

Highlights of Interim Railway Budget – 2014 - 15

Achievements / Initiatives

- Major landmark achievement in National Project of Kashmir –
- State of Meghalaya and capital of Arunachal Pradesh to be on Railway Map by this fiscal.
- Gauge Conversion of strategically important 510 km Rangiya – Murkongselek line in Assam to be completed by this fiscal.
- XIth Five Year Plan Targets exceeded in New Lines (2,207 km) , Doubling (2,758 km) and Electrification (4,556 km), Production of Diesel (1,288) & Electrical (1,218) Locos and Acquisition of Wagons (64,875)
- Dedicated Freight Corridors on the Eastern and Western Routes – leading to strategically critical capacity augmentation.
- Railways met from its own means the total additional impact of Rs one lakh crore due to implementation of 6th Pay Commission
- In 2013-14, 1532 km of New Lines, Doubling and Gauge Conversion commissioned.
- Production commenced at the new factories – Rail Wheel Plant, Chhapra ; Rail Coach Factory, Rae Bareli ; and Diesel Component Factory, Dankuni.
- Specially designed coaches for adverse weather condition for rail travel in Kashmir.
- Successful development of Corrosion resistant, lighter wagons with higher pay-load and speed potential upto 100kmph.
- Railways sportspersons dominate national events by winning titles in 23 disciplines and runners up in 9 disciplines. In various international championships a total of 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals won.
- Unigauge Policy started in 1992 has converted 19,214 km to Broad Gauge, benefitting several States including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu.

Measures for improving Safety & Security

- No unmanned Level Crossing. A total of 5,400 unmanned level crossings eliminated – 2,310 by manning it and 3,090 by closure / merger / construction of ROBs or RUBs.
- Improved audio – visual warning to road users in advance of approaching trains.
- Induction of indigenously developed Train Collision Avoidance System
- Development of ‘crashworthy’ coaches

- In last five years, offering employment to over one lakh persons in Group C categories and to 1.6 lakh persons in erstwhile Group D categories.
- Provision of Vigilance Control Device in all locomotives
- Various measures to prevent fire incidents on trains –
 - Fire retardant materials
 - Multi-tier protection for electric circuits
 - Portable fire extinguishers in coaches
 - Induction based cooking to replace LPG in pantry cars
 - Intensive checks against explosives and inflammable materials.

Financial Health

- Rail infrastructure by cost sharing arrangement with State Governments; Karnataka, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana agreed to several projects
- Several Public Private Partnerships (PPP) projects are in the pipeline.
- FDI being enabled to foster creation of world-class rail infrastructure.
- Rail Land Development Authority raised Rs 937 crore so far.

Modernisation and Technology Induction

- High Speed Trains
 - Joint feasibility study by India and Japan for Mumbai – Ahmedabad Corridor to be co-financed by Japan International Cooperation Agency
 - Business Development Study by SNCF for Mumbai – Ahmedabad corridor.
- Semi- High Speed Projects
 - Exploring low cost option of speeds 160- 200 kmph on select routes

Green Initiatives

- Railway Energy Management Company becomes functional. Windmill and solar power plants to be set up with 40% subsidy from Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.
- 200 Stations, rooftops of 26 buildings and 2,000 level crossing gates to be covered.
- Railways bagged 22 out of 112 awards given by the Government.

- ‘Green Curtains’ along the track close to major stations; Pilot work at Agra and Jaipur
- Coverage of Bio-toilets in 2,500 coaches and would be increased progressively.

Passenger Friendly Initiatives

- Overwhelming public response to e-booking of ticket
- On-line tracking of exact location and running of train movements
- 51 Jan-Ahaar outlets for Janta Meals ; 48 passenger escalators commissioned at stations and 61 more being installed ; air-conditioned EMU services in Mumbai from July 2014 ; information display system in important trains to indicate stations & arrival time.
- ‘Upgradation’ scheme extended to AC Chair Car and Executive Chair car passengers.

Rail Tariff Authority

- Independent Rail Tariff Authority set-up to advise on fixing of fares and freight, to engage all stakeholders

New Services

➤ New Trains

- 17 Premium trains
- 38 Express trains
- 10 Passenger trains
- 4 MEMU
- 3 DEMU

➤ Extension and Increase in frequency

- 3 Extension of trains
- 3 increase in frequency

(Source; PIB)