

Rail network as big as SL's being laid every year in UP: Vaishnaw

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Lucknow: Sharing details of rail budget allocated to various states in the country, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that rail network equivalent to that of Sri Lanka is being laid in Uttar Pradesh every year.

"A decade ago, UP's annual rail track expansion was around 110-150km but it has now touched 1,978km per year," he said. Sri Lanka's rail network is around 1,508km.

"Last year, Indian railways added 5,200km of new tracks across the country, which was equivalent to the entire rail network of Switzerland. This year, we are adding 5,500km. From 4km per day in 2014, the Indian Railways is currently adding about 15km of new tracks every day," Vaishnaw said.

"For financial year 2024-25, the central govt allocated Rs 19,575 crore for rail infrastructure development in UP,



Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

which was just Rs 1,009 crore between 2009 and 2014. There has been an increase of 1700% in budget allocation for rail infrastructure in Hindi heartland," he said.

The minister added that rail infrastructure in UP was 100% electrified and 157 railway stations in the state were being developed as Amrti Bharat stations.

"At least 142 railway stations have been roped in to promote local products under the 'One District, One Product' initiative. In the last 10 years, 1,377 flyovers and underpasses have been constructed on manned and un-

manned level crossings in the state," he said.

Targeting the previous govt, the railway minister said, "Ten years ago, despite having a separate budget, the idea was to add new trains or extend a particular train but there was no focus on increasing capacity or improving safety. In the last 10 years, our govt has changed the paradigm and put entire focus on creating new capacity, getting new technology and prioritizing safety," he said.

"Focus is on creating additional capacity through three corridors – energy, mineral and cement – which will help reduce pollution on roads and ensure reduction in the cost of logistics. Second is port connectivity through railways in a multimodal 'Gati Shakti' way, and third is 'Amrit Chaturbhuj' which will be similar to golden quadrilateral on railway network on high density traffic routes," he added.

PTI