

Sl. No.	Name of the Section	Length (Km)	Train Service Started
1.	Sakri-Mandan Mishra Halt of Sakri-Nirmali section	11 km	May, 2019
2.	Mandan Mishra halt Jhanjharpur of Sakri-Nirmali section	9 Km	Dec, 2019
3.	Saharsa- Garhbaruari of Saharsa-Forbesganj section	16km	March, 2019
4.	Garhbaruari - Supaul of Saharsa-Forbesganj section	11 Km	Dec, 2019

The work of construction of Kosi Bridge including laying of new line from Nirmali to Sarayagarh has been taken up. The construction of main Kosi Bridge has been completed and track linking on Bridge and its approaches has been taken up.

For gauge conversion work various stretches of the project have been taken over from time to time as per the requirement of the project from Jan, 2012 to Dec, 2016 in Saharsa-Forbesganj section and from April, 2016 to May, 2017 in Nirmali-Sakri-Laukaha Bazar section. After completion of gauge conversion work several sections have been opened for train operation from March, 2019 to Dec, 2019.

The firm timeline for completion for the project cant not be given at this stage, as, completion of the project depends on various factor like geological and topographical conditions of area, number of working months in a year due to climatic conditions, encountering unforeseen conditions like, flooding, excessive rains, strikes of labour, situation and conditions of working agencies/contractors etc. All these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project, which is finally worked out at the completion stage. As per Railway records, these two projects were never targeted for completion by 2012.

Making Gram Panchayats self-reliant

†*73. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the time-bound plan of Government to make each Gram Panchayat self-reliant at its own level to present the migration of rural population to cities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) the details of work being executed under the country's Panchayati Raj; and
- (c) the scale of improvement achieved in the standard of living of the public on account of Panchayati Raj in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ I (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR):

(a) to (c) 'Panchayat' being "local government", is part of the State List of 7th Schedule of Constitution of India and being a State Subject is the responsibility of the States. However, the Government has been continuously taking steps to strengthen the Gram Panchayats (GPs) in terms of transfer of funds, functions and functionaries. Gram Panchayats are now receiving funds on the basis of recommendations of Central Finance Commission (CFC), State Finance Commission (SFC), funds available under various Central and State schemes as well as Own Source of Revenue (OSR), mainly for delivery of basic services in the GPs. The gamut of works undertaken by GPs are broadly in the areas of agriculture, drinking water, health and sanitation, land improvement, minor irrigation, roads and social welfare sectors.

With improvement in provision of basic services in the villages as a result of implementation of development works undertaken under various Central and State schemes as well as by the GPs, the migration of rural population to cities on account of employment and business has decreased to 24.3 per cent in 2011 from 29.9 per cent in 2001 as per Census data.

Strengthening rake point infrastructure in the country

†*74. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is working on any plan to strengthen the infrastructure at the currently functioning fertilizer rake points in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposes to open new rake points for fertilizers in Sidhi, Singrauli and Bargawan, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the construction work for the said rake points is likely to be started and completed?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.