

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:185
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012
USE OF TRACK-LAYING MACHINES
Tagore Shri Manicka

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to acquire and utilize track-laying machines from abroad for laying of Railway lines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including financial implication involved therein;
- (c) the cost effectiveness of using such machines vis-à-vis conventional methods of track-laying in the country; and
- (d) the target fixed for laying of railway lines in the country using such machines, zone-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a): No, Madam. At present, there is no such proposal to acquire Track Laying Machines from abroad for laying of Railway lines in the country.

However, there is a provision for laying of track by contractor's Track Laying Machines in the contracts of Dedicated Freight Corridor project.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The quality of track laying and speed of laying of track by Track Laying Machines is superior as compared to conventional manual method. Now, concrete sleepers are used in construction of track which are heavy and brittle and prone to damage during laying by conventional manual method. The quality of such manual laying is also not satisfactory. In many countries Track Laying Machines are used, however, the same is not used in India as this technology is not available presently. By using these machines for laying of track, maintenance input will go down and overall life cycle cost of track will get reduced besides improvement in riding quality.

(d): At present, there is no target fixed for laying Railway lines in the country using Track Laying Machines.