

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2297

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005

UTILIZATION OF METRE GAUGE WHEEL SETS

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mandlik Shri Sadashivrao Dadoba;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has properly utilized the imported Metre Gauge Wheel sets;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the estimated revenue loss to the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether railways has decided to upgrade the existing Metre Gauge Wheel sets but failed to comply its decision;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to utilize such wheel sets and save the revenue loss to the exchequer ?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Railways has imported 2000 Metre Gauge (MG) wheel sets suitable for 14 Tonne axle load in 1992 for manufacture of upgraded MG wagons. Subsequently, due to uni-gauge policy, it was decided not to manufacture upgraded MG wagons. These wheel sets were then earmarked for retrofitment on existing MG wagon stock of Northeast Frontier Railway. Accordingly, work was sanctioned in Rolling Stock Program of 95-96. This work had to be stopped in 1996 by the NF Rly. after retrofitting 60 wagons only because the Lumding-Silchar section also was proposed for conversion to Broad Gauge. This further reduced the scope of utilization of MG wagons. In this process, 240 imported wheel sets were consumed and remaining 1760 wheel sets are still available on NF Railway.

(c) Nil

(d) Yes, Sir. In view of the newly introduced uni-gauge policy.

(e) Work for upgrading existing Metre Gauge wheel sets for 500 MG wagons was sanctioned in 1995-96. This work had to be stopped in 1996 after retrofitting 60 wagons as explained in para (b) above.

(f) After retrofitment on small number of wagons, when the work was discontinued due to proposed conversion of the Lumding-Badarpur-Silchar section into BG, M/s. RITES & M/s. IRCON were then approached for assisting Indian Railways in reselling these Wheel sets outside India to countries having MG Rail systems. So far, they have not succeeded in locating any foreign Railway system which can use these wheel sets. As a parallel exercise, it has been decided in consultation with RDSO that these MG wagon wheel sets would be used for making coaching wheel sets. The work for this purpose has already been started in NF Railway. It is likely that the first 4 coaching wheel sets would be made ready shortly.