

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2367
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2026

**RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY IN TRIBAL AND ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS OF
CHHATTISGARH**

2367 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that several tribal, backward and mineral-rich districts of Chhattisgarh continue to face inadequate railway connectivity despite their strategic and economic importance;
- (b) if so, the details of districts identified for improvement of rail connectivity in the State;
- (c) the details of new railway lines, passenger train services and railway infrastructure projects sanctioned, under construction and pending in Chhattisgarh during the last five years;
- (d) the reasons for delay, if any, in completion of these projects; and
- (e) the steps being taken by Government to ensure timely expansion of railway connectivity in the State, particularly in remote and tribal regions?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): Railway projects are surveyed /sanctioned/ executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise / District wise as the Railway projects may span across State/district boundaries.

CHHATTISGARH

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 Chhattisgarh is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-2014	₹311 Cr./year
2026-2027	₹7,470 Cr. (approx. 24 times)

Track Construction:

The details of commissioning/laying of new track falling fully/partly in the State of Chhattisgarh is as under:

Period	New Track Commissioned	Average Commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	32 Km	6.4 Km per year
2014-26	1,311 Km	109.29 Km per year (17 times)

Projects Sanctioned:

As on 01.04.2026, 36 projects (8 New Lines and 28 Doubling), of total length of 2,398 Km, costing ₹48,202 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Chhattisgarh are Sanctioned. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in km)	Length Commissioned till March, 2026 (in Km)	Total Exp upto March 2026 (₹ in cr.)
NL	8	887	262	7,535
DL	28	1,512	889	11,298
TOTAL	36	2,398	1,151	18,833

Recently Completed Projects:

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

S.N.	Name of Project	Cost (₹ in Cr.)
1	Kharsia-Korichhapar New Line (43 Km)	851
2	Bilaspur-Urkura 3 rd line (110 Km)	365
3	Salka Road-Khongsara doubling (26 Km)	181
4	Durg-Rajnandgaon Doubling (31 Km)	250
5	Khodri-Anuppur Doubling with flyover at Bilaspur (72 Km)	792
6	Champa-Jharsuguda 3 rd Line (152 Km)	1,227
7	Pendra Road – Annupur 3 rd Line (50 Km)	394
8	Raipur - Titlagarh Doubling (203 Km)	1,171
9	Dallirajahra-Rowghat (95 Km)	1,628

Ongoing Projects:

Some of the major projects falling fully/partly in the State of Chhattisgarh which have been taken up are as under:

S.N.	Name of Project	Cost (₹ in Cr.)
1	Kharsia-Dharamjaygarh New Line (122 Km)	3,407
2	Gevra Road-Pendra Road New Line (135 Km)	3,724
3	Dharamjaigarh-Korba New Line (63 Km)	1,686
4	Chirimiri-Nagpur Halt New Line (17 Km)	670
5	Sardega-Bhalumunda New Line (37 Km)	1,282
6	Kharsia - Parmalkasa New Double Line (278 Km)	7,854
7	Rowghat-Jagdarpur New Line (140 Km)	3,513
8	Kirandul-Jadgalpur Doubling (150 km)	1,780
9	Jagdarpur-Koraput Doubling (107 Km)	1,547
10	Jharsuguda-Bilaspur 4 th line (206 Km)	2,596
11	Gevra Rd-Pendra Rd Doubling (135 Km)	3,475
12	Rajnandgaon-Nagpur 3 rd line (228 Km)	3,545
13	Boridand- Ambikapur Doubling (80 Km)	1,577
14	Durg-Rajnandgaon 4 th line (31 Km)	464
15	Gondia-Dongargarh 4 th line (84 Km)	2,223
16	Baikunth- Urkura 4 th line (26 Km)	426
17	Champa-Korba 3 rd Line (42 Km)	755

In last three years i.e. 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 and current financial year 2026-27, 14 surveys (06 new line and 08 doubling) covering a total length of 2,455 km falling fully/partly in the State of Chhattisgarh have been sanctioned. Some of the important Final Location surveys (FLS) are as under:

S.N.	FLS	Status
1	Ambikapur-Ramanujganj-Garhwa Road and Ramanujganj-Barwadih New Line (262 Km)	Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared
2	Sardega-Pathalgaon-Ambikapur new line (218 km)	DPR has been prepared
3	Dharamjaigarh-Pathalgaon-Lohardaga New Line (292 km)	DPR has been prepared
4	Kothagudem-Kirandul New Line (180 Km)	Field Survey work has been taken up
5	Gadchiroli-Bijapur-Bacheli New Line (490 Km)	Field Survey work has been taken up

6	Dhamtari-Banskot-Amravati-Kondagaon New Line (183 Km)	Field Survey work has been taken up
7	Bilaspur (Uslapur)-Pendra Road 3 rd line (87 Km)	DPR has been prepared
8	Bilaspur-Shahdol-Katni 4 th line (202 Km)	DPR has been prepared
9	Raipur-Titlagarh 3 rd & 4 th line and Titlagarh-Vizianagaram 4 th line (464 Km)	DPR has been 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 own 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.

Passenger Train Services:

As the railway network straddles across State boundaries, trains are operated across such boundaries as per network requirement. However, Indian Railways constantly endeavour to improve connectivity for the travelling passengers. To this end, in recent years, Indian Railways have also introduced 18 train services which cater to the needs of the passengers of stations located in the State of Chhattisgarh. These are as listed below:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20829 Durg-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
2	20830 Visakhapatnam-Durg Vande Bharat Express
3	20825 Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express
4	20826 Nagpur-Bilaspur Vande Bharat Express
5	22407 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Ambikapur Express
6	22408 Ambikapur-Hazrat Nizamuddin Express
7	18641 Hatia-Durg Express
8	18642 Durg-Hatia Express
9	11701 Jabalpur-Raipur Express
10	11702 Raipur-Jabalpur Express
11	68766 Raipur-Rajim MEMU
12	68767 Rajim-Raipur MEMU
13	68760 Raipur -Abhanpur MEMU
14	68761 Abhanpur-Raipur MEMU
15	68762 Raipur -Abhanpur MEMU
16	68763 Abhanpur-Raipur MEMU
17	08833 Raipur -Antagarh DEMU
18	08834 Antagarh-Raipur DEMU

Further, Indian Railways, with a view to improve travel experience of the passengers, have introduced indigenously designed and manufactured Vande Bharat trains (Chair Car and Sleeper) and Amrit Bharat Express with modern coaches, advanced safety features and passenger amenities.

Presently, 81 Pairs of Vande Bharat Express[Chair Car], 01 pairs of Vande Bharat Express[Sleeper] & 36 pairs of Amrit Bharat Express are being operated over the Indian Railways network, of which 02 Pairs of Vande Bharat Express[Chair Car] and 01 pairs of Amrit Bharat Express are catering to the needs of passengers of stations located in the State of Chhattisgarh. These are listed below:

Vande Bharat trains serving Chhatisgarh:

SN	Train No. & Name
1	20829/20830 Durg-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express
2	20825/20826 Bilaspur-Nagpur Vande Bharat Express

Amrit Bharat trains serving Chhatisgarh

SN	Train No. & Name
1	19021/19022 Udhna -Brahmapur Amrit Bharat Express

Besides, introduction of train services, on any route/section, which is an on-going process, 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 assets
- Occupancy and the traffic requirement of the section
