

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:393

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014

RAILWAY LINES

Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total length of railway lines laid in the country since independence as on date, zone and gauge wise;
- (b) the details of the surveys undertaken for new railway lines in the country, zone-wise including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Tamil Nadu during the last three years along with the present status thereof;
- (c) the total length of railway lines in the country yet to be converted into broad gauge;and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to complete the ongoing surveys and remaining gauge conversion works?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.393 BY SHRI ADAGOORU VISHWANATH AND SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.02.2014 REGARDING RAILWAY LINES.

(a) The data on route kilometres is maintained as on 31st March of each year. As on 31st March, 1948, the total railway lines in terms of route kilometres was 54,693 kilometres comprising 25,170 kilometres broad gauge, 24,153 kilometres metre gauge and 5,370 kilometres narrow gauge lines. The route kilometres as on 31st March, 1947 was 65,217 kilometres (which includes lines of Pakistan and Bangladesh, erstwhile East Pakistan).

The zone-wise and gauge-wise length of route kilometres as on 31st March, 2013 (latest available) is as under:-

S.No. RAILWAYS B.G. M.G. N.G. Total

1 CENTRAL 3743.11 0.00 298.61 4041.72

2 EASTERN 2454.32 0.00 91.57 2545.89

3 EAST CENTRAL 3297.06 408.85 0.00 3705.91

4 EAST COAST 2654.85 0.00 0.00 2654.85

5 NORTHERN 6863.75 0.00 260.85 7124.60

6	NORTH CENTRAL	2850.60	11.48	288.59	3150.67
7	NORTH EASTERN	2687.40	1118.81	0.00	3806.21
8	NORTHEAST FRONTIER	2656.01	1221.36	87.48	3964.85
9	NORTH WESTERN	4471.41	1055.25	0.00	5526.66
10	SOUTHERN	4483.74	594.97	0.00	5078.71
11	SOUTH CENTRAL	5676.39	175.93	0.00	5852.32
12	SOUTH EASTERN	2710.9	00.00	0.00	2710.90
13	SOUTH EAST CENTRAL	1777.62	0.00	711.01	2488.63
14	SOUTH WESTERN	3327.48	0.00	0.00	3327.48
15	WESTERN	4468.30	1412.39	558.90	6439.59
16	WEST CENTRAL	2991.67	0.00	0.00	2991.67
17	METRO RAILWAY	25.55	0.00	0.00	25.55
	GRAND TOTAL	57140.16	5999.04	2297.01	65436.21

(b) Indian Railways do not maintain data State wise. However, zone-wise details of surveys undertaken for new railway lines in the country that includes the State of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha and Tamil Nadu during the last three years are as appended.

(c) Gauge conversion of railway lines is a continuous process. Due to huge throwforward of ongoing gauge conversion projects, targets are fixed on yearly basis subject to availability of resources. At present, 5,999 kilometres of Metre Gauge and 2,297

kilometres Narrow Gauge are yet to be converted to Broad Gauge.

(d) Survey reports are first examined in the Ministry for ascertaining feasibility, cost, justification and viability of the proposal. Proposals which are remunerative or are essential/ justified on socio-economic consideration are processed for sanction. Subject to total availability of funds, for all new line and gauge conversion projects, proposals are sent to Planning Commission for according 'In Principle' approval. New line and gauge conversion proposals costing upto Rs.300 crores are also sanctioned by Hon'ble M.R. after receipt of 'In principle' approval. Proposals costing more than Rs.300 crores are put up to Expanded Board for Railways. On the recommendation of Expanded Board, proposals are put up to Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for approval. Hence due to these factors the time by which the work on the proposed lines for which survey have been completed cannot be fixed. In the last five years i.e. during 2008-09 to 2012-13, 175 numbers of projects were sent to Planning Commission, out of which 47 numbers of projects were granted 'in principle' approval by Planning Commission.