

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1394
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2024

CHALLENGES IN CONSTRUCTION OF FREIGHT CORRIDOR IN WEST BENGAL

1394 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has scrapped the West Bengal section of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) due to land acquisition issues;
- (b) if so, the specific challenges faced in acquiring land or otherwise for the EDFC in West Bengal;
- (c) whether Government has instead decided to construct a 3rd and 4th line from Sonnagar to Andal, including the 39.75 km section from Andal to Barakar in West Bengal; and
- (d) timeline for completion of the 3rd and 4th line project and impact of freight movement and economic growth in the region?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Ministry of Railways has taken up construction of two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) viz. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) from Ludhiana to Sonnagar (1337 Km) and the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to Dadri (1506 Km). Out of total 2843 Km, 2741 Route Kilometers (96.4%) has been commissioned and operational, which carried 72,617 freight trains during FY 2024-25 (April to October).

Beyond Sonnagar, quadrupling project has been sanctioned from Sonnagar to Andal. This project will see investment of ₹ 12,334 Crores (approx.). Out of total 977.87 Ha. land to be acquired, 929.16 Ha. land has been acquired so far for the project.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by forest department, deposition of Govt. share by the State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearance from various authorities, geological and geographical conditions of the 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 condition etc.
