

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4101
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
SHORTAGE OF FUNDS FACED BY RAILWAYS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Railways is facing acute shortage of funds during 1999-2000;
- (b) whether the Railways has declared to withdraw another Rs.1000 crore during the current year;
- (c) if so, the main reasons thereof alongwith the details of the projects likely to be affected thereby; and
- (d) the manner in which Railways propose to improve its financial position?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4101 BY SHRI V MUTTEMWAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.12.2000 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF FUNDS FACED BY RAILWAYS.

(a) to (c) During 1999-2000 at the Budget stage a Plan size of Rs.9700 cr became possible after drawing Rs 1000 cr from the internal fund balances of the Railways. The drawdown was later increased to Rs 1107 cr. In the current year, no such drawdown has been envisaged. However, as a matter of abundant caution, in order to provide a cushion against possible shortfall in internal resources, the normal practice of regulating plan expenditure, without affecting works targeted for completion during the year has been programmed.

(d) Better staff productivity, asset utilisation, inventory management, fuel consumption and austerity in areas such as travel, publicity, hospitality etc., thereby controlling expenditure, coupled with appropriate marketing efforts and tapping of non-traditional sources of revenue such as commercial utilisation of railway land and air space, leasing of 'right of way' for laying optical fibre cables, commercial publicity on rolling stock and station buildings, leasing of parcel services, etc. are expected to help in improving the position.