

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 86
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

NON ACHIEVEMENT OF KEY PHYSICAL TARGETS

*86 SHRI A.D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have not been able to meet some key physical targets for expansion and modernization such as construction of new lines, gauge conversion, and doubling of lines during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for not achieving targets during the same period; and
- (d) the efforts being undertaken to achieve the targets in the future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 86 BY SHRI A.D. SINGH ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.02.2024 REGARDING NON ACHIEVEMENT OF KEY PHYSICAL TARGETS

(a) to (d): Expansion and modernisation of railway Infrastructure is a continuous and ongoing process subject to operational requirements, technical feasibility, commercial viability, resource availability, etc.

Indian Railways has achieved tremendous progress in achievement of key physical targets for infrastructure development such as laying of new tracks, Electrification of railway lines, production of LHB coaches, wagons, Electric locos, construction of Flyovers/Underpasses, etc.

A comparison of the progress made by Indian Railways in key physical targets during the period from 2004-14 and 2014-24 is given below:-

Item	Period 2004-14	Period 2014- till Jan'2024
New tracks laid (Km)(includes New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling)	14,980 Km	30,336 Km
Electrification (RKm)	5,188 RKm	40,009 RKm
Flyovers/Underpasses (nos)	4,148 nos.	11,627 nos.
Production of LHB Coaches (nos)	2,340 nos.	32,662 nos.
Production of Wagons (nos)	1,31,920 nos.	1,50,724 nos.
Production of Electric locos (nos)	2,220 nos.	6,803 nos.
Electronic Interlocking (nos)	840 nos.	2,849 nos.
Escalators and lifts(nos)	240 nos.	2,369 nos.

The details of commissioning of sections (New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling) across Indian Railways during the last three years and the current year i.e. Yr. 2020-21 to Yr. 2023-24 (Upto December, 2023) is given below:-

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 upto Dec'2023
New Lines (in km)	286	289	1815	2629
Gauge Conversion (in km)	470	636	242	133
Doubling (in km)	1614	1983	3186	1332
Total (in km)	2370	2908	5243	4094

The Average Annual Budget allocation for New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling Projects across Indian Railways is indicated below:

Period	Average Outlay	Increase w.r.t. average allocation of 2009-14
2009-14	₹11,527 crore/year	-
2023-24	₹67,199 crore	Nearly 6 times

The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. and all these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project(s). As such, the confirmed time frame for completion of projects cannot be ascertained at this stage.

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of rail projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units (ii) prioritisation of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (vi) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects. This has led to substantial increase in rate of commissioning of New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling since 2014 which is indicated in the table given below:-

Period	Total Commissioning	Commissioning per day	Increase in commissioning w.r.t average commissioning during 2009-14
2009-14	7,599 km	4.2 km/day	-
2022-23	5,243 km	14.4 km/day	Nearly 3.5 times
