

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 645  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025**

**INCLUSION OF GOPALPUR-RAIRAKHOL RAILWAY LINE**

**645. SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for new Railway line of Gopalpur-Rairakhol has been submitted;**

**(b) if so, whether it includes Phulbani, the district headquarters of Kandhamal;**

**(c) if not, the reasons for excluding Phulbani from the earlier DPR despite in-principle approval by the Government;**

**(d) whether the Ministry has directed Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (ORIDL) to revise the DPR and include Phulbani in the alignment;**

**(e) if so, the details of the current status of the revised DPR, including the timeline for its completion and submission to the Railway Board; and**

**(f) whether any funds have been allocated or proposed for survey, land acquisition or preliminary works for the project in the next financial year and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (f): Rail connectivity for Kandhamal District is proposed to be provided by Rairakhol – Gopalpur new line project being taken up by**

**Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited (ORIDL), a Joint Venture company of Government of Odisha and Ministry of Railways.**

**Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this new rail line was prepared by ORIDL. However, the alignment of proposed new line was not passing through Phulbani which was in contravention to the In-Principle Approval (IPA) granted to ORIDL.**

**Accordingly, ORIDL has been advised to review the alignment of Gopalpur – Rairakhol new rail line to include Phulbani. The survey work & preparation of DPR considering the alignment via Phulbani is taken up by ORIDL.**

**After firming up of Detailed Project Report, sanctioning of project requires consultation with various stake-holders including State Governments and necessary approvals viz. appraisal of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance etc. As sanctioning of projects is a continuous and dynamic process, exact timelines cannot be fixed.**

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