

Angul-Sukinda rail line to be ready by June 2018

BS REPORTER
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The much-awaited Angul Sukinda rail link is likely to be completed by 2018. This optimism stems from completion of land acquisition by Angul Sukinda Railway Limited, the company formed to implement the project.

"The entire land acquisition for the 104 km rail project has been completed and we have apprised the state government about this," said Dillip Kumar Samantray, managing director, Angul Sukinda Railway Limited at a conference on Transport Infra Odisha-2014, organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce.

"I am hopeful the project will be through by June 2018," he added.

The crucial rail link project being developed in PPP mode is estimated to cost ₹1,200 crore. Originally, ₹420 crore was the equity portion with the balance being debt.

Recently, Container Corporation of India (Concor), the country's largest logistics services provider, has decid-

ed to pick up 26 per cent stake in this key rail link project.

After the Concor's participation, the equity part has now gone upto ₹600 crore from ₹420 crore, Samantray said, adding the loan syndication is almost complete.

Other equity partners in the project include Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), Jindal Steel & Power Ltd (JSPL), Odisha government, Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) and Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Idco).

Meanwhile, ICC has recommended ten areas for Odisha government's intervention to accelerate infrastructure development in the state. It includes, transport rates as per the Gazette Notification which are not being followed by transporters, policy for captive fleet, early resolution of berthing delays and rake availability for despatches at Paradip Port and Dhamra Port, container port terminals at Paradip and Dhamra, revision of co-user agreements from present policy of allowing one co-user to allow

multiple co-users, allowing railway siding on priority basis for industries.

The railway infrastructure including additional goods shed sidings for container handling, upgradation of in-motion weighbridges and reviewing the freight classifications for reducing burden of dead freight, etc, are some important areas that need to be looked into, said Vishal Agarwal, Chairman, ICC Odisha Expert Committee.

The industry body has also suggested the government to put emphasis on specific roads such as four laning of express highway from Chandikhol to Duburi and six laning of Chandikhol to Paradip road, rail connectivity between Talcher and Sukinda and rationalization of tax structure for aviation sector such as reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on aviation turbine fuel (ATF).]

Santosh Kumar Mohapatra, Director, Adani Group, proposed the state government to set up a rail company, a road company and a maritime board.

