

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.591
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS FOR REDUCING CARBON EMISSION

591 # DR. DINESH SHARMA:
SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:
SHRI SUBHASH BARALA:
DR. KALPANA SAINI:
SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific steps taken by Government to ensure that new railway line projects would improve connectivity in the aspirational districts;
- (b) the plan of Government to monitor and assess the environmental impact of these new railway projects, especially in terms of reducing CO2 emissions and oil imports as well as their contribution in achieving India's climate goals; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING 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 UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 591 BY DR. DINESH SHARMA, SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR, SHRI SUBHASH BARALA, DR. KALPANA SAINI AND SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA IN RAJYA SABHA ON 29.11.2024 REGARDING NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS FOR REDUCING CARBON EMISSION

(a) to (c): Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned Zone wise and not State-wise/District-wise as Indian Railways' projects may span across State/District boundaries. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, 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.

As on 01.04.2024, across Indian Railways, 488 Railway Infrastructure projects (187 New Line, 40 Gauge Conversion and 261 Doubling) of total length 44,488 Km, costing approx. ₹7.44 lakh crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 12,045 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of approx. ₹2.92 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (Km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'24 (Km)	Total Exp upto Mar'24 (₹in Cr)
New Lines	187	20,199	2,855	1,60,022
Gauge Conversion	40	4,719	2,972	18,706
Doubling / Multitracking	261	19,570	6,218	1,13,742
TOTAL	488	44,488	12,045	2,92,470

Zone-wise/year-wise details of all Railway Projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railways website.

The details of commissioning / laying of new track across Indian Railways is given below:-

Period	New Track Commissioned	Average Commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	7,599 km	4.2 km/day
2014-24	31,180 km	8.54 km/day (more than 2 times)

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Further, 894 No. Surveys (287 New line, 14 Gauge Conversion and 593 Doubling) of total length 60,673 km have been sanctioned across Indian Railways including aspirational districts in the last three years FY 2021-22 to 2023-24 and current year FY 2024-25.

Railways is a more environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation with substantially lower CO2 emissions. Further, to lower dependence on the fossil fuels and to reduce oil imports, 366 Watt (MW) of Solar Plants (both Rooftops and land) and about 103 MW of Wind Power Plants have been commissioned over Indian Railways.
