

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3200
ANSWERED ON 7TH AUGUST, 2025**

STATUS OF VARANASI-KOLKATA EXPRESSWAY AND NH-81

3200. SHRI ARUP CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) the updated status of land acquisition, bidding and construction of the Varanasi-Kolkata Expressway in West Bengal;**
- (b) whether suggestions from local bodies in Howrah and Hooghly districts to revise the expressway design for better access have been officially considered, if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the timeline for finalising alignment and initiation of construction in West Bengal; and**
- (d) the expected date of completion of ongoing widening work and greenfield bypasses on National Highway (NH- 81 and the reasons for delay in achieving full physical progress?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (c) The alignment of the Varanasi-Kolkata access Controlled Highway in the State of West Bengal (from Jharkhand/West Bengal Border to Bagnan along with a spur route to Kolkata from Bagnan to Bishnupur and Joka to Shirakhole including Amtala Bypass) has been approved after due process including consultations with the State Government.

Publication of notification under Section 3(A) of National Highways Act 1956 has been completed in the districts of Purulia, Bankura and Hooghly. The bidding process and construction activity shall be taken up upon completion of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and approval of the Competent Authority.

(d) Total length of NH-81 in the State of West Bengal is 59.697 km. The status is as follow:

- 1. From Km 0.000 to Km 19.205: Already widened to 2-lane with paved shoulders (2L+PS).**
- 2. From Km 19.205 to Km 46.550: Already widened to 2L+PS, including two bypasses (Samsi and Malatipur) except 1 bypass (Chanchal bypass) and opened to traffic. Chanchal Bypass has been partially completed and the remaining length of 2.874 km (from Km 32.500 to Km 35.130) has been de-scoped due to land issues and repeated resistance from land losers. This de-scoped length of Chanchal Bypass shall be taken up after encumbrance free land is provided by the State Government.**
- 3. From Km 46.550 to Km 59.697: A Greenfield alignment of length 13.147 km is under construction. The project has been delayed due to recurrent floods during monsoon in past years, delay in supply of pond ash for embankment construction, delay in closure of Railway Level Crossing, closure of Farakka Barrage in 2018, COVID-19 pandemic. Till date, out of the 13.147 km, 9.35 km has been completed. The expected date of completion for the balance work is 31.10.2025.**
