

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3323
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006
SURVEY FOR GAUGE CONVERSION IN RAJASTHAN
Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Rajasthan High Court has issued instructions to the Ministry of Railways for gauge conversion of Rewari-Bikaner, Sadulpur- Hissar and Ratangarh-Degana railway lines;
- (b) If so, the action taken by the Ministry in this regard;
- (c) The time limit fixed for the survey for gauge conversion in Rajasthan;
- (d) The criteria fixed for giving approval to gauge conversion work after the completion of the survey; and
- (e) The time by which gauge conversion of these railway lines is likely to be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (e) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3323 BY S/SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA AND RAM SINGH KASWAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.08.2006 REGARDING SURVEY FOR GAUGE CONVERSION IN RAJASTHAN.

- (a) : Hon'ble High Court, Jodhpur has directed the Railways for gauge conversion of Rewari-Degana via Sadulpur.
- (b) & (c) :Gauge conversion of Rewari-Sadulpur section is a sanctioned work. An updating survey for gauge conversion of Sadulpur-Ratangarh- Degana and Ratangarh-Bikaner has been completed recently.
- (d) :The policy followed for selection of routes for gauge conversion under Project Unigauge has been as under: -
 - (i) To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative Broad Gauge (BG) routes obviating the need for Doubling existing BG lines on these routes.
 - (ii) To establish new BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.
 - (iii) To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centres and locations having potential for growth.
 - (iv) To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.
 - (v) To minimize transshipment and to improve wagon turn-around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.
 - (vi) To carryout the conversion of lines as per the above policy at least cost yet providing a standard of service not lower than what the rail users were getting on the Metre Gauge.

Apart from the above, projects have been taken up on socio-economic consideration for improvement of rail infrastructure in the under developed area.

(e) : No target date has been fixed.