

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5916

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007

RAILWAYS POLICY FRAMEWORK

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need for strategic shift in the objectives of the Railways so that it can regain some of the market it has lost over the past few decades to other competing modes of transport;
- (b) if so, whether Railways policy framework has some inherent weaknesses that prevent its healthy growth and prevent the railways from competing with the road sector;
- (c) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) Railways are bulk carriers and competitive for carrying goods over long distances. Over short distances multiple handling of traffic makes railways uneconomical.

(d) Railways are working for multi-modal logistics through container movement, facilitating rail siding construction, developing warehousing at rail terminals. Discount in empty flow direction is also being given to make it competitive with other modes of transport.