

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 601
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

RAIL LINK BETWEEN JOGBANI AND BIRATNAGAR

601. # SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a rail link of 18.6 kilometer stretch between Jogbani (Bihar) and Biratnagar (Nepal) is being laid with the cost of ₹ 400 crores;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that said rail link was to be ready in the year 2019 itself; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for its delay and by when the train service would get operationalised?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 601 BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 05.02.2021 REGARDING RAIL LINK BETWEEN JOGBANI AND BIRATNAGAR

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. New Broad Gauge line between Jogbani-Biratnagar (18.601 km) was sanctioned in 2010-11. Anticipated cost of the project is ₹ 422 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 286 crore has been incurred so far and an outlay of ₹ 90 crore has been provided for 2020-21.

The project has been taken up from Bathnaha instead of Jogbani in two phases:

Phase I - Bathnaha to Nepal Custom Yard (8.00 km): Section has been completed in November, 2018. Work of development of goods facilities in Bathnaha Custom Yard and Nepal Custom Yard has been taken up.

Phase II - Nepal Custom Yard to Biratnagar (10.6 km): Work has been taken up. However, land in 1.8 km length of Biratnagar Yard (59.34 acre) has been handed over by Government of Nepal in November, 2019 only. Further, 11 nos. Over Head Electric lines are yet to be shifted by Government of Nepal.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic considerations etc. All these factors affect the completion time of project. Nevertheless, every effort is being made to commission the project expeditiously.
