

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2266
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025**

RAILWAY FACILITIES IN BORDER AREA

2266. SHRI MIAN ALTAF AHMAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that Rajouri and Poonch hilly and border districts of Jammu and Kashmir do not have any railway facilities;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the Government intends to construct a rail line from Reasi Katra to Rajouri which is about 40 kms. on priority basis;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the timeline by which such railline would be constructed; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

The work on new railway line in Jammu & Kashmir under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project of total length 272 Km has already been completed. USBRL project covers the district of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla in Jammu & Kashmir.

Survey for new line between Jammu and Poonch via Akhnur and Rajauri (223km) was carried out. The cost of project was assessed as ₹22,771 crore. The project has low traffic projections.

Moreover, following 5 surveys falling in the State of Jammu & Kashmir have been taken up recently:

- 1. Baramulla - Uri New Line(46 Km),**
- 2. Sopore-Kupwara New Line(37 Km),**
- 3. Anantnag-Pahalgam New Line(78 Km),**
- 4. Avantipore-Shopian New Line(28 Km) and**
- 5. Banihal-Baramulla doubling(118 Km)**

Sanctioning of Railway projects is a continuous and dynamic process of Indian Railway. Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes including connectivity to hilly and border areas, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands.

The completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc.
