

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 666  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2017**

**GAUGE CONVERSION**

**666. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
DR. SATYAPAL SINGH:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the gauge conversion from meter/narrow gauge to broad gauge could not be completed for years even after allocating funds by the Government;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of such delayed projects across the country as on date, zone-wise;**
- (c) whether the Union Government has held discussions with the respective State Government for timely execution of the said projects during each of the last three years and the current year;**
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof, zone-wise and if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to address the concern of the respective State Government in such delayed projects; and**
- (e) the other corrective steps taken/ being taken by the Government for expeditious completion of such projects?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 666 BY SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE AND DR. SATYAPAL SINGH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19.07.2017 REGARDING GAUGE CONVERSION**

**(a) & (b): As on 01.04.2017, there are 58 ongoing Gauge Conversion projects covering a length of 8,745 Km taken up at a cost of ₹ 49,231 Crore. Railway Projects had been suffering from paucity of funds which has been increased during last three years through various measures such as cost sharing with State Governments and increased Extra Budgetary Support etc. Zone-wise details of ongoing projects are given as under:-**

Railway	No. of projects	Length (in Km)	Cost	Expenditure till 31.03.2017	Outlay 2017-18
				(in ₹ Crores)	
East Central	4	740	3398	1942	244
Eastern	1	161	2002	548	86
North Central	3	440	6473	50	86
North Eastern	7	792	4413	1240	274
Northeast Frontier	2	710	2992	1999	60
North Western	3	865	3377	1063	316
South East Central	4	723	3862	2586	517
South Eastern	2	445	3163	674	1.1
South Western	1	148	608	202	0.5
Southern	4	983	3936	2461	392
Western	27	2738	15007	2666	1268
	<b>58</b>	<b>8745</b>	<b>49231</b>	<b>15431</b>	<b>3244.6</b>

**Note:**

**(i) 5 Zonal Railways i.e. East Coast, Northeast Frontier, South Eastern, South Western, West Central are having no Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge operation.**

**(ii) Although main projects of Gauge Conversion have been completed in Northeast Frontier, South Eastern & South Western but material modification sanctioned are still balance.**

**(c): To strengthen the coordination mechanism, Railways have nominated nodal officers from each Zonal Railway for a particular State with a defined role of identifying projects and related issues which require coordination with State Government. At Railway Board level also, nodal officers have been nominated for each State/UT to keep the updated status of railway related demands and issues. Periodic meetings are held with officials of State Government to resolve the issues involved in execution of the projects.**

**(d): Through the coordination meetings between representatives of the States and Railway officials, various issues have been successfully addressed and Railway has been able to expedite the land acquisition, forestry and wild life clearance, NOC from NHAI, shifting of electrical HT alignments, obtaining security in naxalite infected areas, resolving funding issues through release of funds in cost sharing projects and signing of MoUs for formation on Joint Venture Company etc.**

**(e): The other corrective steps taken are as detailed below:-**

**(i) Making higher fund allotment for projects. The capital expenditure for railways has been increased from ₹ 58,718 Cr in 2014-15 to around ₹ 93,795 Cr in 2015-16. ₹ 1,21,000 crore has been provided in Budget 2016-17 and a plan size of ₹ 1,31,000 crore has been kept for 2017-18.**

**(ii) Delegation of powers to the field officers for tenders and estimates: The Zonal Railways have now been delegated full powers with respect to works contracts. Full powers have been given to General Managers of Zonal Railways with respect to sanctioning of estimates. This has also resulted in cutting down time for estimate sanctions and tenders.**

**(iii) Institutional financing by tying up loan with M/s Life Insurance Corporation of India Limited for ₹ 1.5 lac crore for assured funding of viable projects has increased Railway's capacity for committed fund provision for essential projects.**

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