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## Land acquisition for Angul-Sukinda Railway line project complete: ASRL Managing Director



भुवनेश्वर Bhubaneswar (BBS): Land acquisition for the 104-km-long Angul-Sukinda railway project, considered to be the lifeline for industrial pockets in central Odisha, is now complete raising hopes for the key railway link project to be commissioned by mid 2018.

“We have completed the process of land acquisition for Angul-Sukinda line, which is being developed on public-private partnership,” said Dillip Kumar Samantray, Managing Director of ASRL.

Mr. Samantray was speaking on the sidelines of conference on ‘Accelerating the pace of infrastructure development in Odisha, organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce here on Tuesday.

The project needs 205 acres of private land, 220 acres of government land and 251 acres of forestland.

“Since it is a railway project, I do not see any delay in getting forest clearance for laying railway track on land classified as forestland. The clearance should be issued within next six months. We are hopeful that the project would be completed by June 2018,” said the ASRL MD.

The project was announced way back in 1996-97. Till 2010, there was little hope for the project to become a reality. After the Ministry of Railways decided to bring private partners to develop the project, it started moving.

Mr. Samantray informed that equity tie-up for the project had also been finalised with the Odisha government pitching in after private players departed.

Paradip-Haridaspur railway link is another railway project being developed in Odisha, which has very poor railway infrastructure despite being one of the biggest contributors to railway revenue. Since 1950, only four new railway lines have been laid in the State.

As per the project of industrial production, 450 million tonnes of railway traffic is expected in the State in the near future. “No adequate railway infrastructure exists to support movement of 450 million tonnes of railway traffic. The model by which the Angul-Sukinda railway project is being developed should be followed to create more railway infrastructure in the State,” said ASRL Managing Director.