

# HIGHLIGHTS OF RAILWAY BUDGET 2009-10

## Introduction

- **“Inclusive growth”** and **expansion of rail network** to reach development to every corner of the country is core to developmental approach.
- Economically unviable projects need to be viewed with **social perspective** being economic necessity for backward areas and under privileged.
- Expert committee to advise on **innovative financing** and **implementation of such projects**.

## Service to the Passengers

- Priority will be given to effect perceptible improvement in
  - Passenger Amenities
  - Cleanliness
  - Quality of Railway catering
  - Safety and Security and
  - Punctuality

With focus on strict monitoring

- Extensive availability of **Janata Khana, national and regional cuisines**.
- 50 stations to be developed as world class stations.
- 375 stations to be upgraded as **‘Adarsh Stations’** with basic facilities including drinking water, adequate toilets, ladies dormitories etc.
- **Multi-functional complexes** to be constructed at 50 railway stations serving centres of pilgrimage, tourist and industry. To have shopping facilities, food stalls, budget hotels etc.
- **‘Onboard house keeping scheme’** to cover 200 additional pairs of trains; **‘improved linen management’** with modern mechanized automated laundries.
- Expanding facilities like ramps, special signage, lifts, escalators, special coaches for **physically challenged and aged persons**.
- **Onboard availability of doctors** in long-distance trains being considered; **ambulance services** to be provided in seven cities to start with.
- **On-board infotainment services** to be provided on important long-distance intercity trains.
- **Toilet facilities** to be introduced in **DEMU/MEMU trains** with journey time more than 2 hours.
- 1000 new PRS locations to be opened; UTS services to be expanded from 5000 to 8000 locations.
- Automated ticket vending machines to be installed at 200 large and medium sized stations.

- **Taking ticketing to ‘Maa Mati Manush’ – grassroots**, through issue of computerized tickets at Post offices and **‘Mushkil Aasaan’ mobile ticketing service vans.**
- **Air-conditioned double decker coaches** for inter-city travel to be introduced.

### Safety and Security

- Timely track renewal, modernization of signals, use of digital ultrasonic flaw detectors etc.
- **Integrated Security Scheme** to be introduced at 140 vulnerable and sensitive railway stations.
- **Women RPF squads** for security of women passengers

### Staff Welfare

- 6,560 staff quarters to be constructed in 2009-10.
- **Indoor stadia** to be developed in major railway divisions and zones.
- **Increased contribution of Rs 350 per employee to Staff Benefit Fund to continue for a year, with Rs 100 per employee for women empowerment**, vocational training of physically and mentally challenged wards especially girl child, and higher education for girls.
- **Scholarships for higher education of girl child of group D staff.**
- Proposal to open **7 nursing colleges** on railway land at Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai (Kalyan), Chennai, Secunderabad, Lucknow and Jabalpur on PPP model to facilitate the wards of railway employees in finding vocational avenues.
- **Burn Units** at major Railway hospitals.
- Metro Railway Hospital to be upgraded to 75 beds.
- **Medical colleges** planned to be attached to existing railway hospitals at 18 locations through PPP mode.
- **Dormitories for railway families** accompanying patients to be provided at 16 hospitals having 150 beds and above.
- Policy on Railway Recruitment Boards to be reviewed.
- Special recruitment drive for filling vacancies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Physically Handicapped quota.

### Freight and Parcel Business

- **Premium service for container movement** with assured transit time being considered.
- **Private ownership** of special purpose rolling stock for commodities and private operation of freight terminals will be encouraged.
- **Mega logistic hubs** being planned alongside Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors.
- **Kisan-Vision project** – Running special trains from production clusters to consumer centers for perishable products like fruits and vegetables to reduce wastage and also for village handicraft, cottage industry & textile products to increase outreach and access to new markets for rural produce. Temperature controlled cargo centres to be encouraged.

- **Premium Parcel Services** named Faster Parcel Services on pilot basis on three routes to run with guaranteed transit time from dedicated terminals.

### **Landmark initiatives**

- Dedicated Freight corridors declared '**Diamond Rail Corridors**'.
- Foundation being laid for development of **Eastern Industrial Corridor** alongside the Eastern Freight Corridor.
  - Railways' land banks to be productively utilized to catalyze development in this corridor.
  - Investment in rolling stock production and assembly facilities proposed for development of rail based industrial cluster drawing upon advantage of proximity to mines, labour force and metal works market.
- Setting up of a **new factory at Kanchrapara-Halisahar Railway Complex** with annual capacity of 500 EMU/MEMU and Metro coaches in Joint Venture/Public-Private Partnership mode.
- Proposal to initiate action for **setting up 1000 MW power plant** with Ministry of Power, at Adra, in under developed tribal area.
- **State of the art training facilities** proposed at Dankuni for young artisans and supervisors, thereby contributing to national talent pool.

### **Financial Performance in 2008-09**

- Freight loading at 833 million tonnes (MT) grew @ 5% on previous year.
- Traffic receipts also increased by 11.4% to reach Rs 79,862 cr.
- Cash surplus before dividend Rs 17,400 cr after disbursing Rs 13,600 cr towards implementation of 6<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission.
- Railways paid full dividend liability of Rs 4,717 cr to Government.
- Investible surplus of Rs 12,681 cr generated.
- Annual Plan expenditure was Rs 36,336 cr.

### **Budget Estimates 2009-10**

- Freight loading targeted at 882 MT – an increment of 49 MT; number of passengers likely to grow by around 6%.
- Gross Traffic Receipts (GTR) estimated at Rs 88,419 cr i.e. Rs 8,557 cr more than 2008-09.
- Ordinary Working Expenses budgeted at Rs 62,900 cr to cover the full year impact of VI CPC and the payment of 60% arrears due in 2009-10.
- The dividend payable to General Revenues kept at Rs 5,479 cr.
- Budgeted Operating Ratio 92.5%.

## Concessions

- **‘Izzat’- A new scheme for travel with dignity.** Issue of concessional MST of Rs 25 for people, with monthly income upto Rs 1,500, in unorganized sector, for travel upto 100 km.
- **Press correspondents to get ‘photo identification cum credit cards’** on certification of PIB and other competent authorities instead of existing system of coupons.
  - concession of 30% to increase to 50% for Press Correspondents
  - 50% concession for travel with spouse also to be given once a year.
- The existing **student concession to be extended to students of Madrasas**, higher Madrasas and senior Madrasas.
- Concessional MST available to students in Kolkata will be applicable for travel in Metro Rail Kolkata also.

## Special Trains

- **‘Only ladies’ EMU trains** to start in Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata sub-urban during office rush hour.
- **‘Yuva Trains’** - New low-cost, air-conditioned, seated accommodation trains, dedicated specially for young generation and low-income groups.
  - To run from rural hinterland to major metros/cities; fare to range from Rs 299 upto 1500 km to Rs 399 upto 2500 km.
  - Weekly service on pilot basis to be introduced within 3 months between Mumbai to Delhi and Delhi to Kolkata.
- **‘Duronto trains’** - for the first time new Non-stop, point to point train services. Starting with **12 trains**.

## Other New Train Services

- 57 new train services to be introduced.
- Extension of 27 trains also envisaged.
- Frequency of 13 trains to be increased.

## Annual Plan 2009-10

- Plan outlay is Rs 40,745 cr. Increase of Rs 2,840 cr on Interim Budget.
  - New lines outlay - Rs. 2,921 cr ; increase of 166% on interim budget
  - Gauge conversion - Rs 1,750 cr. – increase of 24% on interim budget
  - Passenger amenities - Rs 1,102 cr - 119% increase on interim budget excluding PPP provision, which is unlikely to materialize
  - Staff Quarters - Rs 335 cr - increase of 49% on interim budget
  - Staff Amenities - Rs 424 cr- increase of 79% on interim budget

- Acquisition of 18,000 wagons in 2009-10 against 11,000 in 2008-09.
- Additional budgetary support of Rs. 1,949 cr. sought for 11 national projects.
- Feasibility study for energy efficient rail based system to provide connectivity to suburban system in Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.
- Proposals for better integration of passengers' movement in Kolkata suburban area.
- Quazigund-Anantnag New Line to be completed by August, '09.
- Creation of **Northeast Rail Development Fund** under consideration for timely completion of national projects in N.E. Region.
- New proposals for better rail connectivity proposed to be processed which include 53 for new lines, 3 for gauge conversion works and 12 for doubling.

#### **Other important announcements**

- **Setting up of an expert committee** headed by Shri Sam Pitroda to suggest innovations to utilize optic fibre cable network of Railways and take information technology to door steps in remote areas.
- **Project Monitoring Committee** for developing mechanism to avoid slippage in project delivery. Special monitoring for National Projects.
- Railways to come out with **white paper** on organizational, operational and financial status based on last five years performance and develop Vision-2020 with long and short term strategy and plan of action.
- Modernization of select **railway printing presses**. Offer for takeover of heritage institution **Basumati Sahitya Mandir**, for revival.
- Takeover of Units of **Burn Standard** and also **Braithwaite** under consideration.
- **Revision in Tatkal Scheme** to make it more user friendly. Advance booking period reduced. Minimum charge reduced to Rs. 100.
- **No increase** in passenger fares and freight tariffs.

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