

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2440  
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014  
RATLAM AKOLA GAUGE CONVERSION  
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) the details and the present status of gauge conversion project between Ratlam and Akola;
- (b) the reasons for delay in completion of the said project;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated/spent thereon, so far;
- (d) the time frame set for completion of the said project; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2440 BY SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 06.02.2014 REGARDING RATLAM-AKOLA GAUGE CONVERSION.

(a) to (d): Gauge conversion of Indore - Khandwa has been taken up as a part of Ratlam- Fatehabad-Indore-Mhow-Khandwa-Amalakhurd-Akot-Akola (472.60 km) sanctioned gauge conversion project. Project execution has been taken up from both ends. On Ratlam end, conversion of Ratlam-Fatehabad section (80 km) has been completed in 2012-13 and Fatehabad-Indore section (40 km) is targeted for completion in 2013-14. On Akola end, part estimate for Akot-Akola section has been sanctioned, but execution could not be taken up for want of forestry clearance of Amalakhurd-Akot section which lies ahead and passes through Melghat Tiger Reserve. Approximately, expenditure of ` 195.04 crore has been incurred upto March' 2013. An outlay of ` 119.83 crore has been provided for this project in the Budget 2013-14. Target date for entire project has not been fixed. At present, railways have large shelf of ongoing projects, having huge throwforward with limited availability of resources. As a result, funds are thinly spread out thus prolonging period of completion. Project is progressing as per availability of resources.

(e): Steps have been taken to generate extra budgetary resources through State participation, Public Private Partnership, Defence funding and implementation of bankable projects through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. For early completion of the projects, State Government are being pursued through regular meetings with Chief Secretary and other concerned officials to speed up pending cases in connection with land acquisition and forestry and to provide additional security at work sites in law and order affected areas.