GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 757
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2026

CAPACITY AUGMENTATION PROJECTS TO ADDRESS RAILWAY CONGESTION

757 SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average line capacity utilisation on high-density and highly utilised railway corridors as on 31 March 2026, zone-wise;

(b) the routes operating above 100 per cent line capacity, together with the average delay caused thereby; and

(c) the capacity augmentation projects sanctioned to address such congestion and their expected completion schedule?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) & (b) There are total 7 High Density Network (HDN) routes over Indian Railway network. These routes are divided in 308 sections. Out of total HDN sections, 172 sections have line capacity utilisation exceeding 100%.

The details of line capacity utilization on high density routes over Indian Railways are as under:

SN	Zonal Railways	Total no. of HDN section	No. of HDN section having line capacity utilization above 100%
1	CR	30	21
2	ER	12	11
3	ECR	19	14
4	ECOR	9	4
5	NER	5	4
6	NCR	32	11
7	NWR	25	9
8	NFR	23	18
9	NR	31	25
10	SCR	2	-
11	SER	17	11
12	SWR	26	13
13	SECR	13	11
14	SR	10	-

SN	Zonal Railways	Total no. of HDN section	No. of HDN section having line capacity utilization above 100%
15	WCR	18	8
16	WR	19	6
17	SCOR	17	6
TOTAL		308	172

There are total 11 Highly Utilized Network (HUN) routes over Indian Railway network. These routes are divided in 412 sections. Out of total HUN sections, 180 sections have line capacity utilisation exceeding 100%.

The details of line capacity utilization on highly utilized railway routes over Indian Railways are as under:

SN	Zonal Railways	Total no. of HUN section	No. of HUN section having line capacity utilization above 100%
1	CR	5	2
2	ER	19	10
3	ECR	32	23
4	ECOR	22	5
5	NER	9	3
6	NCR	2	2
7	NWR	28	7
8	NFR	45	31
9	NR	59	38
10	SCR	20	12
11	SER	32	13
12	SWR	30	3
13	SECR	12	8
14	SR	28	5
15	WCR	20	11
16	WR	34	4
17	SCOR	15	3
TOTAL		412	180

The average delay varies from section to section depending on traffic patterns, critical sections, maintenance requirements and operational exigencies.

(c) Capacity enhancement of railway network has been taken up by Indian Railways in a big way during last 12 years to address congestion. The details of commissioning/laying of new track across Indian Railways is given below:

Period	New track Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	7,599 Km	4.2 Km/day
2014-26	36,429 Km	8.32 Km/day (nearly 2 times)

As on 01.04.2026, across Indian Railways, 514 Railway infrastructure projects (169 New Line, 29 Gauge Conversion and 316 Doubling) of total length 40,000 Km, costing approx. ₹8.31 lakh crore are sanctioned. The summary is as under:-

Category	No of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (km)	Length Commissioned till Mar' 26 (Km)	Total Exp. upto Mar'26 (₹ in Crore)
New lines	169	16,634	3,361	1,57,572
Gauge conversion	29	3,987	3,045	24,227
Doubling	316	19,379	6,177	1,23,454
TOTAL	514	40,000	12,583	3,05,253

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.

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