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RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

(2014)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(RAILWAY BOARD)

[Action Taken by the Government on the
Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained
in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of IRCON
in Infrastructure Building in Indian Railways']



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

December, 2016 /Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

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- II. Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Railway Convention Committee (2014)

COMPOSITION OF RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE
(2014)

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP - Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Abhishek Banerjee
3. Shri Sanganna Amarappa Karadi
4. Shri K. Ashok Kumar
5. Shri Kamalbhan Singh Marabi
6. Vacant*
7. Shri Nana Patole
8. Shri Janak Ram
9. Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale
10. Shri Bharat Singh
11. Shri Liladharbhai Khodaji Vaghela
12. Shri K.C. Venugopal

Members

Rajya Sabha

13. Shri Derek O' Brien
14. Shri T.K. Rangarajan
15. Shri Prem Chand Gupta
16. Shri Abdul Wahab
17. Smt. Vandana Chavan
18. Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri S.C. Chaudhary | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri M. K. Madhusudhan | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri D. R. Mohanty | - | Additional Director |

*Vacancy occurred w.e.f. 05th July, 2016 vice Smt. Anupriya Patel was appointed MOS.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Railway Convention Committee (2014), having been authorized by the Committee, present this Seventh Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of IRCON in Infrastructure Building in Indian Railways'.

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha and also laid in Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2015. The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) furnished their replies on 16th November, 2016 indicating Action Taken on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report. The Committee at their sitting held on 30th November, 2016 considered and adopted this Report.

3. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Railway Convention Committee -(2014) is given at Appendix-II.

4. For ease of reference, the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

New Delhi:
30 November, 2016
09 Agrahayana, 1938 (SAKA)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

REPORT

CHAPTER - I

This Report deals with action taken by Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of IRCON in Infrastructure Building of Indian Railways'.

2. The Second Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 22.12.2015 and also laid in Rajya Sabha the same day. It contained 09 Observations/Recommendations. Replies of Government in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations have been received and are categorized as under:-

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Rec. Para Nos. 1,2,4,5,6,7,8 & 9

Total: 08

Percentage: 88.88

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Rec. Para No. Nil

Total: Nil

Percentage: Nil

- (iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration:

Rec. Para No. 3

Total: 01

Percentage: 11.12

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government are interim in nature:

Rec. Para No. Nil

Total: Nil

Percentage: Nil

3. The Committee desire that Action Taken Note in respect of the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I of this Report be furnished to them of the earliest.

I. Time and Cost Overrun

(Recommendation Para No. 3)

4. In their Second Report, the Committee were deeply concerned to note that almost all the projects undertaken by IRCON had suffered from time and cost overruns due to various reasons and mainly on account of delay in land acquisition, forest clearance, public agitation, Public Interest Litigation (PIL), law and order problems, difficult terrain and topography etc. Opining that difficult topography and inaccessible terrain like in J&K and North-Eastern States and Public Interest Litigations (PII.) were some of the unavoidable reasons and

beyond the control of IRCON, leading to delay in the completion of projects whereas other impediments like delay in land acquisition and obtaining forest and wildlife clearance could be overcome by resolutely pursuing the matter with the Union and State Government Authorities, the Committee had impressed upon the Ministry and IRCON to strengthen their coordination mechanism so as to promptly resolve the above said problems and ensure that there was no further time overrun and consequent cost escalation in the completion and implementation of the ongoing projects. So far as public agitation was concerned, the Committee desired that the Railway Board/IRCON should make an effort to hold awareness campaigns, where agitations were apprehended, so as to educate the public about the socio-economic development that would accrue once the projects were completed.

5. The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) in their Action Taken Note have simply stated 'Noted'.

6. The Committee are displeased at the vague reply of the Ministry/IRCON to such important issues/concerns. Instead of coming out with concrete proposals and specific efforts made to avoid time and cost overrun, as recommended by the Committee, the Ministry have responded in a callous manner. While cautioning the Ministry to guard against such undesirable and unacceptable reply, the Committee impress upon the Ministry/IRCON to strengthen their coordination mechanism so as to timely resolve the impediments like delay in land acquisition and obtaining forest and wildlife clearance which would consequently minimize time and cost overrun of various inland projects undertaken by IRCON.

II. Cross-border Rail Link Projects

(Recommendation Para No. 4)

7. As regards Cross-border Rail Link Projects, the Committee in their earlier Report had observed that three such projects had been taken up by IRCON. There were two projects under Indo-Nepal Connectivity, i.e. Rail-Link between Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal) and also between Jayanagar (India) and Barbidas (Nepal). The third Cross-border project was between Akhaura (Bangladesh) and Agartala (India) under the Indo-Bangladesh connectivity mission. As regards the Indo-Nepal connectivity projects, the Committee were concerned to note that though works of formation bridges, station buildings and staff quarters were taken up in the available land, IRCON was facing constraints like delay in land acquisition and indefinite strike in Nepal w.e.f. 16th August, 2015, because of which the works had come to a standstill. Regarding the Indo-Nepal connectivity projects, the Committee had called upon the Railway Board and IRCON to pursue the matter of land acquisition in Nepal through the Ministry of External Affairs so that the stalled work recommenced once normalcy was restored there and the vision of the Government of India was accomplished. So far as the Indo-Bangladesh Project was concerned, the Committee were dismayed to find that the project was not progressing since funding for the Indian portion of the project was yet to be tied up. While expressing their deep concern at the state of affairs, the Committee had impressed upon the Railway Board and IRCON to take urgent measures, in coordination with other Authorities concerned to urgently finalize the funding pattern of the Indian portion so that the project was implemented within the stipulated time frame.

8. The Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) in their Action Taken Note have submitted as under:

"In addition to the delays in acquisition of land by Government of Nepal, there has been serious setback for the last six months due to strike in Nepal, wherein, movement of material across the border was disrupted. The works are likely to re-start shortly as the strike has been called off in the 1st & 2nd week of Feb. 2016. The subject of expediting the process of land acquisition is continuously being pursued by Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Railways with their counterparts in Govt. of Nepal.

Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link project was approved in 2012-13 with the condition that Indian portion was to be funded by Ministry of Development of North East Region (MoDONER) and Bangladesh portion by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The project could not be taken forward as MoDONER backed out of their initial commitment to fund the Indian portion. After protracted discussions, MoDONER has agreed in February 2016 to honour their initial commitment. Execution will be taken up after amount is transferred by MoDONER."

9. The Committee appreciate that the issue of expediting the process of land acquisition is continuously being pursued by the Ministries of Railways and External Affairs with their counterpart in the Government of Nepal. The Committee desire the Ministry to continue the momentum so that land acquisition is made in time and Cross-border Rail Link projects undertaken by IRCON commence and are executed as per planning. As the strike in Nepal has been called off in February, 2016, the Committee hope that the stalled Indo-Nepal connectivity works must have

restarted by now. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress in this regard.

10. The Committee are deeply concerned to note that the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link Project which was approved in 2012-13 could not be taken forward as the Ministry of development of North East Region (MoDONER) backed out of their initial commitment to fund the Indian portion. However, now that the MoDONER has agreed to honour their commitments, the Committee urge the Railway Board/IRCON to take effective and urgent measures to speed up the much delayed Indo-Bangladesh project.

New Delhi:
30 November, 2016
09 Agrahayana, 1938 (SAKA)

BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
CHAIRPERSON
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE (2014)

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Wednesday, the 30th November, 2016, from 1015 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Room No. 133A, Chairperson's Chamber, First Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab - Chairperson

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Sanganna Amarappa Karadi
3. Shri K. Ashok Kumar
4. Shri Nanabhau Patole
5. Shri Bharat Singh

Rajya Sabha

6. Shri T.K. Rangarajan
7. Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev

Secretariat

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Sh. Sukhi Chand Chaudhary | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Sh. M. K. Madhusudhan | - | Director |
| 3. Sh. D. R. Mohanty | - | Additional Director |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee convened to consider and adopt the draft Reports on the subjects "Rate of Dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues for the year 2016-17 and other ancillary matters" and Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second and Third Reports on IRCON and RLDA respectively. Giving an overview of the important

recommendations contained in the Draft Reports, the Chairperson solicited the views/suggestions of the Members.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following Draft Reports:

(i) Rate of Dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues for the year 2016-17 and other ancillary matters.

(ii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Role of IRCON in Infrastructure Building in Indian Railways.

(iii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Third Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Commercial Utilisation of Surplus Railway Land- Role of Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).

4. After some discussions, the above Draft Reports were adopted unanimously by the Committee.

5. The Committee, then, authorized the Chairperson to finalize the Reports in the light of consequential changes that might arise out of factual verification of the Draft Reports and present the same to both the Houses.

The Committee then adjourned.

APPENDIX-II

(Vide Para No. 3 of the Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SECOND REPORT OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE -2014 (SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

		Total	Percentage
I.	Total number of Recommendations	09	-
II.	Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government: (Para Nos. 1,2,4,5,6,7,8, and 9)	08	88.88
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies: (NIL)	NIL	-
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee and which requires reiteration: (Para Nos. 3)	01	11.12
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are of interim in nature: (NIL)	NIL	-
Total		09	100%