

**Extension of rail network to rural areas**

96. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are parts of rural India unconnected by rail network, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of extension of rail network to rural areas since 2014, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) whether effective train services have started on all networks which connect the unconnected areas since 2014, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Based on demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives and Railways' own requirement, the proposals for new line projects are considered. They are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands which covers connectivity in backward and rural areas also. The projects are not sanctioned State-wise, area-wise and region-wise. Since new lines generally straddle over more than one State, details of ongoing projects are maintained zone-wise.

Since 2014 till date, 23 New Line Projects have been commissioned covering a total length of 2165.49 km. These projects have provided connectivity to large area including rural India. Details of these New Line Projects is given as under:—

Sl. No.	Rly	State	Year	Name of Project	Length (in km.)
1.	ECR	JHA	2018-19	Giridih Koderma	111
2.	ECR	JHA	2018-19	Tori-Shivpur (Deposit work)	88.8
3.	NER	BIH	2018-19	Maharajganj -Masrakh	35.49
4.	NFR	ASS	2018-19	Bogibeel Bridge with linked line	92
5.	NFR	WB	2018-19	Haldibari International border	3
6.	SCR	AP	2018-19	Nandyal-Yerraguntla	126
7.	SCR	KAR	2017-18	Bidar-Gulbarga	110.4
8.	SCR	AP/TEL	2017-18	Jaggayyapeta-Mellacheruvu-Janpahad	48

Sl. No.	Rly	State	Year	Name of Project	Length (in km)
9.	NCR	UP	2016-17	Etawah-Mainpuri	58
10.	NR	HAR	2016-17	Jind-Sonepat	80
11.	SCR	AP	2016-17	Nanded-Yaraguntla	126
12.	SCR	TEL	2016-17	Peddapalli-Karimnagar-Nizamabad	178
13.	SWR	KAR	2016-17	Hassan -Bangalore	167
14.	ECR	BIH	2015-16	Patna Bridge	28
15.	ECR	BIH	2015-16	Munger Bridge	15
16.	NR	UP	2015-16	Etawah-Mainpuri	58
17.	NER	UP	2015-16	Rampur-Lalkuan ROB	2
18.	NFR	ASS	2015-16	Kumarghat-Agartala	109
19.	NR	HAR	2015-16	Jind-Sonepat	89
20.	ECoR	ODJ	2015-16	Daitari-Banspani	155
21.	NWR	RAJ	2014-15	Bangurgram-Ras (27.8 km)	27.8
22.	NCR	UP	2014-15	Agra-Etawah	110
23.	NCR	UP, MP	2014-15	Guna-Gwalior-Bhind-Etawah (348 Km)	348
TOTAL					2165.49

Rly- Railway

BIH- Bihar

ECR- East Central Railway

HAR- Haryana

ECoR- East Coast Railway

JHA- Jharkhand

NR- Northern Railway

KAR- Karnataka

NER- North Eastern Railway

WB- West Bengal

NCR- North Central Railway

MP- Madhya Pradesh

NFR- Northeast Frontier Railway

ODI- Odisha

NWR- North Western Railway

RAJ- Rajasthan

SCR- South Central Railway

TEL- Telangana

SWR- South Western Railway

UP- Uttar Pradesh

AP- Andhra Pradesh

ASS- Assam

As on 01.04.2019, Indian Railways have taken up 189 New Line Projects across the country through rail network. These projects are in different stages of planning/execution/approval.

(c) Yes, Sir. Passenger train services are provided on newly connected sections after receiving sanctions from Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), subject to operational feasibility. Accordingly, 259 train services have been introduced on the new lines commissioned, since 2014, on the Indian Railways Network.

#### **Free Wi-Fi service at railway stations**

97. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that RailTel is turning railway stations into digital hubs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that RailTel is considering to provide free Wi-Fi at many more stations across the country including Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. RailTel, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) of Ministry of Railways, has provided high speed Wi-Fi services at 1606 stations, out of which 198 stations have been commissioned in agreement with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. High Speed Wi-Fi facility has already been provided at 72 stations in Kerala. Further remaining 4882 stations across the country (out of which 40 are located in Kerala) will be covered by RailTel for provision of high speed Wi-Fi facility. With this, 100% feasible stations will be covered with high speed Wi-Fi facility through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/Charity and Government funds.

#### **Modernization of railway stations**

98. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have proposed to modernize all the railway stations in the country;