

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2009
DELAY IN COMPLETION OF RAILWAY PROJECTS
Abdullakutty Shri A.P.;Chinta Mohan Dr.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether execution of several ongoing railway projects are getting delayed resulting in huge cost overrun; (
- (b) if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for the delay in their execution, Zone-wise;
- (c) the details of funds spent so far on the said projects; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the execution of these projects to check any further cost escalation?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS(SHRI LALU PRASAD)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.151 BY DR. CHINTA MOHAN AND SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 26.02.2009 REGARDING DELAY IN COMPLETION OF RAILWAY PROJECTS

(a) to (c): Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects, under new lines, gauge conversions, doublings, railway electrifications and metropolitan transport projects, with limited availability of resources, as a result of which the projects take long time in completion. The targets for the projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress and many of the projects get completed in phases. Some of the projects where targets had been fixed and projects would have completed in full but have been delayed are given Zone-wise in Appendix alongwith reasons for delay and the revised targets. The main reasons for delay have been paucity of funds, delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance, failure of contracts, adverse law and order conditions and other market forces affecting the progress. Ongoing projects undergo cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in the standard of construction & technology, scope of work, inflation, etc. With the present availability of funds and the large throwforward, it is not possible to fix and maintain many targets.

(d): Some of the steps taken to expedite implementation of ongoing projects are:-

(i) The availability of funds for the projects have increased considerably over the last few years due to provision of funds through internal generation, additional funds for National Projects, participation by State Governments and beneficiaries and implementation of projects by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through extra budgetary resources.

(ii) The contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management.

(iii) Empowerment of field units with delegation of powers.

(iv) Pursuing the security issues and land acquisition with the State Governments and also environment issues upto the level of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(v) State Governments have been requested to regularly review the projects and sort out the pending issues.