

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 601
ANSWERED ON 07.02.2025

COMPLETION OF SEVOKE RANGPO RAIL LINE PROJECT

601 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Sevoke-Rangpo rail line is expected to be operational by August 2025 and the specific timeline for its completion;
- (b) the current progress of the Sevoke-Rangpo rail line project including key milestones achieved and percentage of work completed;
- (c) the challenges or delays identified in the construction, such as issues related to land acquisition, environmental clearances, or other factors that could impact the timeline; and
- (d) the measures being implemented to address these challenges and ensure the timely completion of the project by August 2025?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): Ministry of Railway has taken up the work of Sevoke-Rangpo (44 Km.) new line project. The anticipated cost of the project is ₹12,132 crore. An expenditure of ₹7,032 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024, with an outlay of ₹2,330 crore for the year 2024-25.

The Sevoke-Rangpo project is one of the most difficult railway projects as the terrain passes through young Himalayas, which are full of geological surprises and numerous problems. This section predominantly involves tunneling of 39 Km length (14 tunnels). By now, 37 km (12 tunnels) of tunneling has been completed.

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There are several challenges that affected the completion of the project works. Some of these are as under:

- i. Disruption of road connectivity on NH-10 since October, 2023 till date.
- ii. Encounter of very poor rock strata in tunnels T8 & T10.
- iii. Proposal for diversion of Forest land, 3.26 Ha (for Riyang Yard) and 3.12 Ha (for Melli Yard & Bridge-9) are pending for stage-I approval and working permission from Government of West Bengal.

Completion of Railway project depends on various factors such as 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 site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project.

Various steps taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of rail projects 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.
