

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 304
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2023

QADIAN BEAS RAILWAY LINE

304 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the 39.7 Km railway line between Qadian and Beas sanctioned in 2012-13;
- (b) the steps taken by Railways to ensure connectivity of border areas of Punjab with rest of the state and the nation; and
- (c) the details of new railway lines being planned for the State of Punjab, if any?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 304 BY SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 03.02.2023 REGARDING QADIAN BEAS RAILWAY LINE.

(a) to (c) Qadian-Beas (39.6 Km) New Rail Line Project was sanctioned in 2011-12. The anticipated cost of the Project is ₹842 Crore. The Final Location Survey was started in May '2012 but was repeatedly stopped and took about 5 years due to local protests against the project and law and order problems needing police protection and presence of magistrate for the survey. Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands. Sanction of Railway infrastructure projects in areas which are not connected by Railway network including border area of Punjab is a continuous and ongoing process of Indian Railways.

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 ₹23,810 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 ₹2,322 Cr. has been incurred upto March 22.
- 6 Doubling Projects of total length 1,214 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.

Punjab is covered by Northern Railway and North Western Railway Zones of Indian Railways. Projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in> Ministry of Railway> Railway Board> about Indian Railways> Railway Board Directorate> 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.

These allocations have been increased to ₹. 1095 Crore for the 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) and ₹2,262 Crore for financial year 2021-22 (905% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14). For financial year 2022-23, highest ever budget outlay of ₹3543 crore which is 1475 % more than annual budget outlay of 2009-14.
