

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2693
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2023

STATUS OF RAILWAY PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

2693 DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of railway projects in Himachal Pradesh including those where survey has been conducted and approval has been accorded but work has not started yet, district/project-wise;
- (b) the details of the total budgetary allocations made by Government for these projects;
- (c) the reasons, if any, for the delay in the completion of these railway projects in Himachal Pradesh;
- (d) whether Government is taking any measures to complete all the pending railway projects in Himachal Pradesh within a fixed time schedule; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2693 BY DR. SIKANDER KUMAR ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 11.08.2023 REGARDING STATUS OF RAILWAY PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

(a) to (e) The Railway projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise/District wise as the Railway projects may span across State/District boundaries. During the last 03 years i.e. 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and current financial year (i.e 2023-24), 06 new line surveys covering total length of 809 kms were completed which fall fully/partly in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The proposals for Railway projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations, missing links and alternate routes including connectivity to tourist destinations etc., depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands which is a continuous and ongoing process.

As on 01.04.2023, 4 New Line Projects costing ₹13,168 crore for 245 km length falling fully/partly in Himachal Pradesh are under different stages of planning/approval/execution, Out of which 61 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 4353 Cr. has been incurred upto March 2023.

Zone-wise details of all Railway Surveys including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in >Ministry of Railways>Railway Board >About Indian Railways >Railway Board Directorates >Finance (Budget) >Budget Document (Financial Year)/ Railway wise break up of the Detailed Demands for Grants Financial Year (Part II) Demand No.85.

Railway projects falling fully/partly in Himachal Pradesh are covered under Northern Railway Zone. The details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in> Ministry of Railways> Railway Board> about Indian Railways> Railway Board Directorates> Finance (Budget)> Pink Book (year)> Railway-wise Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme (RSP).

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in fund allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects across Indian Railways. Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and safety works falling fully/partly in the state of Himachal Pradesh:-

Period	Average Outlay	%age more as compared to average allocation during 2009-14
2009-14	₹108 Cr./Yr	-
2014-23	₹541 Cr./Yr	401% more
2023-24	₹1838 Cr./Yr	1602% more

The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic considerations etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project(s).

Various steps taken by the Railways for effective and speedy implementation of rail project include (i) substantial increase in allocation of funds, (ii) delegation of powers at field level, (iii) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels (iv) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects.

During 2009-14, there was 'Nil' commissioning of new lines in Himachal Pradesh, whereas during 2014-23, total 16 km new lines, falling fully/partly in Himachal Pradesh has been commissioned.
