

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4121

ANSWERED ON:18.05.2006

SURVEY FOR LAYING NEW RAILWAY LINES

Bhagora Shri Mahavir;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Kripalani Shri Srichand;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of new railway lines for which proposals were included in the Railway Budget 2005-06 and 2006-07 for the survey work;
- (b) the time limit set for the completion of survey work of those lines; and
- (c) the norms prescribed for approval of new railway lines after completion of survey work?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4121 BY S/SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI, KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV, PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR, MAHAVIR BHAGORA, MOHD. TAHIR AND ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 18.5.2006 REGARDING SURVEY FOR LAYING NEW RAILWAY LINES.

(a) & (b): A total of 40 and 22 surveys for new lines were included in the Railway Budgets 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. Out of 40 surveys included in the Railway Budget 2005-06, 8 have been completed. The surveys are normally planned for completion within 2-3 years depending upon the availability of manpower and resources.

(c): The policy for taking up new line projects was enunciated by the National Transport Policy Committee in 1980. This policy states that new lines would be taken up on the following criteria:

- (i) Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources.
- (ii) Missing links for completing alternative routes.
- (iii) Lines required for strategic reasons; and
- (iv) Lines for establishment of new growth centers or giving access to remote areas.

Apart from this, the financial viability of the project is also taken into consideration.

As per extant norms, a project is considered financially justified if it yields a return of not less than 14% under Discounted Cash Flow Method.