

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2054
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2023

RAIL PROJECTS IN PUNJAB

2054. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of railway projects in Punjab, district/project-wise including those where survey has been conducted and approval has been accorded but work has not been started yet;
- (b) the details of the total budgetary allocations made by Government for these projects;
- (c) the reasons, if any, for the delay in the completion of these railway projects in Punjab;
- (d) whether Government is taking any measures to complete all the pending railway projects in Punjab within a fixed time schedule; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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. 2054 BY SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 17.03.2023 REGARDING RAIL PROJECTS IN PUNJAB.

(a) and (b): The Railway projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. However, as on 01.04.2022, 12 Projects (6 New Lines and 6 Doubling), costing ₹23810 crore for 1570 km length falling fully/partly in Punjab are under different stages of planning/approval/execution, Out of which 159 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹4439 Cr. has been incurred upto March 2022. These include:

- 6 New Line Projects of total length 356 km at a cost of ₹11,220 crore, out of which 61 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹2322 Cr. has been incurred upto March 22.
- 6 Doubling Projects of total length 1214 km at a cost of ₹12,590 crore, out of which 98 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹2,117 Cr. has been incurred upto March 22.

Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Punjab are covered under Northern Railway(NR) and North Western Railway(NWR) zone of Indian Railways. Zone wise details of these projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in> Ministry of Railways> Railway Board> about Indian Railways> Railway Board Directorates> Finance (Budget)> Pink Book (year)> Railway-wise Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme (RSP).

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in Budget allocations and commensurate commissioning of infrastructure projects.

Average Annual Budget Allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/Partly in State of Punjab during 2014-19, has been enhanced to ₹1004 crore per year from ₹225 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 346% more than average annual budget allocation during 2009-14. Annual Budget allocations for these projects have been increased to ₹1095 crore in financial year 2019-20 (387% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14), ₹1565 crore for financial year 2020-21 (596% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14), ₹2262 crore for financial year 2021-22 (905% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14), ₹3543 crore for financial year 2022-23 (1475% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14). For financial year 2023-24, highest ever budget outlay of ₹4762 crore has been proposed for these projects, which is 2017% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14.

(c) to (e): 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 by State Government in Cost sharing 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 considerations etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the project(s). With these constraints, Railways are making all efforts to complete these projects at the earliest.

Various steps being taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of rail projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti Directorate in the Ministry and Gati Shakti units in field, (ii) prioritisation of projects, (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds, (iv) delegation of powers at field level, (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels (vi) 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.
