

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1267
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2022

JAGANNATH EXPRESS

1267 **DR. AMAR PATNAIK:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed timeline for completing Jagannath Express allocated to Odisha as announced by Railways;
- (b) the details of funds allocated/disbursed for the timely completion of this project;
- (c) whether Railways is aware of the pending railway projects in Odisha such as the Puri-Konark and Gunupur-Therubali routes;
- (d) if so, whether Railways is considering steps to ensure time-bound completion of these projects with fastrack allocation and construction;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) and (b) Shri Jagannath Yatra has been proposed under Bharat Gaurav trains Policy.

(c) to (f) Railway projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise, as Indian Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. As on 01.04.2022, 35 Railway Projects (11 new line projects, 01 Gauge conversion and 23 Doubling) costing ₹ 55,759 crore for 4,609 km length, falling fully/partly in the State of Odisha are at different stages of planning/approval/execution. Out of these, 1039 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 21,729 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.

Final Location Survey (FLS) for construction of a new rail line between Puri and Konark (33 km) has been sanctioned in September 2022. Survey work has been taken up.

Extension of Nuapada-Gunupur line upto Therubali (79.15 km) was included in the Budget 2017-18 subject to requisite approvals. The Government of Odisha was requested to share 50% cost of construction and to provide land free of cost. However, Government of Odisha has agreed only for providing land free of cost. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project has been prepared. As per DPR, the cost of the project is approx. ₹ 1165.89 crore excluding the cost of land. DPR of the project has been taken up for firming up the results thereon. At present, the project is not sanctioned, as such, no time line can be fixed for making it operational.

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/s site etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project/s. With above constraints, Railways is making all efforts for expeditious completion of project/s.
