

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:451
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
SURVEY OF NEW JALPAIGURI-GANGTOK LINE
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made any survey for a new railway line proposed from New Jalpaiguri to Gangtok;
- (b) if so, the outcome of survey;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that rail link between Gangtok-New Jalpaiguri existed a long back;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not re-connecting Gangtok from New Jalpaiguri by rail; and
- (e) the time by which this rail link is likely to be provided ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

(a) and (b): No survey has been done for new rail line from New Jalpaiguri to Gangtok. However, a survey for new line from Sevak to Gangtok was conducted in 2000-2001. As per the survey report, it is brought out that construction of Railway line is not feasible beyond Singtam upto Gangtok due to extremely difficult topography. The cost of construction of 59.65 km long line from Sevak to Singtam had been assessed as Rs.1099.79 crore. Due to heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources, the proposed line could not be considered. Further, survey has been taken up for restoration BG line from Sevak to Giellikhola.

(c) to (e): There had been no rail link to Gangtok. However, narrow gauge line existed between New Jalpaiguri and Giellikhola via Sevak which got washed away in 1950. The restoration of line from Sevak to Giellikhola would depend upon the result of the survey and the availability of resources.