

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2023**

COAL CONNECTIVITY RAILWAY PROJECTS

1106. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways proposes to sanction a large number of coal connectivity projects as part of its ambitious energy corridor programme;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total amount to be allocated for the programme, State/UT-wise especially in the State of Punjab;**
- (c) the benefits likely to accrue to the railway commuters due to new coal connectivity projects of the Indian Railways;**
- (d) whether there is any proposal to connect the small energy corridors with the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC), which runs from Punjab to West Bengal to ensure timely supply of thermal coal to power houses during peak demand; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1106 BY SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.02.2023 REGARDING COAL CONNECTIVITY RAILWAY PROJECTS

(a) and (b): Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands. Sanction of Railway infrastructure projects in areas which are not connected by Railway network including coal connectivity projects is a continuous and ongoing process of Indian Railways.

The Railway Infrastructure projects are sanctioned Zonal Railway wise and not State wise/UT wise as the Railways' projects may span across various state boundaries. As on 01.04.2022, across Indian Railways, 452 Railway Infrastructure projects including coal connectivity projects (183 New Line, 42 Gauge Conversion and 227 Doubling) of total length 49,323 Km, costing approx. ₹7.33 lakh crore are in different stages of planning/sanction/execution, out of which, 11,518 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of approx. ₹2.35 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.

Zone-wise details of Railway Projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in> Ministry of Railways> Railway Board> about Indian Railways> Railway Board Directorates> Finance (Budget)> Rail Budget/Pink Book (year)> Railway-wise Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme (RSP).

Punjab:

As on 01.04.2022, 12 railway projects (06 New line and 06 Doubling) of total length 1570 km, costing ₹23,810 crore, falling fully/partly in the state of Punjab are in different stages of planning/sanction/execution, out of which, 159 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹4,439 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in Budget allocation and commensurate commissioning of Infrastructure projects. Average Annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects & safety works, falling fully/ partly in the State of Punjab, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹1,004 crore per year from ₹225 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 346% more than Average Annual Budget allocation during 2009-14. Annual Budget allocations for these projects have been increased to ₹1,095 crore in Financial Year 2019-20 (387% more than the Average Annual Budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹1,565 crore in Financial Year 2020-21 (596% more than the Average Annual Budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹2,262 crore in Financial Year 2021-22 (905% more than the Average Annual Budget allocation of 2009-14). For Financial Year 2022-23, highest ever budget outlay of ₹3,543 crore has been provided for these projects, which is 1475% more than the Average Annual Budget outlay of 2009-14 (₹225 crore per year).

During 2014-22, 168 Km of Doubling have been commissioned in the State at an average rate of 21 km/year.

(c) to (e): Development of Railway Infrastructure projects such as New Line and Multi-tracking projects will serve as a crucial link between coal producing areas and power plants located in different parts of country. The first and last mile connectivity to coal mines will not only reduce the time for evacuation of coal, but will also enhance the cargo capacity and reduce the burden on road transport. Thermal power plants of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and other adjoining areas and coal fields are connected with Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor through feeder routes.
