

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2442
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2006
HIGH POWERED COMMITTEE SET UP FOR RAILWAY PROJECT
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have set up a high powered committee to review the implementation of on-going railway projects of gauge conversion and laying of new railway lines and doubling of railway routes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and physical progress achieved by the high powered committee during 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise;
- (c) the names of the on-going projects which have witnessed a steep cost escalation and likely to be commercially unviable;
- (d) whether the Railways are considering to abandon such unviable projects in view of the economic measures adopted by the Railways;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the policy of the Railways regarding the completion of the on-going projects within the time schedule?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. An Empowered Committee was set up in September, 2004 to review the ongoing projects costing more than Rs.100 crore and above. The Empowered Committee consists of representative from Ministry of Railways, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation and Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Empowered Committee reviewed the mega projects in its meeting held in December, 2004.
- (c): The cost escalation in prices of labour, materials, other items related with construction affects all the ongoing projects. No such analysis has been done for projects which have become unviable due to such cost escalation.
- (d): No, Sir.
- (e): Does not arise.
- (f): The works are being progressed as per availability of resources and relative priority. A number of initiatives have been taken to generate additional resources to expedite completion of the ongoing projects.