

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:286
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
GAUGE CONVERSION OF MIRAJ-LATUR GAUGE CONVERSION
Patil Shri Prakash V.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Miraj-Latur Gauge conversion project in Maharashtra was approved in 1993-94;
- (b) if so, the details of the target date of completion of the project;
- (c) the present status of the project;
- (d) whether the delay has led to cost overrun of the project;
- (e) if so, the initial cost of the project and the projected cost at present; and
- (f) action taken by the Government for speedier completion of the project?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The gauge conversion of Kurduwadi-Pandharpur (52 kms) and new line between Latur Road-Latur (33 kms) has already been completed and commissioned. On Kurduwadi to Latur section (153 kms), earthwork and bridge works are in various stages of progress. Ballast in this stretch is being provided by State Government under 'Employment Guarantee Scheme'. On Miraj-Pandharpur (137 kms) section also, earthwork and bridge works are in progress. An outlay of Rs.25 crore has been provided for the project during 2004-05. The project would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(d) & (e): The cost of the project has increased over the years due to escalation. The original cost of the project was Rs.225.00 crore and now anticipated cost is Rs.329.02 crore.

(f): Various steps have been taken to augment resources for expediting completion of projects.