

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:350

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL CO OPERATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Railways have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various foreign countries/ companies for development of technical co-operation and railway infrastructure in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the projects identified for the purpose along with the time - frame set for implementation/completion thereof;
- (c) the details of the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on these projects along with the benefits likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Railways for development of technical co-operation and railway infrastructure?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 350 BY SHRI A. VENKATA RAMI REDDY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 21.03.2013 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Indian Railways have signed the following Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with foreign railway entities for technical cooperation in the field of railways:

- (i) The Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Austria.
- (ii) The Federal Public Services for Mobility and Transport of the Kingdom of Belgium.
- (iii) The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Industry and Trade (MLIT), Government of Japan.
- (iv) RENFE OPERADORA and ADIF (Railway Companies) of the Kingdom of Spain.
- (v) The Ministry of Railways of the Government of the People's Republic of China.
- (vi) The French National Railway (SNCF).
- (vii) In addition to this a Letter of Intent for mutual cooperation on heritage initiatives regarding Mountain Railways World Heritage sites has been signed with Rhatische Bahn of Switzerland.

The broad areas for cooperation identified under the MoUs inter alia include High Speed rail, station renovation and heavy haul. No specific projects have been identified to be undertaken under technical cooperation MoUs.

Indian Railways have also signed MoU with the People's Republic of Bangladesh for development of Railway Infrastructure to establish Rail Link between Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh). The project is estimated to cost Rs. 252 Crore. Time frames and costs in other projects would be known after specific projects have been tied up. These MoUs, by fostering cooperation will lead to knowledge sharing as well as transfer of technology in identified areas, besides improving rail infrastructure to meet future transport needs.

(d) For development of technical cooperation and railway infrastructure, meetings, technical visits, seminars and workshops are organized between Indian Railways and foreign entities for sharing knowledge in areas of mutual interest. A study on business development of high speed project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad is being undertaken by SNCF through a Grant from Government of France under the MoU.