

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 440
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022

AGARTALA-AKHAURA RAIL LINK

440 MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Agartala-Akhaura rail link was scheduled to be completed in 2019;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay:
- (c) whether the construction will be completed by December 2022:
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor ; and
- (e) by when Government plans to operationalize the rail link?

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. 440 BY MS. SUSHMITA DEV ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.12.2022 REGARDING AGARTALA-AKHAURA RAIL LINK

(a) to (e): Agartala (India)- Akhaura (Bangladesh) Broad Gauge New Line is a project of national importance and is funded by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and executed by M/s IRCON. The link shall provide additional connectivity between India and Bangladesh and encourage trade between the two nations.

The alignment for Indian side of the project runs from Agartala Railway Station to Nischintpur Yard. The length of Indian side is 5.46 km and length in Bangladesh side (International Border to Gangasagar) is 6.78 km. The project was sanctioned in year 2012-13 and the anticipated cost of the project (Indian side) is ₹897.11 crore. Expenditure on the project (Indian side) upto October, 2022 was ₹678 Crore. The work on Nischintpur yard has also been completed and construction of viaduct in balance portion (Indian side) has been taken up.

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, 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. and all these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project(s). With above constraints, every effort is being made to execute the project(s) expeditiously.
