

Regarding Need to issue fresh DPR and expedite completion of Jalalgarh-Kishanganj New Rail Line Project in Seemanchal region of Bihar-Laid

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED (KISHANGANJ): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the continued neglect and prolonged delay in reviving the Jalalgarh-Kishanganj New Rail Line Project in the Seemanchal region, a project of critical strategic and economic significance. The 50-km broad-gauge line, sanctioned in 2008-09, was abruptly kept in abeyance in September 2019 on grounds of 'unviability'. For six years, the people of Seemanchal have been waiting for justice. When I raised this issue under Rule 377 on 27.03.2025, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Railways informed, through his July 2025 letter, that a fresh DPR was being prepared. However, six months have passed without any visible progress on the ground. Despite an allocation of ₹170.8 crore in the Railway Budget 2025-26, neither land acquisition nor survey work has meaningfully begun. This rail line is not merely a connectivity project, it is a strategic lifeline for the Siliguri Corridor, offering the shortest and most reliable link to the North-East, easing load on the Katihar route, strengthening defence logistics, and unlocking economic potential for agriculture, tea, and cross-border trade. I therefore urge to complete the fresh DPR within 30 days; grant final sanction before 31 March 2026; ensure full utilisation of the allocated ₹170.8 crore.