

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1611
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023**

EXPANDING RAIL NETWORK

**1611. DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:
DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is actively addressing the challenges that India may encounter in maintaining and expanding its extensive rail networks;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has identified it as vital for the continuous enhancement of the country's transportation infrastructure; and**
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1611 BY DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL, DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA AND SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.12.2023 REGARDING EXPANDING RAIL NETWORK

(a) to (d): Railways is giving thrust on infrastructure creation and capacity augmentation.

As on 01.04.2023, across Indian Railways, 459 Railway Infrastructure projects (189 New Line, 39 Gauge Conversion and 231 Doubling) of total length 46,360 Km, costing approx. ₹7.18 lakh crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 11,872 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of approx. ₹2.61 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2023. Zone-wise details of all Railway Projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website.

Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands.

The Average Annual Budget allocation for New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling Projects across Indian Railways is given below:

Period	Average Outlay	Percentage more as compared to average allocation during 2009-14
2009-14	₹11,527 crore/year	-
2014-23	₹36,432 crore/year	216% more
2023-24	₹67,199 crore	483% more

During 2014-23, across Indian Railways, 25,871 km sections (5,785 km New Line, 5,749 km Gauge Conversion and 14,337 km Doubling) has been commissioned at an average of 2,875 km/year which is 89% more than the average commissioning during 2009-14 (1,520 km/year).

To meet the challenges of expansion and maintenance of rail network, mechanization of track laying, maintenance and renewal has been taken up in a big way.
