

The Times of India

Centre mulls railway jobs for youths to curb insurgency

JORHAT: The Centre will soon introduce a new job policy to engage youths from insurgency-hit states in the railways to prevent them from straying into the path of extremism.

Addressing a press conference in Jorhat, Union minister of state for railways Rajen Gohain on Tuesday said, "Our government is planning to introduce a new policy for the youths of the northeast, Jammu and Kashmir and other Maoist-dominated states to ensure jobs for them in the Railways."

He added, "I feel the youth of Assam and other NE states have been deprived of railway jobs for long. So, I have decided to sort out the problem and spoke to the Centre to take steps in this regard."

Gohain, who visited Jorhat for the first time after becoming a Union minister, talked about some new schemes to be started in the region.

"We have decided to construct a new 61km-long railway track from Sunla in Nagaon district connecting Khumtai, Jorhat, Teok and Jakaichook to Sivasagar. We have also planned a three-lane railway over bridge at Na Ali rail crossing in Jorhat at an estimated amount of Rs50 crore. A new bypass will be built connecting Mariani and Jorhat. Unmanned railway crossings will be eliminated within five years," he said.

On Sunday, Gohain had said the ministry would upgrade railway tracks from NJP to Guwahati at an estimated cost of Rs650 crore along with stations like Jorhat, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Luming and Guwahati.