

After Bogibeel, railways to focus on double track in Assam

For faster movement of trains to and from the Northeast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

After inauguration of the Bogibeel Bridge, India's longest rail and road span, the Railway Ministry has focussed on doubling the arterial railway track in Assam for faster movement of trains to and from the Northeast.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the 4.94 km Bogibeel Bridge on Christmas Day, 21 years after his predecessor H.D. Deve Gowda had laid its foundation stone.

Addressing a review meeting of senior officers at the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) headquarters in Guwahati's Maligaon on Saturday evening, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said his Ministry would soon approach the Cabinet Commit-



The newly inaugurated Bogibeel Bridge over the Brahmaputra in Assam. ■PTI

tee on Economic Affairs for clearing the double track project in the region.

The initial thrust is on doubling the railway line from western Assam's New Bongaigaon to Guwahati via Rangiya, a junction from where the track to Bogibeel in eastern Assam starts.

The bridge has a double

track in place.

Double track, existing from New Bongaigaon to West Bengal westward, is expected to cut down train travel and consignment delivery time by three to five hours in the Northeast.

Action plan

"Prepare a plan of action within a week towards doubling of railway lines in the region for capacity enhancement," Mr Goyal said, urging Assam's Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya to ensure quick soil procurement permission that "is hampering the progress of projects" in the State.

Railway officials told Mr Goyal that several new projects, including the international line from Jogbani in Bihar to Biratnagar in Nepal, would be ready soon.