

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2069
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2008
RAILWAY PROJECTS
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are about 80 railway projects worth over Rs. 20,000 crores lying derailed as these projects are mostly in rural and backward areas and thus are not commercially viable;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is seriously considering now as a socio-economic consideration to undertake all these projects under priority list in future; and
- (c) if so, the time by which the final decision in allotting the funds for completing these projects are likely to be taken?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2069 BY SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 13.03.2008 REGARDING RAILWAY PROJECTS

(a)&(b): Most of the new line and gauge conversion projects except a few required on operational considerations are aimed to improve connectivity to backward, tribal, remote and under-developed areas of the country so as to bring about socio-economic development of the region through which the line passes. However, railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects requiring over Rs. 61,000 crore for completion. The funds are limited and projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Keeping in view the operational requirements and other considerations, the prioritization of railway projects under new line and gauge conversion was done by the Government in April 2005 in the following categories:-

Category (I) - Projects where progress is more than 60% and throwforward is less than Rs. 100 Crore.

Category (II) - Viable/Operationally required projects.

Category (III)- National Projects, Projects in Assam & North East Region, Cost Sharing with State Governments, Defence Funded Projects and projects covered under Public Private Partnership.

Category (IV) - Other ongoing projects not covered in Categories (I, II & III).

(c): A number of initiatives have been taken to expedite completion of these ongoing projects. Minister of Railways has also written to Chief Ministers of concerned States to consider suitable cost sharing for the ongoing new line and gauge conversion projects to the extent of 50% or more.