

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1710**  
**ANSWERED ON 13.02.2026**

**REASONS FOR DELAY IN BALANGIR–NAUPADA RAILWAY LINE PROJECT**

1710 SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has fixed a revised timeline for completion of the Balangir– Naupada railway line project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the monitoring mechanism put in place to ensure timely completion;
- (d) the details of the reason for the delay in the project;
- (e) whether land acquisition issues and inadequate budgetary allocation are responsible for the delay;
- (f) if so, the extent of land yet to be acquired and budgetary allocation made during the last three years;
- (g) the steps taken to resolve issues in land acquisition; and
- (h) the proposed budgetary allocation for the current year?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (h): 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

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.

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