VINAY MITTAL

अध्यक्ष, रेलवे बोर्ड
एवं
पदेन प्रमुख सचिव, भारत सरकार
रेल मंत्रालय
नई दिल्ली-110 001
CHAIRMAN, RAILWAY BOARD
&
EX-OFFICIO PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NEW DELHI-110001

D.O.No.2012/F(X)-II/4/2

September 5, 2012

My dear GMs/All Zonal Railways,

The concern of Board with regard to the huge throw-forward of a very large shelf of ongoing projects was shared with you during the GM's Conference. Inclusion of a large number of works over the years has led to a throw-forward of over Rs.4 lakh crore and the pinch of spreading the resources thin is being felt all around. This has been viewed adversely not only by various Parliamentary Committees but our various proposals requiring Cabinet approval are also being questioned during Inter-Ministerial Consultation on the premise that the Railways already have a very bulky shelf of projects and a huge throw-forward.

This is perhaps the most opportune time for a surgical intervention and a holistic and realistic review of the ongoing works. The General Managers have to be highly pro-active in personally identifying and prioritising the ongoing works and sift out the works that are no longer necessary. Emphasis has to shift from proposing new works or sustaining works that are no longer necessary to completion of prioritised works and works where significant progress has been achieved and are near completion.

While formulating the Annual Plan 2013-14, I would expect the following measures to be taken :

(a) works should be prioritised in descending order of necessity and placed under the categories of (i) Extremely Essential, (ii) Desirable, and (iii) Not Required at present;

(b) ordinarily, Railways will be expected to propose no new works. However, exceptions could be considered in the case of a very few low-gestation new works targeting throughput enhancement or easing traffic bottlenecks, and safety oriented works involving replacement /renewals;

(c) sanction of new works under the delegated powers of the General Managers and DRMs should invariably be done through matching-deletion of existing sanctions on which work has not commenced yet, and

(d) as a temporary measure, sanction of new works under the Plan Head 'Doubling' would also be now accorded with the prior approval of Railway Board.

Since the flow of funds under the various Plan Heads would be governed by the prioritisation done by you, the exercise has to be absolutely meticulous and should be carried out, duly keeping in view the importance, expected benefits and the milestones of each project. Thereafter, funds requirement for 2013-14 should be calculated after earmarking the requirement for priority works already communicated by the Planning Directorate.

Needless to add that with your rich experience in the organisation, I would expect this exercise to be carried out with due diligence and with adequate circumspection so that the deliverables are clearly known and redundancies are comprehensively removed.

The results of this exercise may be sent to me within the next 30 days.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(VINAY MITTAL)

Shri _____(All GMs)
All Zonal Railways

