

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3497
ANSWERED ON 31.03.2023

RAILWAY EXPANSION IN NORTH EAST REGION

3497 SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the plan for expansion of railway in the North East Region;
- (b) number of new stations which are being planned in the said region; and
- (c) whether Government will name a station in Meghalaya after of U Tirot Sing, a freedom fighter from East Khasi Hills in Meghalaya?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(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. 3497 BY SHRI RAKESH SINHA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 31.03.2023 REGARDING RAILWAY EXPANSION IN NORTH EAST REGION

(a) and (b): Railway projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise and not Region-wise or State-wise, as Indian Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. However, as on 01.04.2022, 19 Railway infrastructure projects (14 New Line and 05 Doubling) covering total length of 1,909 km at a cost of ₹77,930 crore, falling fully/ partly in North Eastern Region are in different stages of planning/ approval/ execution, out of which 409 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹30,312 crore incurred upto March, 2022. These include-

- (i) 14 New Line Projects covering total length of 1,181 km at a cost of ₹61,520 crore, out of which 361 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹27,458 crore incurred upto March, 2022.
- (ii) 5 Doubling Projects covering total length of 728 km at a cost of ₹16,410 crore, out of which 48 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹2,854 crore incurred upto March, 2022.

Works on total 44 new railway stations for the projects falling fully/partly in the North Eastern Region are in different stages of execution.

Railway projects falling fully/ partly in North Eastern Region are covered in Northeast Frontier Railway Zone. Details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in >Ministry of Railways >Railway Board >About Indian Railways >Railway Board Directorates >Finance (Budget) >Rail Budget/Pink Book (Year)> Railway wise Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in budget allotment and commensurate commissioning of infrastructure projects. Average annual Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/ partly in the North Eastern Region, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹5,531 crore per year from ₹2,122 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 161% more than average annual Budget allocation during 2009-14. Annual Budget allocations for these projects have been increased to ₹7,542 crore in Financial Year 2021-22 (255% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹9,970 crore in Financial Year 2022-23, (370% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14). For Financial Year 2023-24, highest ever budget allocation of ₹10,269 crore has been proposed for these projects, which is 384% more than the average annual Budget allocation of 2009-14 (₹2,122 crore per year).

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During 2014-22, 1544 km sections (377 km New Line, 972 km Gauge Conversion and 195 km Doubling), falling fully/ partly in North Eastern Region have been commissioned at an average rate of 193 km per year, which is 190% more than commissioning during 2009-14 (66.6 km per year).

(c): Tetelia-Byrnihat (22 km) and Byrnihat-Shillong (108 km) new line projects have been taken up in the State of Meghalaya. Both the projects are held up due to opposition of Khasi Students Union. No proposal for naming a station in Meghalaya after the name of Shri U. Tirot Sing, a freedom fighter from East Khasi Hills has been received from State Government.
