

Centre approves new 4-lane bridge over Kosi river in Bihar

CCEA DECISION The bridge will cut Phulaut-Bihpur distance from by 60 km

Indo Asian News Service

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NEW DELHI: The cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) on Thursday approved the construction of the 6.93 km-long four-lane bridge at Phulaut in Bihar that would cut down the distance between Phulaut to Bihpur from 72 km to 12 km.

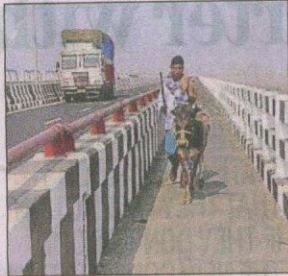
“The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the project for construction of 6.930 km-long four-lane bridge at Phulaut in Bihar,” Union law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters here.

He said currently there is a 10 km-long missing link between Phulaut and Bihpur on national highway (NH)-106 and falling in the catchment area of the Kosi river.

“At present, the traffic from Phulaut to Bihpur requires to take a detour of approximately 72 km. On construction of the new four-lane bridge across the Kosi river under this project, the distance between Phulaut and Bihpur shall be reduced to only 12 km,” he said.

He said that the new bridge will generate direct employment of about 2.19 lakh man-days during the construction.

The construction of this bridge would fill the existing 30 km-long gap between Udakishanganj and



Bihpur on NH-106 in Bihar, which will provide through connectivity between Nepal/North Bihar/East-West Corridor (passing through NH-57) and South Bihar/Jharkhand/Golden Quadrilateral (passing through NH-2), besides full utilisation of NH-31.

The minister said the CCEA also cleared the decks for rehabilitation and upgradation of the existing Birpur-Bihpur section of NH-106 from km 106 to km 136 to ‘two-lane with paved shoulder’ in Bihar at a capital cost of Rs 1,478.40 crore.

“The construction period for the project is three years and is likely to be completed by June, 2022,” he said.

Highlighting the requirement of the two-lane road, Prasad said presently the existing NH is having single or intermediate lane configuration with poor road geometry, and therefore the average speed on the highway is below

‘BIHAR TO GET 34 NEW RLY LINES’

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HAIJIPUR: Indian Railways is going to introduce 34 new railway lines across the state in the next few years. Altogether 200 new railway lines across the country, including 34 in Bihar (highest number among other states), will be introduced to enhance rail connectivity on adequate scale.

In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha recently, minister of state for railways, Rajen Gohain said, “Completion of new rail lines in all states, including Bihar, requires clearances from various departments and the state government on land acquisition and other formalities.”

A senior railway official, preferring anonymity, said that getting such a huge number of 34 new rail lines in Bihar would certainly give a major boost to rail

connectivity even in the remotest parts of the state in next few years.

After Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal each will get 18 new rail lines, followed by 16 in Karnataka, 15 in Uttar Pradesh, 14 in Jharkhand, 12 in Maharashtra and rest in other states, depending upon the need of having rail connectivity.

According to Gohain, further works on new railway lines would commence after obtaining all mandatory clearances from the state governments and other ministries.

“Obtaining statutory clearance from the forest and wildlife department is also needed before embarking on new rail line projects. The Indian railways through its concerned zones, including the ECR, has moved to obtain clearances on the land acquisition from state government soon,” he added.

20 km per hour.

“With the upgradation of the highway to two-lane with paved shoulder configuration and con-

struction of bridge on the missing link, the travel speed would increase to the design speed of about 100 km per hour,” he added.