

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:559
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013
GUIDELINES ON RAILWAY PROJECTS
Saroj Smt. Sushila;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the policy/ guidelines followed by the Planning Commission for granting projects for new railway lines;
- (b) whether the Planning Commission proposes to take any action to rectify the regional imbalances in term of the share of various States in laying railway projects; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including for the State of Uttar Pradesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) While according 'in-principle' approval to new railway line project proposals the Planning Commission is guided by socio-economic considerations, national and security considerations, connectivity with industrial areas, mines and ports as well as economic viability considerations. Besides, proposals in which State Governments participate to the extent of providing land free-of-cost and sharing 50% of the capital cost of construction of the project provided the criterion of network integrity, etc., is also met.

(b) & (c) Planning Commission is trying to address the regional imbalance in Rail network. The concept of National Project in J&K and North-eastern States and Other unserved areas, where there is complete deficit of railway lines, is a step in that direction. However, in view of the scarcity of resources and huge burden of on-going works, it is difficult to take up many new projects without definite sources of funding. So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, as per the information made available by the Ministry of Railways, the rail connectivity is at 36.37 route Km per 1000 sq. Km of the area in 2010-11 which is amongst the states with high rail connectivity as compared to some other states.