

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2950
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2023**

GAUGE CONVERSION OF TRACKS

†2950. SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total length of railway tracks including broad gauge, metre gauge and narrow gauge lines;**
- (b) the time by which the metre gauge and narrow gauge lines are targetted to be converted into broad gauge;**
- (c) the total length of double track railway lines;**
- (d) the time by which the single track lines is targetted to be converted into double track lines on main railway routes;**
- (e) the number of completed and under progress of railway electrification projects;**
- (f) the time by which the electrification work of main railway routes is targetted to be completed;**
- (g) the number of railway bridges which are more than 100 years old; and**
- (h) whether there is any plan to construct new railway bridges in place of old railway bridges which have completed its life span and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2950 BY SHRI GUMAN SINGH DAMOR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.12.2023 REGARDING GAUGE CONVERSION OF TRACKS

(a) to (d): The total length of railway tracks including broad gauge, metre gauge and narrow gauge as on 31.03.2023 is 1,32,310 kms and total length of double line track is 26,578 kms.

As on 01.04.2023, across Indian Railways, 39 Gauge Conversion projects of total length 5,405 km, costing Rs. 48,580 crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which 3,514 km length has been commissioned upto March, 2023.

During 2014-23, across Indian Railways 5,749 km Gauge Conversion has been commissioned. Similarly, during this period, 14,337 km Doubling section have been commissioned.

During the last three years i.e. FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23 and current FY 2023-24, 18 no. of Gauge Conversion Projects of a total length of 755 km and 94 no. Doubling Projects of a total length of 3373 km have been sanctioned across Indian Railways.

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, priority of 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 and cost of the project(s).

(e) & (f): Out of 191 projects of 33,014 km sanctioned under Plan Head 'Electrification', 151 projects of 23,299 km have been completed. Out of balance 40 projects of 9,734 km, 5308 km has already been electrified.

The completion of Electrification project(s) depends on various factors like forest clearances by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law & 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. All these factors affect the completion time of the project(s). As such the confirmed time frame for completion of project(s) cannot be ascertained at this stage.

(g) & (h): As on 01.04.2023 there are total 1,58,064 number of Railway Bridges on Indian Railways' Network. All Bridges are maintained in good physical condition irrespective of its age by periodic inspection & repairs. There is a well-established system of inspection of Railway bridges on IR.

Repair/Strengthening/Rehabilitation/Rebuilding of bridges are taken on the basis of inspection of bridges.
