

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3728
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

INCREASING TRAIN SPEED ACROSS THE COUNTRY INCLUDING TAMIL NADU

3728. SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken by the Government to upgrade the existing railway tracks to increase train speeds across the country including Tamil Nadu and the current status of these initiatives;**
- (b) the details on the allocation of funds for track upgrades, including the technologies being employed to enhance safety and speed within Tamil Nadu during the last three years;**
- (c) the target speeds set for various routes and the manner in which the Government plan to ensure compliance with safety standards while achieving these speeds;**
- (d) whether the Government is coordinating with state governments and local authorities to facilitate the necessary infrastructure improvements for faster train services, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether any specific timelines established for completing the upgrades on major routes, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the mechanism in place to monitor the progress and report to the public?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (f) Indian Railways network consists of various routes with different permissible sectional speed. Increasing the speed potential/ Upgradation of

railway track is a continuous and an ongoing process on Indian Railways.

In 2014, speed potential of only about 31,000 km of track was 110 kmph and above, which has significantly improved to about 80,000 km (including railway tracks passing through Tamil Nadu) at present due to following measures taken by Indian Railways:

- i. Modern track structure consisting of 60kg, 90 Ultimate Tensile Strength (UTS) rails, Pre-stressed Concrete Sleeper (PSC) Normal/Wide base sleepers with elastic fastening, fan-shaped layout turnout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel/H-beam Sleepers on girder bridges is used while carrying out primary track renewals.**
- ii. The use of Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossing in turnout renewal works.**
- iii. Maximizing supply of 130m/260m long rail panels for increasing progress of rail renewal and avoiding welding of joints, thereby improving safety.**
- iv. Laying of longer rails, minimizing the use of Alumino Thermic Welding and adoption of better welding technology for rails i.e. Flash Butt Welding.**
- v. Adoption of mechanized system for track maintenance using high output plain tampers and points & crossing tampers for improved maintainability & reliability of track.**
- vi. Deployment of state-of-the-art modern machines including Rail Grinding machines manufactured in India on Railway network to further improve asset reliability.**
- vii. Mechanisation of track laying activity through use of track machines like PQRS, TRT, T-28 etc to reduce human errors.**
- viii. Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems with centralized operation of points and signals to eliminate human failure.**

- ix. **Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates for enhancing safety at LC gates.**
- x. **Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.**
- xi. **Monitoring of track geometry by OMS (Oscillation Monitoring System) and TRC (Track Recording Cars).**
- xii. **Safety of Railway Bridges is ensured through regular inspection of Bridges. The requirement of repair/rehabilitation of Bridges is taken up based upon the conditions assessed during these inspections.**

On Indian Railways, the investment on safety related activities including track renewal etc. is as under:

	(Rs. in cr.)		
	2022-23 (Act)	2023-24 (Act)	BE 2024-25
Maintenance of Permanent Way & Works	18,115	20,322	21,386
Maintenance of Motive Power and Rolling Stock	27,086	30,864	31,494
Maintenance of Machines	9,828	10,772	11,864
Road Safety LCs and ROBs/RUBs	5,347	6,662	9,980
Track Renewals	16,326	17,850	17,652
Bridge Works	1,050	1,907	2,137
Signal & Telecom Works	2,456	3,751	4,647
Workshops Incl. PUs and Misc. expenditure on Safety	7,119	9,523	9,615
Total	87,327	1,01,651	1,08,776
