Amenities'. The details of allocation and expenditure under Plan Head-53 are maintained Zonal Railway-wise. The state of Assam is covered under Northeast Frontier Railway. For this zone, an allocation of ₹ 547 Crores (Revised Estimate) has been made for the financial year 2024-25 under Plan Head-53.**

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