

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4291
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2015
WORK ON RAILWAY LINE
Kumar Shri Shanta

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to start the work of the proposed Pathankot -Manali-Leh and Bhanupalli-Manali-Leh Ladakh Railway Line Project in the State of Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (b) : Surveys for Gauge Conversion of Pathankot-Jogindernagar Narrow Gauge line and New Line between Jogindernagar to Mandi assessed the cost of the projects at 4581 Crores (at 2010 price level) with negative rate of return. These projects could not be sanctioned as it was not possible for the railways to take up these capital intensive projects with limited gross budgetary support.

Railway has, however, taken up construction of New Line between Bhanupalli and Bilaspur as a part of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri (63.1 km) New Line project on the basis of Cost Sharing by the State Government and part funding by Ministry of Finance as an additionality. Final Location Survey has been taken up. Extension of this line from Bilaspur to Leh via Manali (498 km) has been identified by Government of India as a strategic line to be taken up in first phase in lieu of Pathankot-Manali-Leh line as Bhanupalli will get connected to Pathankot via Mukerian after completion of Nangal Dam-Talwara-Mukerian rail link project. Ministry of Railways has requested Ministry of Defence to convey approval to carry out Final Local Survey and provide necessary funds.

(c) :The time of implementation cannot be ascertained till completion of Final Location Survey and detailed geotechnical studies as this project passes through very difficult terrains of young Himalayas.