

**RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE
(1999)**

(THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**SEVENTH REPORT
ON
ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRD REPORT OF
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE (1999) ON
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BROAD GAUGE LINE BETWEEN
KOLAYAT AND PHALODI ON STRATEGIC CONSIDERATION**

Presented in Lok Sabha on 24 July, 2003

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 24 July, 2003

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

May, 2003/ Vaisakha 1925 (S)

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held on 8th May, 2003.

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE (1999)

\$ Dr. (Smt). C. Suguna Kumari - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Adhir Chowdhary
3. Shri Gurcharan Singh Galib
4. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete
5. Shri R.L. Jalappa
6. Shri Raghunath Jha
- # 7. Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar
8. Shri Hannan Mollah
9. Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey
10. Shri Manabendra Shah
11. Shri Saleem Iqbal Sherwani
12. Shri Radha Mohan Singh

RAJYA SABHA

- * 13. Shri Sudersan Akarapu
- @ 14. Shri B.P. Apte
15. Shri Dina Nath Mishra
- @ 16. Shri Suresh Pachouri
- @ 17. Shri Janardhana Poojary
18. Shri A. Vijaya Raghavan

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Paramjeet Kaur Sandhu | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri V.S.Negi | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. | Shri O.P. Shokeen | Assistant Director |
| 4. | Shri S.K. Ganguli | Sr. Committee Asstt. |

* Shri Sudershan Akarapu nominated w.e.f. 20.05.2002 vice Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy retired from Rajya Sabha w.e.f., 02-04-2002

@ Sarvashri B.P. Apte, Suresh Pachouri and Janardhana Poojary nominated w.e.f. 20.05.2002 vice S/Shri Lakhiram Agarwal, Suresh Pachouri and Maurice Kujur retired from Rajya Sabha w.e.f., 09-04-2002.

Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar nominated w.e.f., 28.4.2003 vice Smt. Bhavnaben Chikhalia resigned from the Committee.

\$ Appointed as Chairperson w.e.f., 28.4.2003 vice Smt. Bhavnaben Chikhalia resigned from the Committee.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Railway Convention Committee (1999), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, do present this Eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their Third Report on 'Construction of New BG line Between Kolayat and Phalodi on Strategic Consideration'.

2. The Third Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 18 December, 2001 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same day. It contained 4 observations/recommendations. Action taken replies on all the 4 observations/recommendations were received from the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board).

3. The Committee considered the replies of the Government at their sitting held on 8th May, 2003. The Committee also considered and adopted the Draft Report at the same sitting. The Minutes of the sitting form part – II of the Report.

4. An analysis of action taken by the Government on the observations/ recommendations contained in their Third Report is given at Appendix.

New Delhi
8th May, 2003
18 Vaisakha, 1925 (S)

Dr. (Smt). C. Suguna Kumari
Chairperson
Railway Convention Committee

PART - I

REPORT

CHAPTER - I

This Report of the Committee deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the observations and recommendations contained in their Third Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Construction of New Broad Gauge line between Kolayat and Phalodi on Strategic Consideration' which was presented to Lok Sabha on 18th December, 2001 and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same day. It contained four observations/recommendations.

2. The Action Taken replies on all these observations and recommendations have been received from the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) and the same have been broadly categorized as under :

- (i) Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by Government :
Para Nos. 34, 35 & 36
- (ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies :
NIL
- (iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration :
NIL
- (iv) Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited .
Para No. 37

3. The Committee desire that the reply to the recommendation /observation on which final reply of the Government is still awaited be submitted to them expeditiously.

4. The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Ministry of Railway (Railway Board) on some of their recommendations /observations.

5. The Committee had, in para nos. 35 & 36 of their Report observed as under :

“Kolayat and Phalodi are important towns of Rajasthan which are located close to India's International Border. The alignment runs along the India-Pakistan border. The Ministry of Defence (Army Headquarters) has requested for construction of a rail line on strategic consideration from Kolayat to Phalodi on priority number one. The Committee note that the proposed new line will not only be beneficial for the Army for mobility of troops along the border but will also provide an alternative route from Bhatinda to Jaisalmer.

The Committee feel that the issue of national security is of paramount importance and the construction of this strategic line from Kolayat to Phalodi has already been delayed unnecessarily for more than one and half years on one pretext or another. They, therefore, recommend that the work pertaining to the construction of this new BG line (111.394 kms) be taken up expeditiously by providing sufficient Budgetary support from General Revenues. The Ministry of Railways should also ensure that the project is completed as per the projected time-frame decided by the Ministry of Defence. The Committee may be kept apprised on the progress of this particular project from time to time”.

6. The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) vide their O.M.No.98/RCC/206/3 dated 3rd April, 2003, have furnished the following Action Taken Reply :

“The work of construction of new broad gauge line between Kolayat to Phalodi (111.394 kms) has been included in the Railway Budget 2002-03. Final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate sanctioned. The land acquisition is in process. Out of 265.13 hectare of Government land in Jodhpur District, 246.13 hectare of land is being handed over by the State Government of Rajasthan to the Railways shortly. The remaining 18.70 hectare is of forest land and for acquisition of this land, the proposal with regard to resolving the ownership issue is under consideration of the State Government. For acquisition of private land of 147.70 hectare in Jodhpur District, State Government has already issued notification under Section 9/17 and possession is likely to be given early. Similarly, possession of Government and private land in Bikaner District

..2 ..

is also likely to be given early. The work would be taken up once land is handed over by the State Government”.

7. **The Committee feel happy to note that the issue of national security has been given its due importance and the work of construction of new Broad Gauge line between Kolayat and Phalodi (111.394kms) has been included in the Railway Budget 2002-03. They further note that the Ministry of Railways have completed the final location survey and detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Also the acquisition of land is in progress. The Committee, desire that they may be kept apprised about the progress of this project from time to time.**

CHAPTER – II

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendations (Para Nos. 34, 35 & 36)

The Committee note that in para 2 of the Resolution regarding separation of Railway Finances from General Revenues, adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 20th September, 1924 it was recommended that “the interest on the capital-at-charge of, and the loss in working, strategic lines shall be borne by the General Revenues and shall consequently be deducted from the contribution so calculated in order to arrive at the new amount payable from Railway to General Revenues each year”. The position remained unchanged till the partition of the country when all the then strategic lines remained in Pakistan. After Independence, six strategic lines were constructed in the country and all these lines, whether remunerative or unremunerative remained eligible for subsidy from General Exchequer. The total capital-at-charge provided by the General Exchequer for construction of these lines in the country till March 2001 is about Rs.509.22 crore.

Kolayat and Phalodi are important towns of Rajasthan which are located close to India’s International Border. The alignment runs along the India-Pakistan border. The Ministry of Defence (Army Headquarters) has requested for construction of a rail line on strategic consideration from Kolayat to Phalodi on priority number one. The Committee note that the proposed new line will not only be beneficial for the Army for mobility of troops along the border but will also provide an alternative route from Bhatinda to Jaisalmer.

The Committee feel that the issue of national security is of paramount important and the construction of this strategic line from Kolayat to Phalodi has already been delayed unnecessarily for more than one and half years on one pretext or another. They, therefore, recommend that the work pertaining to the construction of this new BG line (111.394 kms) be taken up expeditiously by providing sufficient Budgetary support from General Revenues. The Ministry of Railways should also ensure that the project is completed as per the projected time-frame decided by the Ministry of Defence. The Committee may be kept apprised on the progress of this particular project from time to time”.

Reply of the Government

The work of construction of new broad gauge line between Kolayat to Phalodi (111.394 kms) has been included in the Railway Budget 2002-03. Final location survey has been completed and detailed estimate sanctioned. The land acquisition is in process. Out of 265.13 hectare of Government land in Jodhpur District, 246.13 hectare of land is being handed over by the State Government of Rajasthan to the Railways shortly. The remaining 18.70 hectare is of forest land and for acquisition of this land, the proposal with regard to resolving the ownership issue is under consideration of the State Government. For acquisition of private land of 147.70 hectare in Jodhpur District, State Government has already issued notification under Section 9/17 and possession is likely to be given early. Similarly, possession of Government and private land in Bikaner District is also likely to be given early. The work would be taken up once land is handed over by the State Government.

[Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) O.M.No. 98/RCC/206/3 dated 3.4.2003]

Comments of the Committee

[please see paragraph 7 of the report]

CHAPTER – III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT REPLY.

NIL

CHAPTER – IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND WHICH REQUIRE REITERATION.

NIL

CHAPTER – V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED.

Recommendation (Para No.37)

The Committee note that during evidence Chairman, Railway Board, had suggested that the concession now available on the construction of new lines on strategic considerations may also be extended to gauge conversion works taken up on strategic considerations. The Committee recommend that a note on the above suggestion along with the views of the Ministry of Finance may be incorporated in the Memorandum on 'Rate of Dividend for 2002-2003 and other ancillary matters' and sent to the Committee for their consideration.

Reply of the Government

A draft Memorandum on "Rate of Dividend payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues for 2003-04 and other ancillary matters", duly incorporating a note with regard to dividend concession on capital employed in case of gauge conversion works taken up on strategic considerations was sent to the Ministry of Finance for their views. Ministry of Finance advised that as the issue has wider ramifications, it would be preferable if the Railways submit a separate memorandum covering inter-alia the total financial implications, time frame and year-wise break up of the anticipated cost of such gauge conversion works along with the comments of Ministry of Defence. In view thereof, the memorandum has been referred to Ministry of Defence on 03.03.2003 for their comments. On receipt of comments of the Ministry of Defence, the memorandum will be sent to the Ministry of Finance for their views and thereafter will be submitted to the Railway Convention Committee for their consideration.

[Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) O.M. No.98/RCC/206/3 dated 3.4.2003]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see paragraph 3 of the Report)

New Delhi
8th May, 2003
18 Vaisakha 1925 (S)

DR. (SMT). C. SUGUNA KUMARI
Chairperson
Railway Convention Committee

APPENDIX
(*Vide* para 4 of Introduction)

Analysis of the action taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Third Report of Railway Convention Committee (1999).

I.	Total number of recommendations	04
II.	Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by Government : Para Nos. 34, 35 & 36	03 75%
III.	Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies : NIL	
IV.	Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration : NIL	
V.	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited : Para No. 37	25%

PART – II

MINUTES OF THE THIRTYFIRST SITTING OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE (1999) HELD ON 8TH MAY, 2003.

* * *

The Committee sat on Thursday, the 8th May, 2003 in Committee Room 'E', Parliament House Annexe, from 1500 hrs to 1550 hrs.

PRESENT

Dr. (Smt) C. Suguna Kumari - Chairperson

MEMBERS
LOK SABHA

2. Shri Gurucharan Singh Galib
3. Shri Raghunath Jha
4. Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar
5. Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey
6. Shri Manabendra Shah

RAJYA SABHA

7. Shri Dina Nath Mishra
8. Shri A. Vijaya Raghavan

SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Paramjeet Kaur Sandhu - Joint Secretary
2. Shri V.S. Negi - Deputy Secretary
3. Shri O.P. Shokeen - Assistant Director

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and congratulated Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar, MP on his nomination to the Railway Convention Committee (1999). Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Third Report on 'Construction of New Broad Gauge line between Kolayat and Phalodi on Strategic Consideration' and adopted the same without any amendment/modification.

3. * * *
4. * * *

5. The Committee authorised the Chairperson to present the Report to both the Houses after making consequential changes, if any, arising out of the factual verification by the Ministry of Railways or otherwise.

The Committee then adjourned.