

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3005
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2025**

**ELECTRIFICATION AND DOUBLING OF RAILWAY LINE IN NORTH
BENGAL**

3005. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of railway electrification and doubling of railway lines in North Bengal, district-wise, including Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar;

(b) the details of railway sections in these districts where electrification and doubling projects have been completed during the last five years; and

(c) the details of ongoing electrification and doubling projects in these districts, along with their expected completion timelines?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/Constituency wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes,

augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic and ecofriendly considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

In the state of West Bengal, 98.6% of Broad gauge lines have been electrified and achievements during 2009-14 and 2014-2024 are as under:

Period	Route Kilometer
2009-14	160
2014-25 (upto Feb-25)	1,647

The electrification works for Railway lines situated in North Bengal, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar have been completed except New Cooch Behar-Bamanhat section of Cooch Behar district, which has been taken up.

New Jalpaiguri to New Cooch behar via falakata passing through the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar is already double line.

As on 01.04.2024, 43 projects (13 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversions and 26 Doubling), of total length of 4479 Km, costing ₹60,168 crore 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. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned till March, 2024 (in Km)	Total Exp. upto March, 2024 (Rs. in Cr.)
New Lines	13	1,087	322	9,774
Gauge Conversion	4	1,201	854	3,663
Doubling/Multi-tracking	26	2,192	479	6,997
Total	43	4,479	1,655	20,434

The details of outlay for infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is as under:-

Period	Outlay
2009-14	Rs. 4,380 Cr./year
2024-25	Rs. 13,941 Cr. (More than 3 times)

In last three years (i.e. 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-24 and current Financial Year i.e. 2024-25), total 102 Nos. of Surveys (15 New Line 02 Gauge Conversion and 85 Doubling) falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal having a total length of 4,713 Km have been sanctioned and survey work has been taken up.

Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is held up due to delay in land acquisition. Status of land acquisition in West Bengal is as under:

Total Land required	4093 Ha
Land Acquired	1086 Ha (26.5%)
Balance Land to be acquired	3007 (73.5%)

Support of the Government of West Bengal is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

Details of some major projects which are delayed due to land acquisition are as under:-

SN	Name of the project	Total land required (in Ha)	Land acquired (in Ha)	Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha)	Amount Paid to State (in Cr.)
1.	Nabadwipghat- Nabadwipdham New Line Project	106.71	0	106.71	50
2.	Byepass at Sainthia	22.28	0	22.28	0
3.	Digha-Jaleswar New Line	55.43	0	55.43	0

Government of India is geared up to execute projects, however success depends upon the support of Government of West Bengal.