

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2025**

RAILWAY EXPANSION IN REMOTE/TRIBAL AREAS OF MAHARASHTRA

**†5144. SHRI BHUMARE SANDIPANRAO ASARAM:
DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the progress made in the railway line expansion projects in remote and tribal dominating areas in Maharashtra;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to start subsidized rail services to the said areas if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) the steps taken to improve access for rural and tribal people in Maharashtra?**

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): 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, 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, which include expansion of projects in remote and tribal areas also, 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

Following major projects falling fully/partly in the State of Maharashtra have been sanctioned recently:-

S.No.	Name of the Project	Cost (₹ in Cr.)
1.	Manmad-Indore New Line (309 Km)	16,321
2.	Jalna – Jalgaon New Line (174 Km)	5,804
3.	Aurangabad – Ankai doubling (98 Km)	961
4.	Parbhani – Parli – Vaijanath doubling (65 Km)	770
5.	Jalgaon – Manmad 4th Line (160 Km)	2,574
6.	Bhusawal – Khandwa 3rd and 4th Line (131 Km)	3,285

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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
2025-26	₹ 23,778 crore (more than 20 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.

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During the last three years and current year (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and current Financial Year i.e. 2024-25), 95 No. Surveys (28 New line, 02 Gauge Conversion and 65 Doubling/multi tracking) of total length 8,366 km falling fully/partly in the state of Maharashtra have been sanctioned.

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.

Indian Railways strives to provide affordable services to all strata of the society and gave subsidy of ₹56,993 cr. on passenger tickets in 2022-23. This amounts to concession of 46% on an average, to every person, travelling on Railways. In other words, if the cost of providing service is ₹100, then the price of ticket is ₹54 only. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers irrespective of the State/Region.