

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3074
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
EXPERT COMMITTEES
Pal Shri Jagdambika

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and the reasons for setting up two separate Committee under Shri Sam Pitroda and Shri Anil Kakodkar;
- (b) the major terms of references set for these Committees ;
- (c) the major points of recommendations of these two Committees along with the stand of the Railways thereon;
- (d) whether there have been overlapping between the recommendations of these two Committees;
- (e) if so, the manner in which the Railways propose to resolve such overlapping of recommendations; and
- (f) the financial implications projected for implementation of these recommendations along with the time frame/road map set therefor?

Answer

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

(a): The Sam Pitroda Committee (Expert Group for Modernization of Indian Railways) was set up : (i) to recommend ways and means to modernize Indian Railways to meet the challenges of economic growth, the aspirations of common man, the needs of changing technology and the expanding market, while at the same time ensuring adequate focus on addressing social and strategic, requirements of the country in consonance with Indian Railways' national aspirations;
(ii) to address issues connected with organization, management and resources mobilization, and professionalization of manpower.

Dr. Anil Kakodkar Committee (High Level Safety Review Committee) was set up to go into all technical and technology related aspects in connection with safe running of train services in the country.

(b) : (i) The terms of reference of the Expert Group of Modernization is railway modernization with focus on:-

Track :- To provide capability for safe, secure and productive freight and passenger trains with a focus on expansion and excellence.

Signaling:- Modern electronic signaling technologies for maximizing track utilization, and for providing high speed operations with safety.

Rolling stock:- Expansion of new generation freight and passenger rolling stock with advanced technological features with capability for higher speeds and lower unit costs.

Stations & Terminals:- Modernization of stations and freight terminals to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art infrastructure, services and facilities.

Information technology: Launch integrated initiatives for exponential improvement in operational efficiency, safety, flexibility and comfort.

Indigenous Development: Outline strategies for indigenous development, local R&D and local manufacturing to augment existing capacities of Indian Railways.

Project Review: Review and assess capital projects sanctioned and work- in-process and suggest necessary actions.

Public Private Partnership (PPP): Address issues related to PPP with a focus on process- management, bidding-out procedures, resource mobilization and enhancing value of unused railway assets.

(ii) The terms of reference of High Level Safety Review Committee are:

to suggest ways and means for reinforcing the mechanism for improvements that are timely, enduring, cost effective and aimed at further enhancement of safety margins, where warranted.

Based upon trend of accident and their consequences witnessed in the recent past, the committee may lay down a roadmap for improving safety in respect of the following:-

- i) Signaling Systems
- ii) Rolling Stock (of all types)
- iii) Fixed Structures (Tracks & Bridges and OHE)
- iv) Human resource development with emphasis on Training Education and research.
- v) Need for a Third Party Audit, organizational & structural changes in RDSO and in any other department, improvement in procedures and systems.
- vi) Any other items/modification the committee may desire.

(c) : The major recommendations are as follows:-

(i) Expert Group for Modernization of Indian Railways

The Group has made 113 specific recommendations pertaining to modernization of tracks and bridges, signaling systems, rolling stock, stations and terminals, PPP initiatives, utilization of land and airspace, construction of Dedicated Freight Corridors, High-speed Passenger Corridors, expeditious implementation of 'priority' projects, harnessing Information & Communication Technology, indigenous development and safety. It has recommended mobilization of resources for the aforesaid purposes along with human resource development to increase specialization and some organizational changes. It has also provided a blue print for next five years for modernization of Indian Railways.

(ii) High Level Safety Review Committee

The Committee has made recommendation regarding organizational structure, signaling, tracks and bridges, modernization of rolling stock, fire prevention of trains, road and level crossings and funding issues.

Both the reports are under examination by Ministry of Railways.

(d): The expert group on modernization has also recommended for improvement of railway safety by the following ways:

- i. Mechanized maintenance of track
- ii. Installation of wheel impact load detectors
- iii. Modernization and renovation of workshops
- iv. Train protection warning system (TPWS)
- v. Digitized ultrasonic flaw detectors
- vi. Elimination of unmanned level crossings and construction of over-bridges /under passes
- vii. Upgradation of coaching depot
- viii. Upgradation of disaster management facilities
- ix. Upgradation of network management centers
- x. Use of social networks and other pools for safety and security

(e) & (f): (i) Expert Group for Modernization of Indian Railways has proposed for an investment requirement of Rs. 5,60,000 Crores in the next five years.

(ii) The High Level Safety Review Committee has proposed for an investment of Rs. 1,00,000 Crore over a five year period.

The reports are under examination at the Ministry of Railways and hence no road map based on their recommendations has been drawn yet.