

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 3154**  
ANSWERED ON - 20/08/2025

**VARANASI-KOLKATA EXPRESSWAY IN WEST BENGAL**

3154. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether construction work on the Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway has commenced in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand while progress in West Bengal remains stalled;
- (b) whether the delay in West Bengal is primarily due to the slow pace of land acquisition by the State Government despite the National Highways Authority of India being ready with tenders and offering compensation above market rates;
- (c) the percentage of land acquisition completed in West Bengal for the expressway project and the districts where acquisition is pending; and
- (d) the tentative timeline for inviting tenders and initiating construction work in West Bengal under this project?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) Yes Sir. The work of construction of Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway has been awarded in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand except at certain locations. Further, the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for stretch in West Bengal has been awarded.
- (b) & (c) The subject alignment from Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata was approved by Government and consent of State Government of West Bengal was given on 03.01.2023. The revised alignment considering the request of State Government was approved in October, 2024.

Notification under Section 3(A) of National Highway (NH) Act, 1956 is completed in Purulia, Bankura & Hooghly districts out of six (6) districts falling in the alignment.

- (d) The award of work and start of construction shall be based on the outcome of DPR, requirement of connectivity, inter-se priority and synergy with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.

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