

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2375
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2025

PROGRESS OF RAILWAYS PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL

2375 SMT. MAUSAM B NOOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current financial and physical progress of the New Jalpaiguri-Kolkata corridor upgradation and the four-line “Chicken’s Neck” enhancement announced in June 2025 with a ₹14,000 crore allocation for West Bengal;
- (b) whether the final location survey for the 190 km Jogbani (Bihar)- Biratnagar- New Mal Junction (WB) rail line through Nepal has been completed and the estimated cost of land acquisition that Government has to bear;
- (c) the forest-clearance milestones reached for the Sevoke-Rangpo broad – gauge line and the compensatory afforestation undertaken in Darjeeling and Kalimpong divisions; and
- (d) the number of sanctioned Gati Shakti multimodal cargo terminals in West Bengal and the timeline for operationalising?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): To improve the connectivity of New Jalpaiguri- Kolkata Corridor, following projects have been sanctioned recently:

1. Aluabari- New Jalpaiguri 3rd & 4th Line (57km)
2. Aluabari- Thakurganj doubling (20 km)

Additionally, to further improve the connectivity, following Surveys have also been sanctioned for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR):-

1. Malda Town-Kumedpur 3rd & 4th Line (61 km)
2. Kumedpur—Aluabari 3rd & 4th Line (116 km)
- 3.. Thakurganj- Siliguri doubling (57 km)

After firming up of DPR, sanctioning of project requires consultation with various stakeholders including State Governments and necessary approvals viz. appraisal of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance etc. As sanctioning of projects is a continuous and dynamic process, exact timelines cannot be fixed.

Railway infrastructural Projects in the State of West Bengal are covered by Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and Northeast Frontier Railway Zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

Budget allocation in the recent years has been increased significantly. Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/ partly in West Bengal is as under:

| Period | Outlay |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| 2009-14 | ₹ 4,380 crore/year |
| 2025-26 | ₹ 13,955 crore (More than 3 times) |

Details of some of the recently completed projects falling fully/partly in West Bengal are as under :

| Sl No | Project | Cost (₹ In crores) |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1 | Lalgola-Jiaganj Doubling (23 km) | 124 |
| 2 | Krishnanagar- Bethuadahari Doubling (28 Km) | 152 |
| 3 | Katwa- Patuli Doubling (18 Km) | 122 |
| 4 | Nalhati- Sagardighi Doubling (26 km) | 193 |
| 5 | Palassey- Jiaganj Doubling (54 km) | 234 |

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 6 | New Coochbehar- Gumanihat Doubling (29 km) | 330 |
| 7 | New Coochbehar- Samuktala Road Doubling (29 km) | 445 |
| 8 | Ambari Falakata- New Maynaguri Doubling (38 km) | 843 |
| 9 | Bazar Sau- Azimganj Doubling (42 km) | 343 |
| 10 | Monigram- Nimitita Doubling (34 km) | 713 |
| 11 | Purulia- Kotshila doubling (36 km) | 393 |
| 12 | Kharagpur- Narayangarh 3 rd Line (24 km) | 270 |

The details of some of the important ongoing projects falling fully/partly in the West Bengal are as under:

| S.No. | Name of the project | Cost (₹ In crore) |
|-------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Nabadwipghat-Nabadwipdham New Line (10 km) | 251 |
| 2 | Deshpran- Nandigram New Line (17 km) | 399 |
| 3 | Tarakeshwar- Bishnupur New Line (82 km) | 2,582 |
| 4 | Balurghat-Hilli New Line (30 km) | 1,209 |
| 5 | Kaliyaganj-Buniadpur New Line (33 km) | 1,147 |
| 6 | Katihar- Kumedpur & Katihar- Mukuria Doubling (65 km) | 943 |
| 7 | Kharagpur-Adityapur 3rd line (132 km) | 3,250 |
| 8 | Narayangarh- Bhadrak 3rd line (153 km) | 2,136 |
| 9 | Chandil-Anara-Damodar 3rd Line (121 Km) | 1,932 |
| 10 | Kalipahari- Bakhtarnagar 5 th Line (18 km) | 350 |

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 | 4564 Ha |
| Land Acquired | 1094 Ha (24%) |
| Balance Land to be acquired | 3470 Ha (76%) |

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

| Name of the project | Total land required (in Ha) | Land acquired (in Ha) | Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha) |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nabadwipghat-Nabadwipdham New Line (10 Km) | 106.71 | 0 | 106.71 |
| Bypass at Sainthia (5 Km) | 22.28 | 0 | 22.28 |
| Deshpran-Nandigram (17 Km) New Linne | 78.51 | 65.96 | 12.55 |

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

As on 01.04.2025, 42 projects (12 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversion and 26 Doubling), of a total length of 4,402 km, costing ₹ 67,991 crore, falling fully/partly in West Bengal, are sanctioned, out of which 1,702 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹23,410 crore has been incurred upto March' 2025. The summary is as under:-

| Category | No of sanctioned Projects | Total Length NL/GC/DL (in Km) | Length Commissioned till Mar'25 (in Km) | Total Exp upto Mar'25 (₹ in Cr) |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| New Lines | 12 | 1,032 | 337 | 11,368 |
| Gauge Conversion | 04 | 1,201 | 854 | 3,673 |
| Doubling / Multitracking | 26 | 2,169 | 511 | 8,370 |
| Total | 42 | 4,402 | 1,702 | 23,410 |

Construction of new line from Jogbani- Birat Nagar (Nepal) (19 km) has been taken up. Further, Final Location Survey (FLS) from Birat Nagar (Nepal)- New Mal Junction (190 km) has also been sanctioned.

Sivok - Rangpo (44 km) new line project has been taken up in first phase for connecting with IR network (Rangpo is 40 km short of Gangtok). Cost of the project is ₹11973 crore. An expenditure of ₹ 8358 crore has been incurred on the project upto March, 2025. An outlay of ₹ 2940 crore has been provided for 2025-26.

The Sivok-Rangpo project (44 km) is one of the most difficult new railway line project as the terrain passes through young Himalayas, which are full of geological surprises and numerous problems. This section predominantly involves tunneling i.e. 39 Km out of 44 Km (i.e. 88%) of length is in tunnels. By now, 32 km of tunneling has been completed.

Completion of Railway project/s depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, 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 etc. All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project/s.

Construction of Gati Shakti Terminal GCT):- So far, 3 GCTs situated in West Bengal have been commissioned. Further, In- Principle Approval for 21 GCTs in West Bengal have been given by the Railway. As perr Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) policy, the timelines for operationalising of these projects are 24 months from the date of ESP approval.
