

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2024**

RAPID RAIL IN WEST BENGAL

2735 SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding commencement of the rapid rail operations;**
- (b) the details of proposed routes being built for the rapid rail system particularly in West Bengal;**
- (c) the details of the number of Freight Corridors being built in the country and the routes being covered particularly in West Bengal; and**
- (d) the details of the benefits of Freight Corridors to the economy?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2735 BY SHRI RAJU BISTA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.08.2024 REGARDING RAPID RAIL IN WEST BENGAL

(a) to (d): The Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise/Constituency-wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. However, as on 01.04.2024, 43 projects (13 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversions and 26 Doubling) comprising of total length of 4479 Km, costing ₹60,168 crore are falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal including those which are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 1655 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹20,434 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024.

Railway Infrastructure Projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal are covered under East Central Railway (ECR), Eastern Railway (ER), South Eastern Railway (SER) and Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Zones of Indian Railways.

Average annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is as under:-

Year	Budget Outlay	% change w.r.t. avg. annual allocation of 2009-14
2009-14	₹4380 Cr./Yr	-
2023-24	₹11790 Cr.	169% more

Though fund allocation has increased manifold (more than 2.6 times) but pace of execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is held up due to delay in land acquisition and only about 580 Ha land has been acquired out of total requirement of about 1981 Ha. Railway had initiated efforts for acquisition of land and has paid ₹283 Crore to Government of West Bengal for land acquisition but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects.

Further, New Delhi-Howrah route is planned for 160 kmph which includes about 230 km from Barakar to Howrah in West Bengal.

Ministry of Railways is executing the work of construction of two dedicated freight corridors namely Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) consisting of 1337 km from Ludhiana to Sonnagar and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) consisting of 1506 km from JNPT to Dadri. Out of 2843 km, 2741 km has been commissioned. Further, 3rd and 4th line is sanctioned from Sonnagar to Andal of 374 km route length (including 39.75 km from Andal to Barakar in West Bengal).

The construction of Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) will facilitate faster access to Northern hinterland from Western Ports and will also lead to development of new industrial hubs and Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals. DFC will offer higher transport output in the country with reduced transit time. This would also improve the supply chain for the industries/logistics players located in DFC's catchment areas of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal leading to growth of Export and Import (EXIM) traffic as well and are also expected to help in reducing the carbon emissions in the country.
