

Rangiya–Rangapara Murkongselek gauge conversion project

1224. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that though the Rangiya-Rangapara-Murkongselek route under Northeast Frontier Railway is considered to be very important for defence transport and other movements, the project is delayed for long;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and
- (c) the present status of the gauge conversion project and by when it is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Project execution got delayed primarily due to paucity of funds. Rangiya-Rangapara North (124 km) and Rangapara North-North Lakhimpur (172 km) sections have been completed. North Lakhimpur-Murkongselek (154 km) is planned for completion in 2014-15 subject to availability of funds. The entire project is likely to be commissioned in 2014.15.

Bogibeel National Project

1225. SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the initial time-frame fixed for completion of the Bogibeel National Project;
- (b) whether the Project has been delayed; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether unavailability of funds from the Ministry has been one of the impediments for delay of the said Project;
- (d) whether this time and cost overrun could have been avoided; and
- (e) by when this Project would be a reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The initial time-frame fixed for completion of the Bogibeel National Project was in 2009.

(b) to (e) Yes, Sir. The project has been delayed due to insufficient allotment of funds. Delay in execution of the project could have been avoided by enhanced Gross Budgetary Support from Ministry of Finance. Project is targeted for completion by December, 2015 subject to availability of funds.

Average speed of trains

1226. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: