

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 57
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2024

RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY FOR TOURIST AND CULTURAL AREAS

*57 # SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any project has been approved in the country to connect tourist and cultural areas with railway during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) in this context, whether any project has been approved for tourist and cultural destinations of Gujarat; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 57 BY SHRI NARHARI AMIN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 26.07.2024 REGARDING RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY FOR TOURIST AND CULTURAL AREAS

(a) to (c): The Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/ tourism/cultural area wise as the Railways' projects may span across state boundaries. Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations, enhancing connectivity to tourist and cultural places etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands.

The survey of New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling of existing rail network are taken up under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) for the development of multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various Economic Zones with an objective to have integrated planning, enhanced logistics efficiency and remove gaps for seamless movement of people, goods and services, connectivity to industrial clusters, ports, mines, power plants, agricultural zones including tourist and cultural places.

In the last 03 years i.e. FY 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and in current FY 2024-25, 163 projects (21 New Line, 17 Gauge Conversion and 125 Doubling) of total length 5663 km costing approx. ₹87,165 Crore have been sanctioned across the country, out of which 28 projects (04 New Line, 14 Gauge Conversion and 10 Doubling) of total length of 1251 km costing ₹17,059 crore fall fully/partly in the state of Gujarat. Sanctioning of these projects will inter-alia provide connectivity to tourist and cultural places.

New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat are covered by Western Railway and North Western Railway Zones of Indian Railways. Zone-wise details of all Railway Projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website.

As on 01.04.2024, total 42 Railway Infrastructure Projects (6 New Line, 22 Gauge Conversion and 14 Doubling), of total length of 2,947 km, costing ₹30,826 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat are in planning/ approval/ construction stages, out of which 826 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹9,336 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024.

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Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in fund allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects across Indian Railways. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat is as under:

Period	Budget Outlay	Increase w.r.t. average annual allocation of 2009-14
2009-14	₹ 589 crore/Year	-
2023-24	₹ 8,332 crore	About 14 times
2024-25	₹8743 crore	About 15 times

Details of commissioning of New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling sections falling fully/partly in the State of Gujarat is as under:

Period	Total Length Commissioned	Average Length Commissioned	Change w.r.t. average commissioning during 2009-14
2009-14	660 km	132 km/year	-
2014-24	2,244 km	224 km/year	1.69 times

In 2023-24, 567 Km track has been commissioned.
