

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1709
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026

**DELAY IN BALANGIR–NAUPADA RAILWAY LINE AND ITS IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT
OF WESTERN ODISHA**

1709 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the final location survey for the Balangir–Naupada railway line project has already been completed;
- (b) if so, the date of completion;
- (c) whether the survey has received all statutory approvals;
- (d) whether the delay in the project has adversely affected connectivity and economic development of Western Odisha;
- (e) if so, the assessment made in this regard; and
- (f) the remedial steps proposed?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (f): Final Location Survey for Balangir – Nuapada (Nawapara Road) via Patnagarh (100 Km) new line has been completed and Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared.

After preparation of DPR, sanctioning of project requires consultation with various stake-holders 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.

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
