

Qadian - Beas railway project

2187. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the projected completion date of the Qadian-Beas railway project;
- (b) the steps taken to begin the construction of the Qadian-Beas railway project;
- (c) whether the Final Location Survey (FLS) has been completed; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Qadian-Beas (39.68 km) new line project was included in budget 2011-12 subject to requisite approvals. Latest cost of the project is ₹890.67 crore.

Final Location Survey (FLS) of the project from Qadian side was started in May, 2012, but it got delayed due to protest from local public and law & order problems in the area. Finally, Final Location Survey has been completed in the year 2017 under police protection and ensuring the presence of Duty Magistrate.

This project was declared as "Special Railway Project" to expedite the land acquisition, SDM/Baba Bakala and SDM/Batala have been nominated as Special Land Acquisition Officers for this project. The land acquisition papers for acquisition of 166.68 hectares land has been submitted to, concerned Special Land Acquisition Officers for the project. For speedy land acquisition, ₹13 lakh has also been paid by Railway to State Revenue Department for hiring of retired revenue staff.

The timely completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities (both underground and over ground), statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble Courts, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project, which is finally worked out at the completion stage. As such no confirmed time line can be given for completion of project.