

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4258
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2005
RAIL LINE BETWEEN JAMMU AND UDHAMPUR
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rail link between Jammu and Udhampur has been completed;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the actual expenditure incurred so far thereon as against the original estimated amount;
- (d) the reasons for price escalation;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the escalation of cost of the projects in future; and
- (f) the time by which the rail line between Jammu and Udhampur is likely to be opened?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (f) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4258 BY SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 21.04.2005 REGARDING RAIL LINE BETWEEN JAMMU & UDHAMPUR.

(a), (b) & (f) : The rail line between Jammu & Udhampur has been completed and opened to passenger traffic on 13.04.2005.

(c) : The original estimated cost in 1981-82 was Rs. 50 crore and cost now anticipated is Rs. 515 crore. The anticipated expenditure upto March, 2005 is Rs. 507 crore.

(d) : Normally, the cost of the project increases during the construction period due to increase in cost of material, fuel, labour etc. In this case, the project has been executed in the difficult hilly terrain in young Himalayans with unstable formation and difficult geological conditions. Lot of technical problems have been encountered in planning and execution of bridges and tunnels. This resulted in delay in completion and cost escalation.

(e) : A number of initiatives have been taken to mobilize other than normal budgetary resources to expedite completion of ongoing projects.