

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 229
ANSWERED ON 13.03.2026

**PROPOSAL FOR VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER / SPECIAL TRAIN FROM BHUBANESWAR
TO KORAPUT**

*229 SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal/request from Government of Odisha for running a Vande Bharat Sleeper/Special train service from Bhubaneswar to Koraput to improve rail connectivity in Southern Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of examination/approval;
- (c) if not, whether Central Government/Railways proposes to introduce such Vande Bharat Sleeper or any special train arrangement on the Bhubaneswar–Rayagada–Jeypore– Koraput route; and
- (d) the timeline by which the said train service is likely to be operationalized?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.229 BY SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 13.03.2026 REGARDING PROPOSAL FOR VANDE BHARAT SLEEPER / SPECIAL TRAIN FROM BHUBANESWAR TO KORAPUT

(a) to (d) Presently, Bhubaneswar–Rayagada–Jeypore–Koraput sector is being served by the daily service of 18447/18448 Bhubaneswar-JagdulpurHirakhand Express. Moreover, Koraput is connected to Kottavalasa by 03 pairs of train services while Kottavalasa is further connected to Bhubaneswar by 06 pairs of train services. These train services are listed below:

Trains serving Koraput-Kottavalasa sector:

SN	Train No & Name
1	18515/18516 Kirandul - Visakhapatnam Express
2	58501/58502 Kirandul - Visakhapatnam Passenger
3	58537/58538 Koraput - Visakhapatnam Passenger

Trains serving Kottavalasa- Bhubaneswar sector:

SN	Train No & Name
1	16107/16108 Tambaram - Santragachi Amrit Bharat Express
2	16597/16598 SMVT Bengaluru - Alipurduar Amrit Bharat Express
3	16523/16524 SMVT Bengaluru - Balurghat Express
4	16223/16224 SMVT Bengaluru - Radhikapur Express
5	17015/17016 Secunderabad - Bhubaneswar Visakha Express
6	18045/18046 Charlapalli - Shalimar East Coast Express

Besides, introduction of new train services including Vande Bharat Sleeper/Special train service on any route/section, are on-going processes on Indian Railways and depends on various factors which include:

- Capacity of that section
- Availability of path
- Availability of required rolling stock
- Availability of matching infrastructure for rolling stock
- Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other asset

Railway has taken up infrastructure upgradation in Odisha in a big way.

Railway Budget:

Budget allocation in the recent years has increased significantly. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Odisha is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹ 838 Cr./year
2025-26	₹ 10,599 Cr. (Nearly 13 times)

Track Construction:

The details of commissioning/laying of new track falling fully/partly in the State of Odisha during 2009-14 and 2014-25 is as under:

Period	New Track Commissioned	Average Commissioning of new tracks per year
2009-14	267 Km	53 Km
2014-25	2,150 Km	195 Km (More than 3.5 times)

Project Sanctioned:

As on 01.04.2025, 49 projects (19 New Lines and 30 Doubling), of a total length of 4,010 Km, costing ₹ 67,496 crore, falling fully/partly in Odisha, are sanctioned, out of which 1,429 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹28,043 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	19	1,544	256	6,270
Doubling/Multi-tracking	30	2,466	1,173	21,773
Total	49	4,010	1,429	28,043

Recently Completed Projects:

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

SN	Name of Project	Cost (In Crores of ₹)
1	Daitari-Banspani New Line and Jakhapura-Haridaspur 3 rd Line (179 Km)	1,317
2	Jharsuguda - Sardega New Line (50 Km)	1,598
3	Haridaspur-Paradeep New Line (82 Km)	2,397
4	Angul-Sukinda New Line (104 Km)	2,834
5	Champa-Jharsuguda 3 rd Line (152 Km)	1,227

SN	Name of Project	Cost (In Crores of ₹)
6	Sambalpur-Titlagarh Doubling (182 Km)	2,262
7	Rourkela-Jharsuguda 3 rd Line (101 Km)	1,313
8	Banspani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhapura Doubling (164 Km)	1,827
9	Sambalpur-Talcher Doubling (174 Km)	1,539
10	Raipur - Titlagarh Doubling (203 Km)	1,171
11	Jharsuguda-Sardega Doubling (50 Km)	3,200

Ongoing Projects:

Further, some of the main projects falling fully/partly in Odisha which have been taken up are as under:

SN	Name of Project	Total Cost (In Crores of ₹)
1	Junagarh-Nabarangpur New Line (116 Km)	2,865
2	Nabarangpur-Jeypore New Line (41 Km)	748
3	Jeypore-Malkangiri New Line (130 Km)	2,344
4	Malkangiri – Pandurangapuram New Line (174 Km)	3,592
5	Buramara-Chakulia New Line (60 Km)	1,459
6	Gunupur-Therubali New Line (74 Km)	1,166
7	Puri - Konark New Line (32 Km)	492
8	Badampahar-Kendujhargarh New Line (82 Km)	1,876
9	Bangriposi-Gorumahisani New Line (86 Km)	2,269
10	Bargarh Road-Nawapara Road New Line (138 Km)	2,622
11	Vizianagram-Titlagarh 3 rd Line (265 Km)	6,996
12	Jarapada- Budhapank 3 rd & 4 th Line with flyover at Talcher (101 Km)	810
13	Budhapank- Salegaon via Rajatgarh 3 rd & 4 th Line (170 Km)	2,023
14	Nergundi - Vizianagaram 3 rd Line (385 Km)	4,963
15	Kottavalasa-Koraput Doubling (189 Km)	2,500
16	Koraput-Singapur Road Doubling (165 Km)	2,362
17	Jagdampur-Koraput Doubling (107 Km)	1,547
18	Jharsuguda-Bilaspur 4 th line (206 Km)	2,596
19	Bondamunda-Ranchi Doubling (159 Km)	3,029
20	Narayangarh-Bhadrak 3 rd line (153 Km)	2,136
21	Bhadrak-Nergundi 3 rd Line (92 Km)	1,284

The progress of some of the major projects is as under:

1. **Khurda Road-Bolangir (301 Km) new line:** The latest cost of the project is ₹5,089 crore. Expenditure of ₹4,311 crore has been incurred on this project upto March, 2025. An outlay of ₹1938 crore has also been provided in the financial year 2025-26. Status of project is as under:-

- Khurda Road – Daspalla (106 Km) : Commissioned
- Daspalla – Purunakatak (75 Km) : Works have been taken up.
- Purunakatak – Bolangir (120 Km) : Commissioned

Status of Daspalla – Purunakatak (75 km) is as under:-

SN	Activity	Scope	Status
1	Tunnel	7 nos (11.96 Km)	6 nos completed (7.7 Km). Works taken up in balance 1 tunnel
2	Important Bridge	5	All completed
3	Station Building	5	Works have been taken up

2. **Construction of 3rd and 4th line between Salegaon- Budhapank(85 Rkm):** The work has been taken up. Status is as below:-

- Salegaon – Rajathgarh (23 Km) : Commissioned
- Rajathgarh – Dhenkanal (20 Km) : Land acquisition & forest land diversion completed. 4 major bridges completed. Balance work has been taken up.
- Dhenkanal – Meramundali (34 Km) : Commissioned
- Meramundali – Budhapank (8 Km) : Land acquisition & forest land diversion completed. 2 major bridges and 2 stations completed. Balance work has been taken up.

Sanction of any railway project depends upon many parameters/factors which include the following:

- Anticipated traffic projections and Remunerativeness of the proposed route
- First and last mile connectivity provided by the project
- Connection of missing links and providing additional route
- Augmentation of congested/saturated lines
- Demands raised by State Governments/Central Ministries/Public representatives,
- Railway's operational requirements
- Socio-economic considerations
- Overall availability of funds

Completion of Railway project/s depends on various factors which include the following:

- Land acquisition
- Forest clearance
- Shifting of infringing utilities
- Statutory clearances from various authorities
- Geological and topographical conditions of area
- Law and order situation in the area of project 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.
