

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:83  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2016  
Railway Development Fund  
Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the World Bank and Railways have decided to work together for setting up the railway development fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions fixed in this regard;
- (c) the present status of the Railway Development Fund;
- (d) whether the Railways has allowed 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in major railway operations and if so, the details of the sectors in which 100 per cent FDI has been allowed; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Railways to increase the income from non-railway operations?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU)

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

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 83 BY SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV AND SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 02.03.2016 REGARDING RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT FUND.

(a) to (c) The World Bank has been approached to explore the possibility of setting up of a Railway infrastructure development fund. The World Bank has taken up a detailed scoping and options study for creating such a fund.

(d) Yes, Madam. Government has permitted 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in rail sector in construction, operation and maintenance of the following: (i) Suburban corridor projects (ii) High speed train projects (iii) Dedicated freight lines (iv) Rolling stock including train sets, and locomotives or coaches manufacturing and maintenance facilities (v) Railway Electrification (vi) Signaling systems (vii) Freight terminals (viii) Passenger terminals (ix) Infrastructure in industrial park pertaining to railway line/siding and (x) Mass Rapid Transport System.

(e) The Minister of Railways in his speech introducing the Railway Budget for 2016-17 has announced the following steps to increase the Railways' income from non-railway operations:

- i. Station redevelopment through commercial exploitation of vacant land and space rights over station buildings.
- ii. Monetizing land along tracks by leasing out this space for horticulture and tree plantation and for generating solar energy.
- iii. Monetizing soft assets like data, software and some of the free services provided by Indian Railways and promoting e-commerce activities on websites.
- iv. Advertising at stations, trains and land adjacent to tracks outside big stations and using customer-interfacing assets for earning advertising revenues and partnering with agencies for co-branding.
- v. Overhaul of Parcel business by liberalizing current parcel policies including opening the sector to container train operators, online booking of parcels and expanding Railway service offerings to growing sectors such as e-commerce.

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