

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 16
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2023

PUSHKAR TO MERTA ROAD RAILWAY LINE

16 # SHRI RAJENDRA GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that survey work for laying new railway line from Pushkar to Merta Road has been started, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Railways has prepared any action plan to directly connect North Western Railway-Jodhpur Division with religious places located in different States of India, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to start Vande Bharat Train from Jodhpur Division, if so, the details thereof and by when it is planned to be started ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 16 BY SHRI RAJENDRA GEHLOT ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 03.02.2023 REGARDING PUSHKAR TO MERTA ROAD RAILWAY LINE

(a) & (b): Pushkar-Merta City (59 Km) new line project was included in Railway Budget 2013-14 subject to requisite Government approvals. The cost as per survey report was ₹ 323 crore at the price level of 2013-14. As the project was financially unviable, Government of Rajasthan was requested to provide land free of cost and to share the cost of construction. Consent of Government of Rajasthan has not been received. As such, the project could not be taken forward.

However, based on repeated requests received from the public representatives of Rajasthan, Final Location Survey (FLS) has been sanctioned for Pushkar- Merta City new line project on 19.12.2022.

Jodhpur is a major junction station of Jodhpur Division - North Western Railway and is well connected with rest of Indian railway network including tourist places, commercial cities, religious places etc.

As on 01.04.2022, 28 Railway projects (11 New lines, 05 Gauge conversion and 12 Doubling), costing ₹ 59,271 crore for 5,069 km length falling fully/partly in Rajasthan are under different stages of planning/approval/execution, out of which, 1,195 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 11,207 crore has been incurred upto March 2022. These include:

- 11 New Line Projects covering total length of 1,228 km, costing ₹ 16,942 crore, out of which 107 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 2,695 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.
- 05 Gauge Conversion Projects covering total length of 1,319 km, costing ₹ 12,690 crore, out of which 654 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 3,652 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.
- 12 Doubling Projects covering total length of 2,522 km, costing of ₹ 29,639 crore, out of which 434 km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of ₹ 4,860 crore has been incurred upto March, 2022.

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During the last three years, i.e. from Financial Year 2019-20 to 2021-22 and current year, 5 projects namely Taranga Hill-Abu Road via Ambaji New Line (117 Km), Gudha-Thathana Mithri Dedicated Test Track for RDSO (phase-I, 25 Km), Dedicated Test Track for RDSO (phase-II, 34 Km), Degana-Rai ka Bagh doubling (145 Km) and Agra Fort and Bandikui doubling (150 Km) falling fully/partly in Rajasthan have been sanctioned.

During 2014-22, 2322 Km length (176 km of New line, 771 km Gauge conversion and 1,375 km Doubling) falling fully/partly in the State of Rajasthan has been commissioned at an average rate 290.25 km per year, which is 82% more than average annual commissioning during 2009-14 (159.6 Km/Yr).

Since 2014, there has been substantial increase in budget allocation and commensurate commissioning of projects. Average Annual Budget allocation for Infrastructure projects & safety works, falling fully/ partly in State of Rajasthan, during 2014-19 has been enhanced to ₹ 2,951 crore per year from ₹ 682 crore per year during 2009-14, which is 333% more than Average Annual Budget allocation during 2009-14. These allocations have increased to ₹ 4,686 crore in Financial Year 2019-20 (587% more than the Average Annual Budget allocation of 2009-14), ₹ 4,582 crore in Financial Year 2020-21 (572% more than the Average Annual Budget allocation of 2009-14) and ₹ 6,006 crore for Financial Year 2021-22 (781% more than the Average Annual Budget outlay of 2009-14). For Financial Year 2022-23, highest ever Budget outlay of ₹ 7,565 crore has been provided for these projects, which is 1009% more than the Average Annual Budget outlay of 2009-14 (₹ 682 crore per year).

Railway projects in Rajasthan are covered by Northern Railway, North Central Railway, North Western Railway, West Central Railway and Western Railway Zones of Indian Railways. Zone wise details of Railway projects, including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in > Ministry of Railways > Railway Board > about Indian Railways > Railway Board Directorates > Finance (Budget) > Rail Budget/Pink Book (year) > Railway-wise Works, Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme (RSP).

(c): At present, there is no immediate proposal for introduction of Vande Bharat train from Jodhpur. However, introduction of train services including Vande Bharat Express train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to operational feasibility, resource availability, traffic justification etc.
