

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1590
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024**

SURVEY UNDER BNR

1590. SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is making any plans for starting new railway lines which are feasible and were surveyed under BNR;**
- (b) whether the railway connectivity is the cheapest form of transport for villagers and scheme to ensure to connect maximum villagers by train and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) plans to restore the train stoppages revoked during Covid times in India, especially in Kalahandi and Nuapada; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING 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. 1590 BY SMT. MALVIKA DEVI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 31.07.2024 REGARDING SURVEY UNDER BNR

(a) and (b): The Railway projects are surveyed/ sanctioned/executed Zonal Railway wise and not State-wise/ village wise as the Railways' projects may span across state boundaries.

Railway Infrastructure Projects are taken up on the basis of remunerativeness, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, socio-economic considerations including connectivity to cities, towns and villages, enhancing connectivity to tourist and cultural places etc. depending upon liabilities of ongoing projects, overall availability of funds and competing demands.

Presently, 651 no. of surveys (New line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) having a total length of 49,983 km have been taken up on Indian Railways in various Zonal Railways including South Eastern Railway (erstwhile BNR) under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP) for the development of multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various Economic Zones with an objective to have integrated planning, enhanced logistics efficiency and remove gaps for seamless movement of people, goods and services including connectivity to industrial clusters, ports, mines, power plants, villages etc.

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(c) and (d): Indian Railways have undertaken rationalization of time table, including stoppages, in a scientific manner with the assistance of IIT-Bombay. The exercise has been undertaken, inter alia, to provide for better passenger safety by creating maintenance corridor blocks, minimizing conflicts in existing time table, etc. Since November-2021, Mail/express train services are being operated as per rationalized timetable and stoppages. However, provision of stoppage of train services is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility etc.
