

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2448
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007
SINGLE GAUGE SYSTEM
Mondal Shri Abu Ayes

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to cover the entire country with railway systems;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the existing number of broad gauge, meter gauge and narrow-gauge sections;
- (c) whether the Railways also proposed to convert the meter and narrow gauge railway tracks; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered with a single gauge system?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2448 BY SHRI ABU AYES MONDA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15.03.2007 REGARDING SINGLE GAUGE SYSTEM

(a) & (b): The country is already covered by vast network of Railways. The railway lines are not defined in numbers. As on 01.04.2006, there were 48, 574 route kms of Broad Gauge, 11,834 route kms of Metre Gauge and 2,924 route kms of Narrow Gauge on the railway system.

(c) & (d): Project Unigauge was taken up in 1992 under which it was decided to convert selected routes from Metre Gauge/ Narrow Gauge into Broad Gauge. Under this Scheme, conversion of 12207 kms has already been completed upto 31.03.06 and 1225 kms is targeted for completion during 2006-07.

Further, conversion works have been taken up on about 7200 kms. There is no plan to convert all the Metre Gauge / Narrow Gauge lines to broad gauge. However, as announced in the budget 2007-08, efforts would be made to convert majority of Metre Gauge lines to broad gauge during the 11th Five Year Plan.