

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3153  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026**

**BALURGHAT HILLI AND KALIYAGANJ BUNIADPUR NEW RAILWAY LINE**

**3153. SHRI KARTICK CHANDRA PAUL:**

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

- (a) the present status of work on the Balurghat–Hilli and Kaliyaganj–Buniadpur new line projects in West Bengal;**
- (b) whether land acquisition and forest clearance for these projects have been completed and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the year-wise expenditure incurred on these two projects till date;**
- (d) the expected timeline for completion and commissioning of these projects; and**
- (e) the details of the steps being taken to expedite work considering their importance for border and regional connectivity?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

**(a) to (e): The work of New Railway line between Balurghat and Hilli (30 Km) was sanctioned in 2010-11. However, the project could not be taken forward and was kept on hold due to non acquisition of land by State Government of West Bengal. Subsequently, keeping in view the public demand it was decided to take the project forward in 2022. The latest cost of the project is ₹1,209 crore. An expenditure of ₹405 crore has been incurred upto to March, 2025 with an outlay of ₹187 crore for the year 2025-26. Land acquisition has been completed and work has been taken up.**

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The work of Kaliaganj-Buniadpur New Line was sanctioned in 2010-11. However, the project could not be taken forward and was kept on hold due to non-acquisition of land by State Government of West Bengal, Subsequently, keeping in view the public demand it was decided to take the project forward in 2024. The latest cost of the project is ₹1,147 crore with an expenditure of 38 crore upto March, 2025 and outlay of ₹128 crore for the year 2025-26. A total of 168 Ha. Land to be acquired for the project and Land acquisition work has been taken up.

**West Bengal:**

Budget allocation in the recent years has increased significantly. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal is as under:-

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

As on 01.04.2025, 42 projects (12 New Lines, 04 Gauge Conversions and 26 Doubling), of total length of 4402 Km, costing ₹67,991 crore falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal have been sanctioned. The summary is as under:

<b>Category</b>	<b>No. of projects</b>	<b>Total Length (in Km)</b>	<b>Length Commissioned till March, 2025 (in Km)</b>	<b>Total Exp. upto March, 2025 (₹ in Cr.)</b>
<b>New Lines</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>11,368</b>
<b>Gauge Conversion</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,201</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>3,673</b>

<b>Doubling/Multi-tracking</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>8,370</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4,402</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>23,410</b>

**Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.**

**Details of some of the recently completed projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal are as under:**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost (₹ in Cr.)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Rampurhat-Mandarhill new line and Rampurhat-Murarai 3rd line (159 Km)</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Azimganj-Murshidabad new line (7 Km)</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Bardhaman-Katwa Gauge Conversion (52 Km)</b>	<b>696</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Ahmedpur-Katwa Gauge Conversion (52 Km)</b>	<b>440</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Panskura Kharagpur Doubling (45 Km)</b>	<b>408</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Lalgola - Jiaganj Doubling (23 Km)</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Krishnanagar-Bethuadahari Doubling (28 Km)</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Nabadwipdham-Patuli Doubling (22 Km)</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Bethuadhahari-Plassey Doubling (23 km)</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Ambikakalna-Nabadwipdham Doubling (23 km)</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Nalhati-Sagardighi Doubling (26 km)</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Tamluk Jn.- Basulya Sutahata Doubling (24 km)</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Plassey- Jiaganj Doubling (54 km)</b>	<b>234</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Azimganj-Manigram Doubling (21 km)</b>	<b>150</b>

<b>15</b>	<b>New Coochbehar-Gumanihat Doubling (29 km)</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>New Coochbehar-Samuktala Road Doubling (29 km)</b>	<b>445</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Sainthia-Tarapith 3rd line (22 Km)</b>	<b>186</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Ambari Falakata-New Maynaguri Doubling (37 km)</b>	<b>843</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Bandel-Boinchi - 3rd line (31 km)</b>	<b>546</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Boinchi-Shaktigarh 3rd line (26 km)</b>	<b>424</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Bazar Sau-Azimganj Jn. Doubling (42 km)</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Sagardighi- Malda Town Doubling (25 Km)</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Kharagpur-Narayangarh 3rd line (24 km)</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Monigram-Nimtita Doubling (24 Km)</b>	<b>713</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Purulia-Kotshila Doubling (36 Km)</b>	<b>393</b>

**Some of the projects falling fully/partly in the State of West Bengal which have been taken up are as under:**

<b>SN.</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost (₹ in Cr.)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Chandil-Purulia-Anara-Damodar 3rd Line(121 Km)</b>	<b>1,932</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Tarakeshwar-Bishnupur New Line (83 Km)</b>	<b>1,542</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Sivok-Rangpo New Line (44 Km)</b>	<b>11,973</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Balurghat-Hilli New Line (30 Km)</b>	<b>1,209</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Kaliyaganj-Buniadpur New Line (33 Km)</b>	<b>1,147</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Katihar-Kumedpur and Katihar-Mukuria Doubling (65 Km)</b>	<b>943</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Kharagpur-Adityapur 3rd line (132 Km)</b>	<b>3,250</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Narayangarh-Bhadrak 3rd line (153 Km)</b>	<b>2,136</b>

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<b>9</b>	<b>Kalipahari-Bakhtarnagar 5th Line (18Km)</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Dankuni-Baltikuri 3rd &amp; 4th line (18 Km)</b>	<b>429</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Murarai-Barharwa 3rd Line (49 Km)</b>	<b>935</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Ranaghat-Krishnanagar City 3rd Line (26 Km)</b>	<b>446</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Aluabari Road-New Jalpaiguri 3rd &amp; 4th Line (57 Km)</b>	<b>1,630</b>

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

<b>Total Land required</b>	<b>4,662 Ha</b>
<b>Land Acquired</b>	<b>1,273 Ha (27%)</b>
<b>Balance Land to be acquired</b>	<b>3,389 Ha (73%)</b>

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

<b>SN</b>	<b>Name of the project</b>	<b>Total land required (in Ha)</b>	<b>Land acquired (in Ha)</b>	<b>Balance Land to be acquired (in Ha)</b>	<b>Amount Paid to State (in Cr.)</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Chandil-Anara- Burnpur - 3rd line</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Nabadwipghat- Nabadwipdham new line</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Byepass at Sainthia</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Naihati – Ranaghat 3rd line</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1.3</b>

<b>5.</b>	<b>Sivok-Rangpo new line</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7.98</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Kaliyaganj-Buniadpur new line</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Canning- Bagankhali new line</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Adra- Sanka- Rukni doubling</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Kalipahari-Bakhtarnagar 5th line</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Rail Flyover at Anara from Rukni to Anara station</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Rail Flyover at Gourinathdham end to Purulia</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Chandanpur Shaktigarh 4th Line</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

**Completion of Railway project/s depends on various factors which include the following:**

- **Land acquisition**
- **Forest clearance**
- **Shifting of infringing utilities**
- **Statutory clearances from various authorities**
- **Geological and topographical conditions of area**
- **Law and order situation in the area of project site**
- **Number of working months in a year for particular project site etc.**

**Various steps taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of rail projects include:**

**-:7:-**

- **Substantial increase in allocation of funds.**
- **Delegation of powers at field level.**
- **Close monitoring of progress of project at various levels.**
- **Regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects.**

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