

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 871
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2017**

LAYING NEW RAIL LINES

†871. **SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the past, the rail lines were being laid without completing the land acquisition process by the Government;**
- (b) if so, the details of difficulties experienced by the Government in laying rail lines during previous years;**
- (c) whether the Government has now decided not to lay any new rail line without acquiring land; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the instructions/orders, if any, issued to all concerned in this regard?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (d): Earlier, New Line Railway projects were being taken up after 70% land was available on linear alignment. This resulted in delay in project execution due to balance land acquisition and subsequently cost escalation. To mitigate this difficulty being faced in acquisition of land, which is under control of concerned State Governments, Ministry of Railways has revised the policy of taking up New Line projects and has decided that the commencement of physical work for New

Line projects shall be taken up only after completion of land acquisition subject to following considerations:

- (i) General Managers (GM) may invite tenders if they are reasonably certain of the possibility of land acquisition in a reasonable time frame. A written assurance from the State Government in this regard can be considered by the GM.**
- (ii) For the purpose of execution, large projects can be divided in phases by GMs, however after ensuring that each phase on completion yields commercial returns for Railways, subject to (i) above.**
- (iii) Projects where local support/State support is not forthcoming resulting in poor/nil progress as well as old projects that have not made any headway or projects that are unlikely to give any tangible benefits to the Railways, would need to be continuously reviewed. Such reviews may be carried out in structured quarterly meetings to be convened by the GMs.**

The new policy shall be followed in cases of new projects or old projects where tenders have not yet been finalized.
