

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1392
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2024

NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL

1392 SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps undertaken by Government to ensure the new railway line projects in West Bengal; and
- (b) Government's plan to construct elevated corridor from New Jalpaigudi to New Alipurduar Junction to get rid of wild life conflict?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1392 BY SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 06.12.2024 REGARDING NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL.

(a) and (b): Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise as the Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. Sanctioning of Railway projects is a continuous and dynamic process of Indian Railway. Railway infrastructure projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands.

Railway Infrastructure Projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal are covered under East Central Railway (ECR), Eastern Railway (ER), South Eastern Railway (SER) and Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain.

As on 01.04.2024, 43 projects (13 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversions and 26 Doubling), of total length of 4479 Km, costing Rs. 60,168 crore falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal including those which are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 1655 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs. 20,434 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned till March, 2024 (in Km)	Total Exp. upto March, 2024 (Rs. in Cr.)
New Lines	13	1087	322	9774
Gauge Conversion	4	1201	854	3663
Doubling/Multi-tracking	26	2192	479	6997
Total	43	4479	1655	20434

The details of outlay for infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is as under:-

Period	Outlay
2009-14	Rs. 4,380 Cr./year
2024-25	Rs. 13,941 Cr. (More than 3 times)

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, 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 conditions etc.

Further, in last three years (i.e. 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-24 and current Financial Year i.e. 2024-25), total 102 Nos. of Surveys (15 New Line 02 Gauge Conversion and 85 Doubling) falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal having a total length of 4,713 Km have been sanctioned and survey work has been taken up.

New Jalpaigudi and New Alipurduar are already connected through double rail line and to further improve the connectivity, a survey has been sanctioned for 3rd and 4th line between New Jalpaigudi and New Alipurduar. Survey of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling of existing rail network are taken up under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) for the development of multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various Economic Zones with an objective to have integrated planning including mitigation measures needed for wildlife and forestry, enhanced logistics efficiency and remove gaps for seamless movement of people, goods and services, connectivity to industrial clusters, ports, mines, power plants, agricultural zones including tourist and cultural places.

Though fund allocation has increased manifold but pace of execution of project is dependent on expeditious land acquisition. Railway acquires the land through State Government. State Government assesses the compensation amount and advises to Railway. On receipt of demand from State Government, Railway deposits compensation amount with concerned District Land acquisition Authority. Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is held up due to delay in land acquisition. Railway had initiated efforts for acquisition of land but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects. Support of the Government of West Bengal is needed to expedite the land acquisition.
