

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 104
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2023

AGARTALA-AKHAURA RAILWAY LINE

104 SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) by when the railway line between Agartala in Tripura and Akhaura in Bangladesh is expected to be operational; and
- (b) the details of progress in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 104 BY SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 10.02.2023 REGARDING AGARTALA-AKHAURA RAILWAY LINE

(a) & (b): Agartala (India)- Akhaura (Bangladesh) Broad Gauge New Line is a project of national importance. Indian portion is being executed by M/s IRCON and funded by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). The Bangladesh portion is being executed by Bangladesh Railway and funded by Ministry of External Affairs. 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 ₹865 crore. Expenditure on the project (Indian side) upto December, 2022 was ₹708 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 cost sharing authorities, 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). As such the confirmed time frame for completion of projects cannot be ascertained at this stage. With above constraints, every effort is being made to execute the project(s) expeditiously.
