

(b) Completion of the project is dependent upon many factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances like forestry and wild life clearances, shifting of services, cutting of trees. Since many of these factors are beyond the control of Ministry of Railways, timeline for completion of the project is not feasible to be fixed.

Outdated railway tracks

2682. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railway tracks are very old and outdated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these outdated tracks are also the reasons for frequent railway accidents; and

(c) if so, the approximate length of tracks replaced by modern tracks during the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railway tracks are replaced through track renewal works which is an ongoing process. Track renewal works are undertaken as and when a stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis *viz.* traffic carried in terms of gross million tonnes, incidence of rail fracture/failure, wear of rails, corrosion of rails, maintainability of track as per standards etc. On Meter Gauge (MG) and Narrow Gauge (NG), tracks which are sanctioned for gauge conversion, the track renewal works, if required, are undertaken after due consideration of progress of execution of gauge conversion.

There has been no such report, which attributes a train accident due to outdated tracks in the past two years. Track renewal works are sanctioned every year on the basis of traffic carried and condition and their execution is prioritized according to condition of track and overall availability of funds.

Details of track renewal carried out in last four years and current year are as under:—

Year	Progress (In Complete Track Renewal Units)
2014-15	2424
2015-16	2794
2016-17	2487
2017-18	4023
2018-19	2630 (upto November, 2018)