

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1748
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2021**

RAIL CONNECTIVITY TO HISTORICAL/TOURIST PLACES IN ODISHA

1748. SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation for Railway projects in Odisha for the current year (2021-22);

(b) the details of new projects that are likely to be taken up;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a passenger train to Nilgiri (Dahaimara-Gopinathpur) where a station for goods train operates from British period, which has been a long pending demand of the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering to connect all the places of pilgrimage, historical and tourist importance through Railways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by when one of the oldest places of pilgrimage in Odisha will get rail connectivity?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1748 BY SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.12.2021 REGARDING RAIL CONNECTIVITY TO HISTORICAL/TOURIST PLACES IN ODISHA.

(a) and (b): Budget allocation to Railway projects are provided Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise, as, Indian Railways' projects may span across State boundaries. As on 01.04.2021, 37 Railway Projects (11 new line projects, 01 Gauge conversion and 25 Doubling) costing ₹ 55,219 crore for 4,643 km length, falling fully/partly in the State of Odisha are at different stages of planning/approval/execution, out of which, 928 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 16,903 crore has been incurred upto March, 2021.

Odisha is covered by East Coast Railway, South Eastern Railway and South East Central Railway. Zonal Railway wise details of projects including cost and expenditure 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) >Pink Book(Year) >Railway wise works Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme.

Railway has substantially increased budget allocations for Infrastructure projects & safety works, falling fully/partly in State of Odisha. Average annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects & safety works, falling fully/partly in State of Odisha, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹ 4,126 crore per year from ₹ 838 crore per year (during 2009-14). Thus, the average budget allocation during 2014-19 is 392% more as compared to average allocation during 2009-14 (₹ 838 Cr/Year). These allocations have been enhanced to ₹ 4,568 crore in 2019-20 and ₹ 5,296 crore in 2020-21 which are 445% and 532% more than the average allocation of 2009-

14 (₹ 838 Cr/Year) respectively. Total allocation of Budget has further been enhanced to ₹ 5,921 crore in 2021-22, which is the highest ever budget allocation for the State of Odisha and 607% more than the average annual budget allocation of 2009-14 (₹ 838 Cr/Year).

There is substantial increase in rate of commissioning since 2014. During 2009-14, 267 km (56 km of New line, 83 km of Gauge conversion and 128 km of Doubling projects), falling fully/partly in the State of Odisha, have been commissioned at an average rate of 53.40 km per year. During 2014-21, 1031 km (251 km of New line and 780 km of Doubling projects), falling fully/partly in the state of Odisha, have been commissioned at an average rate of 147.29 km per year, which is 176% more than average annual commissioning achieved during 2009-14.

(c) and (d): At present, there is no proposal to operate passenger trains to Nilgiri (Dahaimara-Gopinathpur) as Balasore-Nilgiri section is not fit for passenger traffic and only fit for freight traffic.

(e) and (f): Many places of pilgrimage, historical and tourist importance in the state of Odisha like Puri, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Baripada, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Behrampur, Rayagada and Jeypore are already connected via Railway network.

Further, 11 new line projects are in different stages of planning/approval/execution falling party/fully in the State of Odisha which will also provide connectivity to pilgrimage, historical and tourist places en-route.
