

Highlights of railway budget 2011-12

By: Agencies

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Highlights of the railway budget for 2011-12 presented in the Lok Sabha Friday by Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee:

- * No increase in fares.
- * Earnings for 2010-11 set to exceed Rs 1 lakh crore.
- * Working expenditure during 2011-12 estimated at Rs 87,000 crore.
- * Outlay of Rs 57,630 crore for 2011-12, the highest investment in one year.
- * Rs 10,000 crore to be raised through railway bonds.
- * Budget combines strong economic focus with inclusion.
- * Will develop business-oriented policies to aid industry.
- * Happy to announce 85 PPP proposals received; set up single-window system to take these forward.
- * Decided to set-up rail-based industries.
- * Passing through a difficult phase; 97 per cent increase in expenditure in 2010-11 due to implementation of Sixth Pay Commission report.
- * Loss of Rs 3,500 crore in 2010-11.
- * Ten-year backlog of 1.75 lakh jobs being addressed; 16,000 ex-servicemen to be given jobs in railways.
- * Safety first priority; accident rate has come down.
- * Anti-collision device, successful in North West Frontier Railway, to be extended to three more zonal railways.
- * Railways always been a soft target but law and order a state subject. If railways are blocked in one region, this has a snowballing effect in other parts of the country.
- * Will add 180 km of rail lines in 2011-12.
- * All-India security helpline set up.
- * New Durantos to be run on Allahabad-Mumbai, Pune-Ahmedabad, Sealdah-Puri, Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam, Madurai-Chennai routes, among others.
- * Rail linkage to Gujarat from Delhi-Mumbai freight corridor.
- * Integrated suburban network to be set up in Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad and other cities; suburban system of Hyderabad to be strengthened.
- * Mumbai suburban system's EMU coaches to be increased from nine to 12.
- * Pradhan Mantri Rail Vikas Yojna to be launched.
- * Industrial park to be set up in Nandigram, West Bengal.
- * Railways to set up factory in Jammu and Kashmir.
- * To set up Metro coach factory at Singur, West Bengal.
- * First coach from Rae Bareilly factory to roll out in next three months.
- * Work on wagon factory in Orissa to begin after land is acquired.
- * Manipur capital Imphal to be soon connected to railway network.
- * Centre for excellence in software to be set up at Darjeeling.
- * Fund to be created for socially desirable projects.
- * Central Organisation for Project Implantation created; will create accountability for non-performance.
- * Work started on two dedicated freight corridors.
- * Work on upgrading 442 stations to be completed by March 31.
- * Decision to start pilot projects to give shelter to homeless people living along the tracks in Mumbai.
- * Multi-purpose smart card to be introduced for all-India travel.
- * Airport-like trolleys to be provided at more stations.
- * Railways to set up a sports cadre.

- * Upgraded class of air conditioned travel to be introduced shortly.
- * To adopt modern technology through centres of academic excellence.
- * Train to run to Bangladesh to showcase Indian culture.
- * Age for senior citizen's concession reduced to 58 from 60.
- * Concession for physically handicapped and gallantry award winners for travel in Rajdhani and Shatabdi expresses.
- * 50 per cent concession for mediapersons with families to be increased from once to twice a year.