

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3953**  
**ANSWERED ON 27.03.2026**

**DE-PRIORITISATION OF THE SOPORE–KUPWARA RAIL LINK**

3953 SHRI CHOWDRY MOHAMMAD RAMZAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific technical and financial parameters used to declare the 34-km Sopore-Kupwara Rail Link as "infeasible" in February, 2026;
- (b) whether Government has considered the strategic and security importance of extending the rail network to a frontier district like Kupwara before dropping the project;
- (c) whether any alternative survey is being conducted for a modified route to make the project viable; and
- (d) the total expenditure already incurred on the preliminary surveys and land identification for this project since its initial announcement?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): A survey for Sopore to Kupwara (34 km) New Line was completed and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared. However, the project has been dropped because it was found to be infeasible due to alignment of project passing through apple orchards and low traffic projections.

Sanction of any railway project depend 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 own operational requirements
- Socio-economic considerations
- Overall availability of funds

To further improve rail connectivity, in the region, the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of following projects have also been prepared:

- Qazigund – Srinagar – Budgam doubling (118 km)
- Baramulla - Uri new line (40 km)

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.

\*\*\*\*\*