

RAIL BUDGET-2013

*Indian Railways Minister **Pawan Kumar Bansal** in Parliament. Here are the Railways Budget highlights:

1. No increase in passenger fares.
2. Railways will absorb Rs. 850 crore on account of no hike in passenger fare.
3. 26 new passenger trains to be launched.
4. 67 express trains to be launched.
5. 9 Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) trains to be introduced.
6. Operating ratio expected to improve to 87.8 per cent in 2013-14 from 88.8 per cent in the current fiscal.
7. Dividend reduced from 5 to 4 percent.
8. 47,000 vacancies for weaker sections and physically challenged to be filled up soon.
9. 500-km new lines to be completed in 2013-14.
10. 5 per cent average increase in freight.
11. Diesel price hike added Rs. 3,300 crore to fuel bill of Railways.
12. Railways hopes to end 2013-14 with a balance of Rs. 12,506 crore.
13. 5.2 per cent growth in passenger traffic expected in 2013-14.
14. Railways' freight loading traffic scaled down by 100 million tonnes from 1025 million tonnes because of economic slowdown.
15. Railways to set up a Debt Service Fund.
16. Rs. 3,000 crore loan from Finance Ministry re-paid with interest by Railways this financial year.
17. New coach manufacturing and maintenance facilities to be set up in various places including Rae Bareli, Bhilwara, Sonapat, Kalahandi, Kolar, Palakkad and Pratapgarh.
18. Will provide better living conditions for Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel.
19. Seek to fill 1.52 lakh vacancies in railways this year. 47,000 vacancies for weaker sections and physically challenged to be filled up soon.
20. Railways set to enter 1 billion ton freight club of China, Russia and US.
21. Target of Rs. 4,000 crore for railway production units in 2014.
22. Trying to connect Manipur through railways.
23. Investment of Rs. 3800 crore for port connectivity projects.
Target of Rs. 1000 crore each for Indian Railways Land Development Authority and Indian Railways Station Development authority.
24. Toll free 1800111321 number to address grievance. Introduced from February 2013
25. Introduction of e-ticketing through mobile phones, SMS alerts to passengers.
26. Next-generation e-ticketing system to improve end user experience. The system will support 7200 users per minute .
27. Rs. 100 crore to be spent to augment facilities at Delhi, New Delhi and Nizamuddin railway stations.
28. Free wi-fi facilities in select trains. 60 more 'adarsh' stations .
29. 17 bridges sanctioned for rehabilitation.
30. Enhancement of the track capacity and the Train Protection Warning System (TPWS).
31. Railway passengers deserve safe and comfortable travel. Safety is a mandate in running trains. There has been a significant reduction in accidents - .41 per million kms in 2003-
32. The number of passenger trains has increased from 8000 in 2001 to over 12000 in 2012 – yet losses continue to mount. It is estimated to be Rs. 24,000 cr in 2012-13.
33. Internet booking to be provided from 0030 hours to 2330 hours.
34. Railways will use Aadhar data base for bookings and validation of passengers.
35. Common rail-bus ticket to be introduced for Katra-Vaishnodevi pilgrims. Special A/C coaches 'Anubhuti', to be introduced in select Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains to give excellent ambience with commensurate fare.
36. 10% reservation for women in RPF.