

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:475
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2000
GENERATION OF FUNDS
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that with the present level of allocation of funds to the Railways, it will take over 35 years to complete new line projects and another 15 years to complete the gauge conversion projects;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways requires Rs.3000 crore per year for the next five years to replace and upgrade tracks and rolling stock to meet safety requirements; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to generate funds independently to meet its requirements ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE)

- (a): With the present level of allocation of funds to the Railways it will take over 37 years to complete the new line projects already included in the budget and 15 years to complete the gauge conversion works included in the budget, not considering inflation.
- (b): There are 81 new line projects included in the budget of several years, of which the updated cost is about Rs.25000 cr. An approximate expenditure of Rs.3000 cr. has been already done on these projects leaving a balance of Rs.22000 cr. and with the present level of funding of Rs.600 cr. it will take 37 years for completion. Similarly there are 73 gauge conversion projects costing approximately Rs.15000 cr. of which about Rs.6000 cr. has been spent so far, leaving a balance of Rs.9000 cr. and with the approximate allotment of about Rs.600 cr. per year, it will take 15 years for completion.
- (c): No, Sir. The total requirement for replacement of over aged track i.e. arrears and current arising over the next 5 years would be approximately Rs.25000 cr. In addition Indian Railways require Rs.9500 cr. to replacement of over aged locomotives, coaches and wagons. This would make the annual requirement over the next five years of Rs.6900 cr. per year. However, Khanna Committee recommended for a one time grant of Rs.15000 cr. for safety related works.
- (d): Apart from ongoing efforts to capture additional traffic and recover outstanding dues of the railways action has been initiated to mobilize resources through various innovative methods, such as utilization of Railway land and air space, leasing of right of way for optic fiber communication channels, leasing for advertising rights at Railway Stations and on Rolling stock etc. Efforts are also being made to involve the State Government and private & public sector investment in the execution and funding of rail projects.