

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4777
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2021**

COST ESCALATION IN RAILWAY PROJECTS

4777. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of projects of Railways have slipped their deadline/schedule set by the Government for their completion in the country during the last three years and the current year;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Zone, Year and Project-wise and the reasons therefor along with cost escalation of such projects due to delay in their completion;**
- (c) the monitoring mechanism developed by the Government to oversee the completion of the said projects within the specified time;**
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry for delay in completion of the said projects during the said period;**
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and**
- (f) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4777 BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.03.2021 REGARDING COST ESCALATION IN RAILWAY PROJECTS

(a) & (b): As on 01.04.2020, 513 Railway projects (189 New line, 54 Gauge Conversion and 270 Doubling works) of 53,039 km length, costing approx. ₹7.5 lakh Crore are in different stages of planning/sanction/execution, out of which 10,013 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹1.86 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2020. Project-wise detail including cost, expenditure incurred and outlay are available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in > Ministry of Railways > Railway Board > About Indian Railways > Railway Board Directorates > Finance (Budget) > Pink Book (Year)> Railway-wise Works, Machinery & Rolling Stock Programme (RSP).

Completion of a Railway project(s) depends on various factors like expeditious land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project 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) which is finally worked out at the completion stage.

During the last three years i.e. 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, 86 projects (16 New Line, 13 Gauge Conversion and 57 Doubling) of total length of 5534 km costing ₹48,258 crore have been commissioned upto March, 2020. During the current year, 21 New line / Gauge

Conversion/Doubling projects of a total length of 1095 km costing ₹10,980 Crore have been commissioned.

(c) to (e): In the Indian Railways, there is a well structured mechanism to monitor and review Railway projects at different levels starting from field units, Chief Administrative Officer (Construction), Zonal Railways, Ministry of Railways etc. Also, the status, constraints and timelines for completion of projects are monitored right upto highest level for early solution to problems. In the overall interest of the nation and to ensure that projects are completed in time without cost overrun, regular meetings are held with the officials of State Government, concerned Authorities and Forest officials etc. to resolve the pending issues obstructing the progress of projects.

(f): Various steps being taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of rail projects include (i) prioritisation of projects (ii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iii) delegation of powers at field level (iv) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (v) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects.

Average annual Budget allocation in the Indian Railways for New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling works during 2014-19 has increased to ₹26,026 crore per year from ₹11,527 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 126% more than average annual budget outlay of 2009-14 and Revised Budget outlay of ₹40,757 crore was provided to these projects for financial year 2020-21 which is 254% more than average annual

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budget outlay of 2009-14. For financial year 2021-22, highest-ever budget outlay of ₹45,165 crore has been proposed for these works, which is 292% more with respect to average annual budget outlay of 2009-14.

During 2014-19, 13,124 km length (3035 km New Lines, 3,993 km Gauge Conversion and 6,096 km Doubling) has been commissioned which is 73% more than the commissioning during 2009-14 (7599 km). During 2019-20, 2,226 km length (360 km New Lines, 408 km Gauge Conversion and 1458 km Doubling) has been commissioned which is 46% more than average annual commissioning during 2009-14 (1,520 km/year).
