

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 752**  
**ANSWERED ON 25.07.2025**

**RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY IN BORDER DISTRICTS**

752 SHRI PRAKASH CHIK BARAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress on the New Maynaguri-Madarihath-Hasimara line project;
- (b) the amount of funds allocated in 2024-25 for gauge conversion and station upgrades in North Bengal; and
- (c) the expected commissioning date for enhanced passenger and freight services?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): Gauge Conversion of New Maynaguri – Madarihath - Hasimara has already been completed as a part of New Jalpaiguri – Siliguri - New Bongaigaon gauge conversion project.

Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/UT wise/District wise as the Railway projects may span across State/UT/District 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 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.

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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:-

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

Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/ partly in West Bengal is as under:

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

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

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the project</b>	<b>Cost (₹ In crore)</b>
1	Sivok-Rangpo New Line (44 km)	11,973
2	Balurghat-Hilli New Line (29km)	1208
3	Kaliyaganj-Buniadpur New Line (33km)	1147
4	Doubling of Katihar-Kumedpur and Katihar-Mukuria (64 km)	942

Further, to improve connectivity in North Bengal, following surveys has been sanctioned for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR):

1. Thakurganj-Siliguri doubling (57 Km.)
2. Rampurhat-Dumka doubling (65 Km.)
3. Aluabari-New Jalpaiguri 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> line (57 Km.)

4. Malda-Kumedpur 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> line (61 Km.)

5. Pakur-Sainthia 4<sup>th</sup> line (84 Km.)

6. Andal-Sainthia 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> line (79 Km.)

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.

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