

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 223
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024**

**RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY TO ALL DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA AND
BIHAR**

***223. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plans to ensure railway connectivity to all districts of Maharashtra and Bihar;**
- (b) if so, the current status thereof and progress made towards achieving railway connectivity to all districts;**
- (c) the criteria and prioritization process used for extending railway connectivity to new districts in the said States;**
- (d) the details of challenges, if any, faced in enhancing railway coverage across these States; and**
- (e) the Government's plans and initiatives to increase railway connectivity and coverage in said States including any new railway projects or extensions proposed and the socio - economic benefits anticipated for these States?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 223 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024.

(a) to (e): Railway projects are surveyed/sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/District-wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

As on 01.04.2024, across Indian Railways including Maharashtra and Bihar, 488 Railway infrastructure projects (187 New Line, 40 Gauge Conversion and 261 Doubling) of total length 44,488 Km, costing approx. ₹7.44 lakh crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 12,045 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of approx. ₹2.92 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (in Km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'24 (in Km)	Total Exp upto Mar'24 (₹ in Cr.)
New Lines	187	20,199	2,855	1,60,022
Gauge Conversion	40	4,719	2,972	18,706
Doubling/Multitracking	261	19,570	6,218	1,13,742
Total	488	44,488	12,045	2,92,470

Contd.....2/-

MAHARASHTRA

Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra are covered under Central Railway (CR), South Central Railway (SCR), Western Railway (WR), South East Central Railway (SECR) and South Western Railway (SWR) zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website.

During the last three years and current year, 91 No. Surveys (New line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling/multi tracking) of total length 7,458 km falling fully/partly in the state of Maharashtra have been sanctioned.

As on 01.04.2024, 41 Railway projects (16 New Lines, 02 Gauge Conversions and 23 Doubling), of total length of 5,877 Km, costing ₹81,580 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra, are at various stages of planning and implementation, out of which 1,926 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹31,236 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024.

The status of work is summarized as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Expenditure upto March, 2024 (₹ in Cr.)
New Lines	16	2,017	166	8,529
Gauge Conversion	2	609	312	3,332
Doubling/ Multitracking	23	3,251	1,448	19,376
Total	41	5,877	1,926	31,236

Contd....3/-

Average Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and other works, falling fully/ partly in Maharashtra is as under:-

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹ 1,171 crore/year
2024-25	₹ 15,940 crore (more than 13 times)

Commissioning of sections (New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra during 2009-14 and 2014-2024 is as under:-

Period	New track Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	292 Km	58.4 Km/year
2014-24	1,830 Km	183 Km/year (more than 3 times)

Further, Construction works on the flagship High speed bullet train project have gathered momentum in Maharashtra. Now 100% land acquisition has been completed. Works of bridges, aqueducts etc. have been taken up. Orders for 3 TBMs to carry out about 21 Km tunneling under sea have also been placed. Meanwhile, all preparatory works required for the working of TBMs such as construction of shafts etc. have also been taken up.

Western DFC also passes through Maharashtra. About 178 route Km of western DFC is situated in Maharashtra which is about 12% of overall route length of western DFC. 76 Km of this project from New Gholvad to New Vaitarna in Maharashtra has already been commissioned. Balance works have been taken up. Connectivity of WDFC to JNPT will boost the capacity to handle cargo and container traffic from port to Delhi NCR.

BIHAR

Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar are covered under East Central Railway (ECR), Eastern Railway (ER), North Eastern Railway (NER) and Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) Zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain.

During the last three years and current year, 72 No. Surveys (New line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling/Multitracking) of total length 3,889 km falling fully/partly in the state of Bihar have been sanctioned

As on 01.04.2024, 55 Railway projects (31 New Lines, 02 Gauge Conversions and 22 Doubling), of total length of 5,064 Km, costing ₹79,356 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar, are at various stages of planning and implementation, out of which, 1,194 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 26,983 crore has been incurred upto March 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (in Km)	Exp upto March 2024 (₹ in cr.)
New Lines	31	2,712	464	13,629
Gauge Conversion	2	348	288	1,520
Doubling/ Multitracking	22	2,005	442	11,834
Total	55	5,064	1,194	26,983

Contd.....5/-

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in Budget allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects. Annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure and other works, falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar is as under:-

Period	Outlay
2009-14	₹ 1,132 crore/year
2024-25	₹ 10,033 crore (Nearly 9 times)

Commissioning of sections (New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) falling fully/partly in the State of Bihar during 2009-14 and 2014-2024 is as under:-

Period	New track Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	318 Km	63.6 Km/year
2014-24	1,669 Km	166.9 Km/year (Nearly 3 times)

The completion of any Railway project 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.