

# Minister flags off passenger train between Begusarai and Jamalpur

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Patna/Munger: Minister of state for railways Manoj Sinha flagged off a special passenger train (73451) between Begusarai and Jamalpur at a function at Begusarai station on Monday. The trains will also run on the Jamalpur - Tiltrath and Jamalpur - Khagaria routes as per the announced time table from Tuesday.

According to Sinha, the Digha - Sonapur rail-cum-road bridge will be named after Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan and the Munger bridge will be named after Bihar's first chief minister Srikrishna Sinha. "The railways has completed the mega bridges at Digha and Munger at a cost of Rs5700 crore," he said, adding a parallel bridge near Mokama would also be built in three years.

The minister announced that the railways would build a foot over bridge (FOB) and a diesel locomotive maintenance workshop at Begusarai. "The ministry has allocated adequate funds for completing ongoing railway projects at a cost of Rs3171 crore in Bihar, out of which Rs1486 crore has been earmarked for doubling of tracks at a stretch of about 212km," he added.

Railway Board member (mechanical) Hemant Kumar, ECR GM A K Mittal and chief administrative officer L M Jha among others were present on the occasion.

The minister also visited the railway workshop at Jamalpur and inspected different units. Animesh Kumar Sinha, chief works manager of Jamalpur Rail Workshop, briefed the minister about the production. The minister also flagged off the 3000th loco manufactured in the workshop.

Later, Jamalpur Rail Nirman Karkhana Sangharsha Morcha convener Pappu Yadav met the minister and submitted a written memorandum in support of their long pending demands which included a railway university at Jamalpur and to clear the decks for admission in the Special Class Railway Apprentice (SCRA) which the railway board has banned from this year.

Sources said the minister held talks with the senior officers of the workshop to increase the workload in this oldest railway workshop, known for abundant skilled workers.