

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4926
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013
GAUGE CONVERSION PROJECT
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola gauge conversion project along with the progress made towards forestry clearance for Akola-Khandwa section;
- (b) whether the Railways propose to explore the feasibility of an alternate alignment line along the periphery of Melghat Tiger Reserve;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Railways to expedite the work on the said project ?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore-Mhow-Khandwa-Amalakhurd-Akot-Akola section (472.60 km), was sanctioned in year 2008-09. Part detailed estimates for part of project covering Ratlam-Fatehabad-Indore-Mhow (159.45 km) and Akot-Akola (43.50 km) sections, have been sanctioned. Gauge conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad section (80 km) has been completed. Further, conversion of Fatehabad-Indore section is targeted for completion by March, 2014. Approximately, expenditure of ` 120 crore has been incurred upto March' 2013. An outlay of ` 119.83 crore has been proposed for this project in the Budget 2013-14. Section Amlakhurd-Akot is presently passing through Melghat Tiger Reserve. Since forestry clearance was not granted, survey for alternative alignment of Akot-Amlakhurd section for avoiding the forest area and taking railway line along the periphery of Melghat Tiger Reserve, has been carried out by Regional Remote Sensing Center, Nagpur (NRSC). The project is progressing as per the availability of resources and statutory approvals.