

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2725
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2009
AGREEMENT FOR RAIL ROAD SYSTEM
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have signed agreements with several Asian and European countries for linking their rail road system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the economic benefit likely to be achieved through the agreement?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) & (b): India has signed the Inter Governmental Agreement on the Trans Asian Railway Network in June 2007 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The agreement has come into force in June 2009 after eight signatories ratified the agreement. The Southern Corridor of Trans Asian Railway network provides rail link via India between Asia and Europe. The link commences from Kunming in China and Bangkok in Thailand and ends in Kapikule in Bulgaria having total length of 11,460 Kilometers, passing among other countries through Myanmar, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

(c): The Trans Asian Railway network will provide viable land route to promote trade relations with the Middle East, Central Asia and South-East Asia & Europe. It has good potential for container traffic movement between South- East Asia, South Asia and Europe and between Central and South Asia. Due to reduced transit time, the increased trade will bring benefit to the countries of the region.