

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5368
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2023**

CONVERTING METRE GAUGE TO BROAD GAUGE

5368. SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of ongoing conversion work of Broad Gauge line (BG) from Meter Gauge, at Southern Railways in his State of Tamil Nadu;**
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce new trains or extending the existing route in his state of Tamil Nadu, during the upcoming Financial Year 2023-2024; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS 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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5368 BY SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.04.2023 REGARDING CONVERTING METRE GAUGE TO BROAD GAUGE

(a): Railway projects are sanctioned and taken up Zonal Railway-wise and not State-wise as the Indian Railways' projects may span across various State boundaries. Ongoing Gauge Conversion projects namely Madurai – Bodinayakkanur (90.4 Km) and Tiruturaipundi – Agastiyampalli (37 Km) falling in Tamil Nadu have been completed. Further, as on date, Mettupalayam – Udagamandlam (46 Km) Metre Gauge exist in Tamil Nadu, this line has been declared as Heritage line.

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in budget outlay for infrastructure projects and safety works and commensurate commissioning. Average annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure and Safety works, falling fully/ partly in State of Tamil Nadu, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹1,979 crore per year from ₹879 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 125% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14. Annual budget allocation for these projects has been increased to ₹2,410 crore for financial year 2019-20 (174% more than average annual allocation of 2009-14), ₹2,812 crore for financial year 2020-21 (220% more than average annual budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹3,730 crore for financial year 2021-22, (324% more than average annual budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹3,865 crore in Financial year 2022 - 23 (340% more than

average annual budget allocation during 2009-14). For Financial Year 2023-24, the highest ever budget outlay of ₹6,080 crore has been allocated for these projects, which is 592% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14.

(b) & (c): Introduction of new train/extension of service is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of rolling stock etc. However, introduction/extension of services is not done on State-wise basis, as Railway network straddle across State boundaries.
