

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2296
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023**

COMMON GAUGE FOR RAIL NETWORK

2296. SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy of common gauge for the rail network of the country;**
- (b) the details of work done under this policy since its inception;
and**
- (c) the details of railway lines where gauge conversion work is
pending along with the reasons therefor?**

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.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2296 BY SHRI KHAGEN MURMU TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.08.2023 REGARDING COMMON GAUGE FOR RAIL NETWORK

(a) to (c): Brief details of the Policy for Project Uni-gauge taken up in 1992 to convert selected routes for conversion into broad gauge is as under:

- (i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative Broad Gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for Doubling of existing Broad Gauge lines on these routes.**
- (ii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centers and locations having potential for growth.**
- (iii) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.**
- (iv) To minimize trans shipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at trans shipment points.**
- (v) To carry out the conversion of lines as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting.**

As on 01.04.1992, Indian Railways had a network of 27,349 Km of Meter Gauge (MG)/ Narrow Gauge (NG) railway lines. 25,368 km of MG/NG railway lines have been converted into Broad Gauge upto 31.03.2023.

As on 01.04.2023, across Indian Railways, 39 Gauge Conversion projects of total length 5,405 Km, costing `48,580 crore, are in planning/sanction/construction stage, out of which 3,514 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of `20,580 crore has been incurred upto March, 2023.

The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. and all these factors affect the completion time of the project(s).
