

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 842
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024**

REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT IN RAILWAYS

842. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to expedite the delayed projects in the railway sector, considering that out of 173 projects, 114 are currently facing delays, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government is planning to reduce carbon footprint of the Railways;**
- (c) if so, whether the burden of electrification is to be shifted to electricity derived from fossil fuels such as coal; and**
- (d) if so, the plan chalked out in this regard?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 842 BY SHRI BENNY BEHANAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.02.2024 REGARDING REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT IN RAILWAYS

(a): The completion of any Railway project(s) depends on various factors like quick land acquisition by State Government, forest clearance by officials of forest department, deposition of cost share by State Government in cost sharing projects, priority of projects, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of area, law and order situation in the area of project(s) site, number of working months in a year for particular project site due to climatic conditions etc. and all these factors affect the completion time and cost of the project(s).

Execution of important infrastructure projects falling fully/ partly in the State of Kerala is held up due to delay in land acquisition and only about 25.45 Ha land has been acquired out of total requirement of about 126.91 Ha.

Railway had initiated efforts for acquisition of land but could not succeed in acquiring land for projects. Support of the Government of Kerala is needed to expedite the land acquisition.

As on 01.04.2023, across Indian Railway, 459 Railway Infrastructure projects (New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) of 46,360 Km length, costing approx. ₹7.18 lakh crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which 11,872 Km length has been commissioned upto March, 2023.

The Average Annual Budget allocation for New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling Projects across Indian Railways is indicated below:

Period	Average Outlay	Increase w.r.t. average allocation of 2009-14
2009-14	₹11,527 crore/year	-
2023-24	₹67,199 crore	Nearly 6 times

The details of commissioning of New Lines, Gauge Conversion and Doubling sections across Indian Railways is given below:-

Period	Total Commissioning	Commissioning per day	Increase in commissioning as compared to average commissioning during 2009-14
2009-14	7,599 km	4.2 km/day	-
2022-23	5,243 km	14.4 km/day	About 3.4 times

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of rail 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.

(b) to (d): Indian Railways has taken a number of initiatives to reduce its carbon emissions which include use of energy efficient technologies like completely switching over to production of three

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phase electric locomotives and EMUs/MEMUs with regenerative features, use of Head On Generation (HOG) technology, use of LED lights in buildings and coaches and use of star rated appliances. Further, the key interventions that have been identified for reducing Carbon emissions, inter-alia, include procurement of power through renewable energy sources, shifting from diesel to electric traction, and promotion of energy efficiency.

With 100% electrification planned for its Broad Gauge (BG) routes, Indian Railways plans to as far as possible, shift from diesel to electric traction.
