

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2493  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014  
CONSTRUCTION OF MANALI LEH RAIL LINE  
Kumar Shri Shanta;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the Railways have proposed to construct Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Mandi-Manali-Leh rail line along with Pathankot-Manali rail link in the State of Himachal Pradesh considering the strategic importance of railway lines leading to the Himalayan Borders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : Railway has taken up construction of New Line project Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri (63.1 km) on the basis of Cost Sharing by the State Government and part funding by Ministry of Finance as an additionality. 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 in first phase in lieu of Pathankot-Manali-Leh as Bhanupalli will get connected to Pathankot via Mukerian after completion of Nangal Dam-Talwara-Mukerian rail link project.

As regards Pathankot-Manali rail link, surveys for Gauge Conversion of Pathankot-Jogindernagar Narrow Gauge line and New Line between

Jogindernagar to Mandi assessed the cost of the projects at Rs.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.

(c) : At this stage, it is not possible to give any date for completion of the project.