

Need to declare Jalalgarh-Kishanganj Rail Line Project as a National Security Project and expedite its completion.-laid

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED (KISHANGANJ): The Jalalgarh-Kishanganj Rail Line Project (50.8 km), approved and inaugurated by former Minister of Railways in 2008-09 has been on hold since 24 September, 2019. Despite receiving ₹100 crore in 2017-18, ₹50 crore was diverted to Assam's New Maynaguri-Jogighopa rail project, and the rest was returned. This railway is critical for national security as it connects Bihar's Nepal-bordering districts with Northeast India. The 2017 flood that severed Northeast's connectivity for a month underscores the necessity of this alternate rail route via Siliguri Corridor. Additionally, it fulfills a decades-old demand for direct rail connectivity between Kishanganj and Purnia. The project includes eight stations (Khatahat, Pora Halt, Taslimnagar, Rauta, Majhok Halt, Majgaon, Kutti Hat, and Mahangaon), benefiting flood-prone and underdeveloped regions of Purnia, Araria, and Kishanganj. It will reduce the Katihar-Kishanganj distance from 114 km to 96 km and improve train routes between Guwahati and Katihar. Given the geopolitical situation with Bangladesh, strengthening connectivity to the Chicken's Neck region is crucial. I have previously raised this issue with the Ministry of Railways *via* letters and parliamentary discussions. I urge to classify this as a National Security Project and resume work immediately.