

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4699
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2021**

FUNCTIONING OF VARIOUS WINGS OF RAILWAYS

4699. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any committee(s) has been constituted to review the functioning of various wings of the Indian Railways and if so, the suggestions/ recommendations made by the committee(s);**
- (b) the steps taken/proposed by the Railways in response to the suggestions of the committee(s);**
- (c) whether the Government recognises that one of the key reasons for the failure of private participation in Railways is that policy making, regulatory and operational functions are all vested with the Railways; and**
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?**

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. In recent past, a Committee chaired by Dr. Bibek Debroy was constituted by Ministry of Railways in the year 2014, to review the functioning of various aspects/wings of Indian Railways. The Committee submitted its report in June, 2015.

The major suggestions/recommendations of the committee such as re-organization of Railway Board on functional lines, empowerment & decentralization of Zonal Railways and Divisions, phasing out of separate Rail Budget by merging with General Budget, etc, have been considered and acted upon.

(c) & (d): After approval by the Government, notification for setting up of Rail Development Authority (RDA) has been issued in May, 2017. RDA has been envisaged as an advisory/recommendatory body on various matters such as tariff determination function, ensuring level playing field for stakeholder investment, setting efficiency and performance standard etc. RDA has not yet been operationalized.
