

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2565
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
PROBLEMS DUE TO GAUGE CONVERSION
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are aware of rural people travelling long distances to reach their fields in the villages due to conversion of meter gauge into broad gauge;
- (b) whether level crossing by people consequent upon gauge conversion is illegal, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Railways propose to construct Road Under Bridges (RUBs) for the rural people, if so, the details of the sources of funds;
- (d) whether the Railways have assured/announced merger of the expenditure of RUB construction with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS); and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

- (a): Gauge conversion do not alter the travelling pattern of Rural people. Distance which rural people have to travel to reach their fields in villages is not affected by conversion of railway track from meter gauge to broad gauge.
- (b): During gauge conversion work, the railway level crossings which are existing on old meter-gauge network are either retained or converted into Road Over Bridge (ROB) / Road Under Bridge (RUB) at technically feasible locations to facilitate the crossing of Railway Track. If people are crossing the track consequent upon the gauge conversion through any other locations, then it is illegal and unsafe for the road users because Railway has not provided level crossings / ROB / RUB at these locations.
- (c) to (e): Railways have not proposed to construct Road Under Bridges (RUBs) for the rural people at any un-authorised/tress-passing locations. However, RUBs at un-authorised/tress-passing locations could be sanctioned by State Government on deposit terms or under various schemes like MGNEREGA, MPLAD, Mukhya Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sarak Yojana etc.