

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2522
ANSWERED ON 21.03.2025

NEW RAILWAY PROJECT FOR WEST BENGAL

2522. SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps undertaken by the Ministry to ensure new railway lines and new railway projects for West Bengal; and
- (b) whether there is any plan to control Railway- Wildlife conflict from New Jalpaiguri to New Alipurduar Junction route, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b): Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/District/Constituency wise as the Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the West Bengal are covered under Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and Northeast Frontier Railway zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

During last three years (i.e. 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-24 and current Financial Year i.e. 2024-25), total 102 Nos. of Surveys (15 New Line, 85 Doubling and 02 Gauge Conversion) falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal having a total length of 4702 Km have been sanctioned.

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During the last three years starting from 2021-22 to 2023-24 and current financial year 2024-25, total 09 Projects (09 Doubling) falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal having a total length of 646 Km at a cost of Rs. 17,042 crore have been sanctioned. Funds are allocated to Railway Projects as per their requirements.

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 (Rs. 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	Rs. 4,380 Cr./year
2024-25	Rs. 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 for Projects in West Bengal	4093 Ha
Land Acquired	1086 Ha (26.5%)
Balance Land to be acquired	3007 Ha (73.5%)

Details of some major projects which are delayed due to land acquisition are as under:-

SN	Name of the project	Total land required (in Ha)	Land acquired (in Ha)	Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha)
1	Nabadwipghat-Nabadwipdham New Line (10 Km)	106.71	0	106.71
2	Byepass at Sainthia (5 Km)	22.28	0	22.28
3	Deshpran-Nandigram (17 Km) New Line	78.51	65.96	12.55
4	Balurghat-Hilli new line (30 km)	156.38	95.12	61.26

Further, works on these projects could not be taken forward due to protest by local people against land acquisition and non-cooperation of concerned authorities of the State Government of West Bengal.

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of Railway projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units (ii) prioritisation of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (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. This has led to substantial increase in rate of commissioning since 2014.

Indian Railways has developed AI enabled Intrusion Detection System (IDS) for detecting presence of elephants on Railway tracks at identified corridor locations. This system helps to get advance intimation regarding movement of such animals for taking timely action and transmitting alerts to loco pilots, station master and control room, thereby preventing accidents. This has been commissioned at 141 km critical vulnerable locations in Northeast Frontier Railway. Further, provision of this system in Sivok -Nagrakata- Hasimara- Alipurduar Jn.has been taken up.
