

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2212
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

RAIL LINE PROJECTS FOR MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY

2212 # SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of rail line projects identified/initiated under PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity for implementation in the country particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) the details of routes identified for transportation of commodities like agricultural products, fertilizers, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone etc; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide connectivity for rapid development of India?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise as the Railway projects may span across State boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway's own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

..P/2

The launch of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) in October, 2021, by Hon'ble Prime Minister, has brought transformative approach in planning and execution of infrastructural transportation projects. The NMP, spanning across the entire country including Maharashtra, has brought in synergy between the infrastructural sectors such as railways, shipping, roadways, telecommunications, pipelines, etc. through collaboration amongst concerned Ministries/State Governments/Departments, thereby speeding up the clearances needed for the project completion as well as planning at a faster pace.

Indian Railways has imbibed the principles of Gati Shakti in its project planning process and now survey of all New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects are taken up under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) for the development of multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various Economic Zones with an objective to have integrated planning, enhanced logistics efficiency and remove gaps for seamless movement of people, goods/ commodities i.e. agricultural products, fertilizers, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone etc. and services including connectivity to places of strategic importance, border areas, industrial clusters, ports, mines, power plants, villages etc.

About 566 railway projects across Indian Railways including Maharashtra have been mapped on the Gati Shakti GIS platform and more and more projects are further being mapped/planned on the platform. PM Gati Shakti Institutional mechanism is being extensively used for ground surveys, land records, alignment of route and has led to enhancement in the quality of preparation of Detailed Project Report and reduction in project cost.

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of Railway projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units (ii) prioritisation of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (vi) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects. This has led to substantial increase in rate of commissioning since 2014.

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As a result of comprehensive planning and better coordination among various stakeholders, the pace of laying / commissioning of new tracks has also increased as under:-

Period	New Tracks Commissioned	Annual Average new tracks commissioned
2009-14	7,599 Km	4.2 Km/day
2014-24	31,180 Km	8.54 Km/day (more than 2 times)

During the last two years i.e. 2022-23 and 2023-24, 10,552 km new tracks have been commissioned on Indian Railways which carry passenger as well freight traffic.
