

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3830
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

NEW TRACKS OVER THE NEXT DECADE

3830. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state::

- (a) whether the Government has a detailed plan of action for the successful implementation of the 7 trillion investment aimed at laying 50,000 kilometres of new tracks over the next decade;**
- (b) if so, the specific milestones and timelines established for this ambitious project, particularly for Rajasthan;**
- (c) whether the Government has plans to extend Vande Bharat services to Churu Parliamentary Constituency, considering the demand for improved rail connectivity in that region; and**
- (d) if so, the details of actions being taken to assess and implement this expansion?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)**

(a) to (d): Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-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.

For seamless movement of people, goods and services and enhanced logistics efficiency, presently, 624 no. of surveys (New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) having a total length of about 49,520 km have been sanctioned for providing connectivity to industrial clusters, agricultural zones, ports, mines, power plants, remote areas, tourist and cultural places, etc. under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).

As on 01.04.2024, across Indian Railways, 488 Railway infrastructure projects (187 New Line, 40 Gauge Conversion and 261 Doubling) of total length 44,488 Km, costing approx. Rs.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. Rs.2.92 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

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Category	No of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (in Km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'24 (in Km)	Total Exp upto Mar'24 (Rs. in Cr)
New Lines	187	20199	2855	160022
Gauge Conversion	40	4719	2972	18706
Doubling / Multitracking	261	19570	6218	113742
Total	488	44,488	12,045	2,92,470

Zone-wise/year-wise details of all Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

The details of commissioning / laying of new track across Indian Railways is given below:-

Period	New track Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	7,599 Km	4.2 Km/day
2014-24	31,180 Km	8.54 Km/day (more than 2 times)

Railway infrastructure projects falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan are covered under North Western Railway (NWR), North Central Railway (NCR), Northern Railway (NR), Western Railway (WR) zones of Indian Railways. Zonal Railway wise details of Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway's website.

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During last three years i.e. FY 2021-2022, FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 and current Financial Year 2024-25, total 19 projects (New Line , Doubling and Gauge Conversion) of a total length of 1262 Km, costing Rs. 15150 crore falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan have been sanctioned.

As on 01.04.2024, 32 Railway Projects (15 New Lines, 5 Gauge Conversion and 12 Doubling) of a total length of 4,191 Km, costing Rs.51,814 crore, falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan are at various stages of planning and implementation, out of which 1,183 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of Rs.14,786 crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The status of work is summarized as under:-

Plan Head	No. of projects	Total Length (in Km)	Length Commissioned (Km)	Expenditure upto March 2024 (Rs. in cr.)
New Lines	15	1230	134	3593
Gauge Conversion	5	1252	759	5398
Doubling / Multitracking	12	1709	290	5794
Total	32	4191	1183	14786

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These projects include Churu-Ratangarh Doubling (42.81 Km) and Churu-Sadulpur Doubling (57.82 Km) falling fully/partly in Churu.

Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/ partly in Rajasthan is as under:

Period	Outlay
2009-14	Rs.682 crore/year
2024-25	Rs. 9,959 Crore (More than 14 times)

The details of commissioning / laying of new track falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan during 2009-14 and 2014-24 is as under is given below:-

Period	New Track Commissioned	Average Commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	798 Km	159.6 Km/year
2014-24	3,742 Km	374.2 Km/year (More than 2 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.

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of Railway projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units (ii) prioritisation of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (vi) 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. This has led to substantial increase in rate of commissioning since 2014.

Presently, Churu is being served by 46 Mail/Express services, including 02 Duronto Express services, and 14 passenger train services which provides Churu connectivity to destinations like Mumbai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Secunderabad, Jammu Tawi, Sai Nagar Shirdi, Rameswaram, Indore, Jaipur, Barmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Kota, etc.

Moreover, to cater to the additional needs of passengers, 06 special train services are also being operated serving Churu station. Besides, extension of train services, including Vande Bharat, is an on-going process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, traffic justification, availability of resources etc.