

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4352  
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005  
RAILWAY LINE FROM BILASPUR TO MANDLA  
Mohale Shri Punnulal

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

- (a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for laying railway line from Bilaspur to Mandla;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have approved the said project;
- (d) if so, the reasons for delay in starting the work on the project; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4352 BY SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 22.12.2005 REGARDING RAILWAY LINE FROM BILASPUR TO MANDLA.

(a) to (e): A survey was completed during 2003-04 exploring two alternative ways of connecting Bilaspur to Jabalpur - one, by constructing a direct line between Bilaspur and Jabalpur via Mandla avoiding Nainpur and the other, by constructing a new line from Bilaspur up to Mandla Fort only and completing the gauge conversion of Mandla Fort-Nainpur section. As per the survey report, the cost of the first option was assessed as Rs. 1284.11 crore, while the second option as Rs. 736.96 crore, with a negative rate of return (ROR) in both the cases.

In view of non-remunerative nature of the project, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up construction of Bilaspur-Mandla-Jabalpur new line wholly or partly for the present.