

14

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

(2014)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(RAILWAY BOARD)

**[Action Taken by the Government on the
Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained
in their Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Share of
Railway Traffic *vis-a-vis* Air and Road Transport- An
Evaluation']**



सत्यमेव जयते

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2017 /Chaitra, 1938 (Saka)

FOURTEENTH REPORT
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

(2014)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

**[Action Taken by the Government on the
Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained
in their Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on ‘Share of
Railway Traffic *vis-a-vis* Air and Road Transport- An
Evaluation’]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 31.3.2017

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 31.3.2017



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

March, 2017/Chaitra, 1938 (Saka)

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- II. Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (2014)

**COMPOSITION OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE
(2014)**

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP - Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
3. Shri Sanganna Amarappa Karadi
4. Shri K. Ashok Kumar
5. Shri Kamalbhan Singh Marabi
6. **Vacant***
7. Shri Nana Patole
8. Shri Janak Ram
9. Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale
10. Shri Bharat Singh
11. Shri Liladharbhai Khodaji Vaghela
12. Shri K.C. Venugopal

Members

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Derek O' Brien
14. Shri T.K. Rangarajan
15. Shri Prem Chand Gupta
16. Shri Abdul Wahab
17. Smt. Vandana Chavan
18. Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri S.C. Chaudhary | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri M. K. Madhusudhan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D. R. Mohanty | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Shri J.S. Patiyal | - | Committee Officer |

*Vacancy occurred w.e.f. 05th July, 2016 vice Smt. Anupriya Patel was appointed MOS.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Railway Convention Committee (2014), having been authorized by the Committee, present this Fourteenth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Share of Railway Traffic *vis-a-vis* Road and Air Transport- An Evaluation'.

2. The Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 11th August, 2016. The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) furnished their replies on 28th November, 2016 indicating Action Taken on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifth Report. The Committee at their sitting held on 29th March, 2017 considered and adopted this Report.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Railway Convention Committee -(2014) is given at Appendix-II.

4. For ease of reference, the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

New Delhi:
29th March, 2017
08 Chaitra, 1938-39 (SAKA)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

REPORT

CHAPTER - I

This Report deals with action taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Share of Railway Traffic vis-a-vis Road and Air Transport- An Evaluation'.

2. The Fifth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 11.08.2016 and also laid in Rajya Sabha the same day. It contained 14 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Rec. Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12 & 13

Total: 12

Percentage: 85.71

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Rec. Para No. Nil

Total: Nil

Percentage: Nil

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

Rec. Para No. 6 & 14

Total: 02

Percentage: 14.29

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:

Rec. Para No. NIL

Total: NIL

Percentage: NIL

3. The Committee desire that Action Taken Note in respect of the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report should be furnished to them at the earliest.

I. Passenger Traffic

(Recommendation Para No. 2)

4. In their Fifth Report, the Committee had observed that as a result of a number of proactive measures and continuous monitoring at the Divisional, Zonal and Headquarters level, a positive growth of 0.45 percent in passenger traffic had been achieved during the first two months of the 2016-17 fiscal. Appreciating the efforts of the Railways, the Committee had desired that more such effective and innovative steps be taken with special emphasis towards continuous monitoring at all levels, so as to retain the passenger base as well as attract more passenger traffic.

5. The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) in their Action Taken Note have submitted as under:-

“The passenger traffic is continuously monitored over Zonal Railways at various levels and additional services/special

trains/Suvidha trains and temporary/permanent augmentation of coaches are planned accordingly with the help of information technology.”

6. The Committee take note of the assurance that the passenger traffic is being continuously monitored and additional services are planned with the help of information technology. In view of the fact that a positive growth in the passenger traffic has been achieved during the first two months of the 2016-17 fiscal as a result of such measures, the Committee desire that the pro-active approach displayed by the Indian Railways should continue uninterrupted so as to leverage the passenger traffic.

II. Railways' Share in Freight Traffic (Recommendation Para No. 6)

7. In their earlier Report, the Committee expressed serious concern over the drastic reduction in the Railways share of freight traffic to 30 to 35 percent in 2011-12 from 89 percent in 1951 whereas the share of road transport had correspondingly increased to 86.7 percent from 25.7 percent. Taking note of the non-availability of the data regarding percentage share of Railways freight traffic from 2012-13 onwards, the Committee had underlined the significance of continuous comparative study of the freight movement through different modes of transport so as to take timely measures for improving Railways performance in freight traffic.

8. The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) in their Action Taken Note have submitted as under:

“Evaluation of various alternatives relating to rationalisation of fare and freight structure is a continuous exercise based on experience gained over the years.

Recently, Indian Railway has engaged NCAER to study the factors impacting freight traffic. Based on the recommendations made by NCAER, number of steps have been taken by Railway to rationalise freight structure of Indian Railways.”

9. The Committee are aware that evaluation of various alternatives for rationalization of fare and freight structure is a continuous process. This is precisely for the same reason that the Committee expressed displeasure in their earlier Report as the continuity was found missing from 2012-13 onwards when the Railways failed to maintain a comparative data of their share in freight traffic. However, now that the Indian Railways have engaged National Centre for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to study the factors impacting the freight traffic and are taking a number of steps, as per the recommendations of NCAER, to rationalise the freight structure of the Indian Railways, the Committee hope that it would be a constant endeavour on the part of the Railways to go in for such studies periodically so that timely corrective measures can be taken to augment the share of Railways in freight traffic.

III. Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) (Recommendation Para No. 14)

10. Observing the benefits, both on traffic and revenue fronts that would accrue from the Dedicated Freight Corridors, the Committee, in their Fifth Report had exhorted the Ministry to ensure completion of

the two ongoing and three proposed DFC projects within the targeted timeline.

11. The Ministry in their Action Taken Note have submitted as under:

“Progress of both Eastern (Dankuni-Ludhiana, 1856 km) and Western (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to Dadri, 1504 km) Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFCs) Projects are regularly reviewed. Implementation schedule and timelines have been drawn up and are being monitored on regular basis. Both DFC Corridor (Eastern DFC upto Sonnagar) are targeted for implementation in phases from the year 2018 to 2019. In Rail Budget 2016-17, the following three freight corridor :- (i) East West Corridor (Kolkata-Mumbai), (ii) North-South Corridor (Delhi-Chennai) and (iii) East Coast Corridor (Kharagpur -Vijaywada) have been proposed. Timelines for completion of these projects depend on finalizing funding modalities & sanction and cannot be indicated at this stage.”

12. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that even after elapse of nine months i.e. between the Budget proposals of 2016-17 (February, 2016) and furnishing of Action Taken Notes (November, 2016) to the Committee, finalisation of funding modalities and sanction for the three proposed new DFCs have not been firmed up. It is surprising that without ascertaining the funding modalities, new projects, that too DFCs have been announced. It is equally unconvincing that finalization of funding modalities for particular projects announced at the beginning of a financial year take such inordinately long time in the Railways. In view of the imperatives involved, the Committee impress upon the Railways to tighten the loose ends and speed

up the matter so as to avoid time and cost overrun in implementing the proposed DFCs which would facilitate more freight traffic and ensure better revenue earning for the Indian Railways.

New Delhi:
29 March, 2017
08 Chaitra, 1938-39 (SAKA)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE (2014)

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIRST SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 29th March, 2017, from 1500 hrs. to 1545 hrs. in Room No. 215, Chairperson's Chamber, Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - **Chairperson**

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Kamalbhan Singh Marabi
3. Shri Nana Patole
4. Shri L.K Vaghela
5. Shri K.C. Venugopal

Rajya Sabha

6. Shri Abdul Wahab
7. Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev

Secretariat

1. Sh. Sukhi Chand Chaudhary - Joint Secretary
2. Sh. M. K. Madhusudhan - Director
3. Sh. D. R. Mohanty - Additional Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee, convened to consider and adopt the draft Reports on the subjects (i) Exploring PPP avenues in Railway Infrastructure (ii) Green Energy Initiatives in Indian Railways (iii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fourth Report on Role of IRFC and use of SPV methodology in financing development needs of Indian Railways and (iv) Action Taken

by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifth Report on Share of Railway Traffic vis-a-vis Air and Road Transport-An Evaluation. Giving an overview of the important Recommendations contained in the Draft Reports, the Chairperson solicited the views/suggestions of the Members.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the said Draft Reports and adopted them after some discussions.

4. The Chairperson thanked the Members for their valuable suggestions and active participation in the deliberations of the Committee. The Chairperson also appreciated the performance of the Officers of the Secretariat attached to the Committee.

5. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the Draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II

(Vide Para No. 3 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIFTH REPORT OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE -2014 (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	14	-
II.	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Para Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12, and 13)	12	85.71
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: (NIL)	NIL	-
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee and which requires reiteration: (Para Nos. 6 and 14)	02	14.29
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are of interim in nature: (NIL)	NIL	-
Total		14	100%