

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1746
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2009
RAIL NETWORK
Meena Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the railway network in Kilometers in various State of the country including Rajasthan, State-wise;
- (b) the criteria laid down for the approval of gauge conversion after the completion of survey;
- (c) the action plan of the Railways for gauge conversion in various States including Rajasthan under National Rail Development Scheme;
- (d) the number of proposals pending with the Government for running new trains in various States; and
- (e) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1746 BY SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH MEENA TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16-07-2009 REGARDING RAIL NETWORK

(a): The State-wise route kilometerage of railway lines as on 31-03-2008 is available in the Indian Railway Yearbook 2007-08 which was supplied alongwith Railay Budget Documents.

(b): The criteria for taking up gauge conversion projects is as under:

- i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative Broad Gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for doubling existing BG lines on these routes.
- ii) To establish new BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.
- iii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centres and locations having potential for growth;
- iv) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic consideration;
- v) To minimize transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.

Gauge conversion works are also taken up on socio-economic considerations for development of backward areas.

(c): The gauge conversion of various routes throughout the country has been taken up. As on 01-04-2009, 51 projects are in progress which on completion will convert 6935 km of Metre Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to BG. A few projects of gauge conversion pertaining to port connectivity and its hinterland were identified as part of National Rail Vikas Yojana.

(d) & (e): 10 pairs of new train services announced in previous Railway Budgets could not be introduced due to non completion of various infrastructural works like gauge conversion, new lines etc. and operational constraints. Out of these, one pair of service is ready for introduction.