

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2506
ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

**STATUS AND ALIGNMENT CHANGES IN THE JALESWAR-DIGHA RAIL LINE
PROJECT**

2506 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the Jaleswar-Digha rail line project and whether alignment has been changed to Jaleswar-Chandaneswar due to land acquisition issues in West Bengal;
- (b) whether the land acquisition process for the Jaleswar-digha rail line has been completed, if not, the timeline for its completion;
- (c) the expected timeline for the completion of the Jaleswar-digha rail line and the measures being implemented to expedite the project; and
- (d) the primary challenges or impediments currently affecting the Jaleswar-digha rail line project and the manner by which Ministry plans to address them to ensure timely execution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): Jaleswar – Digha New Line project was sanctioned in 2010-11. The project was subsequently put on hold due to land acquisition constraints in West Bengal Portion. However, due to persistent demand of the public, the project has been taken up again within the state of Odisha from Jaleswar to Chandaneswar. Land acquisition work has been taken up by Government of Odisha.

As on 01.04.2024, 43 projects (13 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversions and 26 Doubling), of total length of 4479 Km, costing ₹60,168 crore falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal including those which are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 1655 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹20,434 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned till March, 2024 (in Km)	Total Exp. upto March, 2024 (₹ in Cr.)
New Lines	13	1087	322	9774
Gauge Conversion	4	1201	854	3663
Doubling/Multi-tracking	26	2192	479	6997
Total	43	4479	1655	20434

The details of outlay for infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is as under:-

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹ 4,380 Cr./year
2024-25	₹ 13,941 Cr. (More than 3 times)

Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in West Bengal is as under:

Total Land required	4093 Ha
Land Acquired	1086 Ha (26.5%)
Balance Land to be acquired	3007 (73.5%)

Support of the Government of West Bengal is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of West Bengal.

The completion of any Railway project 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. Completion time of the project can not be ascertained at this stage.
