

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such tours would be permanently integrated with the process of preparing young officers for their career; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The first batch of 40 Railway probationers was deputed to Berlin from 04th June, 2018 to 08th June, 2018 to study the German Railway network.

It has been decided to make 'Study visit of an advance railway system' a part of training for Railway Probationers.

#### **Electrification of North East Frontier Railway**

462. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to go in for complete electrification of North East Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial allocations made for the purpose; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways has decided to electrify balance Broad Gauge (BG) routes of Indian Railways including all BG routes under Northeast Frontier Railway.

Out of balance Broad Gauge (BG) Routes for electrification, un-sanctioned work of 13675 Route Kilometer (including 2536 RKM of Northeast Frontier Railway) has been included in Budget 2018-19, which will be taken up for execution subject to statutory and mandatory approvals.

(b) Budget allocation for 2018-19 for ongoing Railway Electrification works falling fully/partly under Northeast Frontier Railway is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of project	Outlay for 2018-19 (₹ in crore)
1.	Barauni-Katihar-Guwahati incl. Katihar-Barsoi	154.29
2.	Kumedpur - Malda - Singhabad & Pakur -Malda	34.75
3.	Guwahati-Dibrugarh <i>via</i> Tinsukia and Simaluguri-Dibrugarh	44.00
4.	Raninagar Jalpaiguri-Samuktala Road	12.00
5.	New Bongaigaon-Goalpara-Kamakhya	28.00

(c) Depending upon the overall availability of resources, the targets for electrification of rail lines are fixed on yearly basis.

#### **Punctuality of trains**

463. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether every class of train, from premium trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi to super-fast and express trains is running much behind the scheduled time in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, zone-wise and train-wise, along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has noted that the punctuality of trains terminating at Chennai and other stations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala has deteriorated over the past three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to ensure operation of all these trains as per their schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Since last few months, a large number of safety related track maintenance works are being undertaken for which large number of speed restrictions have been imposed. This has led to drop in punctuality of trains over Indian Railways. For maintenance of assets and infrastructure augmentation, 4,60,566 block hours have been given during April to June 2018 as against 4,11,627 block hours during April to June 2017, which is 48,939 (11.89%) more block hours as compared to the corresponding period of 2017-18.