

Status of Ratlam-Dungarpur rail line project

*132. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received request letters dated 18th September, 2018 and 5th March, 2019 from Government of Rajasthan to complete the Ratlam-Dungarpur *via* Banswara new rail line project which was sanctioned in 2011-12 through its own resources;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) the time period for the completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. Letters mentioned in the question regarding implementation of Ratlam-Dungarpur *via* Banswara (188.85 Km) new line project were received.

(b) and (c) Ratlam-Dungarpur *via* Banswara (188.85 Km) new line project was sanctioned in 2011-12 with the proviso to share 50% of the final construction cost of the project and providing land free of cost by the State Government of Rajasthan. The abstract cost of the project was ₹ 2082.75 crore, which has now increased to ₹ 4079.15 crore.

The total requirement of land for the project is 1736 Hectares, out of which, Government of Rajasthan has handed over only 646 Hectares land to Railway. Government of Rajasthan has deposited only ₹ 200 crore as part of construction cost of the project. An expenditure of ₹ 184.21 crore has already been incurred till 31.03.2019.

Government of Rajasthan has refused to share 50% revised cost of the project and requested that entire construction cost of project should be borne by the Railways.

Since as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Railways and Government of Rajasthan, the Government of Rajasthan has neither provided the total land required for this project nor deposited their share to Railways, hence, the project is presently held up on account of the same.

On the request of Government of Rajasthan, Railways agreed to explore the possibility of undertaking this project on Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) route. For this purpose, North Western Railway have been advised to undertake a bankability study of the project to enable proper due diligence by potential stake holders/investors.

SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Sir, the last para of the answer says that the North Western Railways have been advised to undertake a bankability study of the project to enable proper due diligence by potential stakeholders/investors. Therefore, I would like to know, through you, as to when the North Western Railways was advised to undertake the said study and what the timeline given to it is.

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, आप संक्षेप में अपना उत्तर दीजिए।

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact, we would have liked this project to come up in a fast track manner. We wished the State Government would have lived up to the expectations and promises. But, unfortunately, they are not willing to provide the full land. They have provided only half the land. Half the land is still to be provided. They are hesitant even to participate in 50 per cent of the cost. On request of the Government of Rajasthan, we are exploring the possibility of taking it up under the SPV route. While I don't have the exact date, I will share it with him when this was given to the Railways to re-assess and re-examine. I must say that it is in the best interest of the country that we start looking at more and more public-private partnerships so that the aim to connect the entire country and have more infrastructure can be fulfilled in the years to come.

SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Sir, since the line is coming from Ratlam to Banswara, entering Rajasthan, has Madhya Pradesh also not provided the land to the Railways for this project?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, while I don't have the details of the Madhya Pradesh section of the line, but, to the best of my understanding, the agreement with Rajasthan was for land to be provided by Rajasthan. Therefore, I think, the incremental line required there has been in the Rajasthan section. I will verify about Madhya Pradesh whether the land is required, and get back to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would just say, this was a specific question of a particular line. How can other States' Members put questions who may not be aware? Please keep this in mind. Now, Q.No. 133.