

of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble Courts, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. and all these factors affect the completion of the project. Hence, no confirmed time frame can be given for these projects.

Slow pace of gauge conversion work

†1391. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of gauge conversion of the Hajipur-Muzaffarpur and Samastipur-Darbhanga rail lines is going at a very slow pace for many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the abysmally slow pace of progress of the said railway projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No Meter Gauge track exists between (i) Hajipur-Muzaffarpur and (ii) Samastipur-Darbhanga sections.

However, Hajipur-Ramdayalu Nagar (47.72 km.) doubling project has been completed and commissioned.

Further, Samstipur-Kishanpur (10 km.) section of Samastipur-Darbhanga (38 km.) doubling project has also been completed and commissioned and works on remaining section of Samastipur-Darbhanga doubling project have been taken up.

The timely completion of any Railway project depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, shifting of infringing utilities (both underground and over ground), statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions, encountering unforeseen conditions like earthquake, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, orders of Hon'ble Courts, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. All these factors vary from project to project and site to site and affect the completion time and cost of the project, which is finally worked out at the completion stage. As such, no confirmed time line can be given for completion of these projects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.