

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 768
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2025

BROAD GAUGE CONVERSION

768 SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the kilometers of meter gauge to broad gauge conversions completed in the last five years;
- (b) the number of district headquarters that have been connected to metro cities through rail after conversion to broad gauge;
- (c) almost a decade after gauge conversion, whether Government has introduced additional trains or provided stoppages at district headquarters like Padrauna to enhance regional connectivity and connect it to metro cities; and
- (d) if not, the reasons thereof, and by when Government plans to address the long-pending demand for better rail connectivity in this region?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/District wise as the Railway projects may span across State/district boundaries. Sanctioning of railway project is a continuous and dynamic process of Indian Railways and railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

-:2:-

During the last 5 years i.e. FY 2020-21 till FY 2024-25 and the current FY 2025-26, across Indian Railways, 21 Gauge Conversion projects of total length 2,617 km, costing approx. Rs. 19,485 crore have been completed.

Further to augment regional connectivity including district headquarters and metropolitan areas, during the last 5 years i.e. FY 2020-21 till FY 2024-25 and the current FY 2025-26, across Indian Railways, 18 Gauge Conversion projects of total length 755 km, costing approx. Rs. 8,273 crore have been sanctioned.

Padrauna is already connected with the existing railway network via Gorakhpur Junction and Thave Junction. To further improve rail connectivity to Padrauna, the following works have been sanctioned:-

S.No.	Project	Cost (in Rs. Crore)
1.	Gorakhpur-Valmikinagar Doubling (96 km)	1,121
2.	Chhitauni-Tumkuhi Road new line (63 km)	1,731

At present, Padrauna is served by 4 pairs of Mail / Express and 4 pairs of Passenger train services, which provide connectivity to Delhi, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Mathura, Jaipur, Ajmer, Ahmedabad, Patna etc. Besides, introduction of new train services on any route/section depends on various factors which include-

- Capacity of that section,
- Availability of path,
- Availability of required rolling stock,
- Availability of matching infrastructure rolling stock,
- Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other assets.

To cater to the needs of passengers, introduction of a new train viz. 15135/36 Chhapra-Amritsar Express, w.e.f 12.12.2025 and with stoppage at Padrauna has been notified.

-:3:-

Uttar Pradesh

Budget allocation in the recent years has increased significantly. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	Rs.1,109 crore/year
2025-26	Rs.19,858 crore (Nearly 18 times)

The details of commissioning/laying of new track falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh during 2009-14 and 2014-25 is as under:

Period	New Track Commissioned	Average Commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	996 Km	199 Km/year
2014-25	5,272 Km	479 km per year (More than 2 times)

As on 01.04.2025, 49 projects (10 New Line, 02 Gauge Conversion and 37 Doubling) of 3,807 km length, costing Rs. 62,360 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh have been sanctioned, out of which 1,323 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs.30,611 Crore has been incurred upto March' 2025. The summary is as under:-

Category	No of sanctioned Projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned Upto Mar'25 (Km)	Exp upto Mar'25 (Rs. in Cr.)
New Line	10	1,227	340	10,517
Gauge Conversion	02	67	0	281
Doubling/ Multitracking	37	2,513	983	19,813
Total	49	3,807	1,323	30,611

In last three years i.e. 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and current financial year 2025-26, 119 surveys (33 New Line, 84 Doubling and 02 Gauge Conversion) covering a length of 6,414 Km have been sanctioned falling fully/partly in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

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Sanction of any railway project depends upon many parameters/factors which include the following:

- Anticipated traffic projections and remunerativeness of the proposed route.
- First and last mile connectivity provided by the project
- Connection of missing links and providing additional route
- Augmentation of congested/saturated lines
- Demands raised by State Governments/Central Ministries/Public representatives,
- Railway's operational requirements
- Socio-economic considerations
- Overall availability of funds

Completion of Railway project/s depends on various factors which include the following:

- Land acquisition
- Forest clearance
- Shifting of infringing utilities
- Statutory clearances from various authorities
- Geological and topographical conditions of area
- Law and order situation in the area of project site
- Number of working months in a year for particular project site etc.

All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project/s.
