

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2391
ANSWERED ON 17.12.2021

NARKATIAGANJ-BHIKHNA THORI RAILWAY WORK

2391 # SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether gauge conversion of Narkatiaganj-Bhikhna Thori railway line of East Central Railway Zone (ECR) had been selected in the year 2004;
- (b) whether this work has been completed, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, by when it would be completed along with the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) : Narkatiaganj – Bhikhnatori Gauge Conversion section is a part of Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj-Bhikhnatori (295 Km) Gauge Conversion project which was sanctioned in the year 1997-98. Latest anticipated cost of the project is ₹ 1229 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 1069 crore has been incurred upto 31.03.2021. An outlay of ₹ 25 crore has been provided for the current financial year 2021-22 for this project. Jaynagar-Narkatiaganj (260 Km) section has already been commissioned. Work has been taken up on Narkatiaganj-Gaunaha (22 km) section. Work on Gaunaha-Bhikhnatori (12 Km) section has not been taken up as Forest Department/Government of Bihar has declared this section as protected forest.

Completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like forestry 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 of the project. As such, no confirmed timeline of completion of this project can be ascertained at this stage. Nevertheless, Railways are making all efforts to complete this project at the earliest.
