

Title: Need to expedite Broad-Gauge conversion work of Lumding-Badarpur Rail Section in Assam.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (KARIMGANJ): Sir, South Assam (Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi Districts), Mizoram and Tripura were directly linked with Guwahati – the regional Headquarters and the capital of Assam through meter-gauge railways since inception of N.F. Railways. Withdrawal of meter-gauge from Lumding to Guwahati by an abrupt decision of the Government cut off this direct railway link about 10 years back which compelled the people of this region to undertake insecure journeys by bus to reach Guwahati by paying more than double the fare of trains. Goods are being carried by hundreds of trucks everyday incurring huge expenditure which is ultimately borne by the people of this region.

To restore the direct rail link of the region, conversion of meter-gauge into broad-gauge from Lumding to Badarpur is to be completed soon. The work of conversion was started about ten years back but slow speed of progress indicates that it may take another ten years to complete the work. Therefore, to reduce the sufferings of the people of this region, I request the Government to allot adequate fund and take effective steps on priority basis for completion of work of broad-gauge conversion of Lumding-Badarpur section within a couple of years in the public interest.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Sir, I associate with the hon. Member in this regard.