

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.71
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

ELIMINATION OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS

* 71 SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has been able to achieve its target of elimination of Manned Level Crossing (MLCs), if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) details of the elimination of MLCs in the last three years;
- (c) whether Government agrees with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Performance Audit Report 2022 finding that 86 works of construction of Rail Over Bridge/Rail Under Bridge (ROB/RUB) are incomplete, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government agrees with the CAG observation that such delays are avoidable; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken to expedite the construction of ROB/RUB in lieu of level crossings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 71 BY SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 08.12.2023 REGARDING ELIMINATION OF MANNED LEVEL CROSSINGS

(a) & (b): During the period 2014-23, total 10867 Nos. Road Over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs) were completed, whereas, during the period 2004-14, only 4148 Nos. ROBs/RUBs were completed. During the current year 2023-24, 496 Nos. ROBs/RUBs have been completed upto Nov'2023.

Elimination of level crossings (LCs) is an ongoing process to improve safety and mobility, and mostly done by providing Road over Bridges (ROBs)/ Road under Bridges (RUBs) in lieu of LCs or through direct closure (for low traffic LCs) or by diversion of road traffic to nearby ROB/RUB/ LC.

Priority of LC elimination is based on its impact on safety in train operations, mobility of trains and impact for road users, feasibility of execution and cost considerations.

Completion & commissioning of ROB/RUB works depends on various factors like cooperation of State Governments in giving consent for closure of LC, fixing of approach alignment, approval of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD), land acquisition, removal of encroachment, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, law and order situation in the area of project / work sites, number of working months in a year for particular project / work sites due to climatic conditions of the region etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the projects / works. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to fix definite timelines for completion of ROB/RUB works and accordingly for elimination of LCs.

3012 Nos. of Manned Level Crossings (MLCs) has been eliminated during 2020-21 to 2023-24 (upto Nov. 2023) on Indian Railways.

(c) to (e): Railway maintains Zone-wise data of all such works. Total 86 works involve 140 Nos. ROBs/RUBs out of which, 93 Nos. ROBs/RUBs have been completed and remaining 47 Nos. are at different stages of site feasibility, planning and execution. Railways have taken following measures to expedite the progress of work:

(i) Joint survey with concerned State Govt./Road Owning Authority is done before finalizing the General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) to ensure smooth execution.

(ii) Periodic meetings of Railway & State Government officials are done to resolve various issues related to ROB/RUB works.

(iii) Standardization of superstructure drawings for various combinations of span, skewness and width of road on Railway portion has been done to avoid delays during the design approval. A compendium for Standardization for Super Structure of ROB drawings has also been launched, which can be directly adopted for Road Over Bridge across Railway lines for expeditious planning and execution of ROB by Zonal Railways, NHAI/MoRTH and State Govt.

(iv) ROB/RUB works are planned to be executed on single entity basis by Railway wherever possible. In case any Road Owning authority/State Govt wants then Railway may permit them to execute the work on single entity basis.
