

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025**

ASANSOL-BANKURA CONNECTOR RAILWAY LINE

4322. SHRI ARUP CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Eastern Railway has completed Asansol to Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPS) railtrack of the proposed Asansol-Bankura connector railway line;**
- (b) if so, whether remaining Mejia-Bankura portion is still pending inspite of availability of land for Railways; and**
- (c) if so, the reason behind and the target of Railways to accelerate and complete the rest portion of 22 kms thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): 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 considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

There is a private siding of Mejia Thermal Power Station (MTPS) connecting Raniganj to MTPS for supplying coal to the thermal power plant. Survey for Bankura - Raniganj New Railway Line (48 Km) was carried out. The project has low traffic projections.

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 Asansol and Bankura region, 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 (₹ in Cr.)
New Lines	13	1087	322	9774
Gauge Conversion	4	1201	854	3663
Doubling/Multi-tracking	26	2192	479	6997
Total	43	4479	1655	20434

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

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹4,380 Cr./year
2025-26	₹13,955 Cr. (More than 3 times)

To improve rail connectivity in Asansol and Bankura regions, following projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal have been sanctioned in the current financial year i.e. 2024-25:-

SN	Name of the Project	Cost (₹ in Crore)
1	Chandil – Anara – Damodar 3 rd Line (121.26 Km)	1,932
2	Kalipahai – Bakhtarnagar 5 th Line (17.61 Km)	350
3	Rail Flyover at Gaurinath Dham end to Purulia (Chandil end) (5.9 Km)	429
4	Sini and Kandra (12.53 Km) 3 rd & 4 th lines	287

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%)

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)
1.	Nabadwipghat-Nabadwipdham New Line Project	106.71	0	106.71
2.	Byepass at Sainthia	22.28	0	22.28
3.	Digha-Jaleswar New Line	55.43	0	55.43

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