

Govt plans to double rail tracks: Prabhu

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To fast-track the creation of a robust infrastructure, the government has sanctioned plans for doubling and tripling of 16,500 km of railway tracks in few years as against only 22,000 km in last 70 years, Union Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu said today.

“We have decided to create an infrastructure at a much faster pace...16,500 km of doubling and tripling will happen in the next few years as opposed to what 22,000 km was sanctioned in 70 years,” he said on the sidelines of an Assocham event here today.

Prabhu said Railways is investing in infrastructure to create seamless movement of traffic so that GST becomes a game changer wherein goods are moved without hassle.

“Only 42 per cent of electrification has been made so far



Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari with Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu and Assocham President Sandeep Jajodia at a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday

which will double in next five years,” the minister said addressing the conference on ‘India—on the Cusp of a Logistics Revolution.’

He said, “We are already creating about 100 private freight terminals with private participation so that more and more traffic can come to the railways”.

The Railways plans to save about ₹41,000 crore in energy

bills of which it has already saved about 10 per cent, he said.

• “So, all of this will result in creating a good logistics backbone for India which will help it do much better business as logistics is key to success of industrialisation,” he said.

On low consumer price inflation, Prabhu said it is the result of sound fiscal monetary policies in India.

Govt to double/triple 16,500 km rail tracks, says Prabhu

OUR CORRESPONDENT

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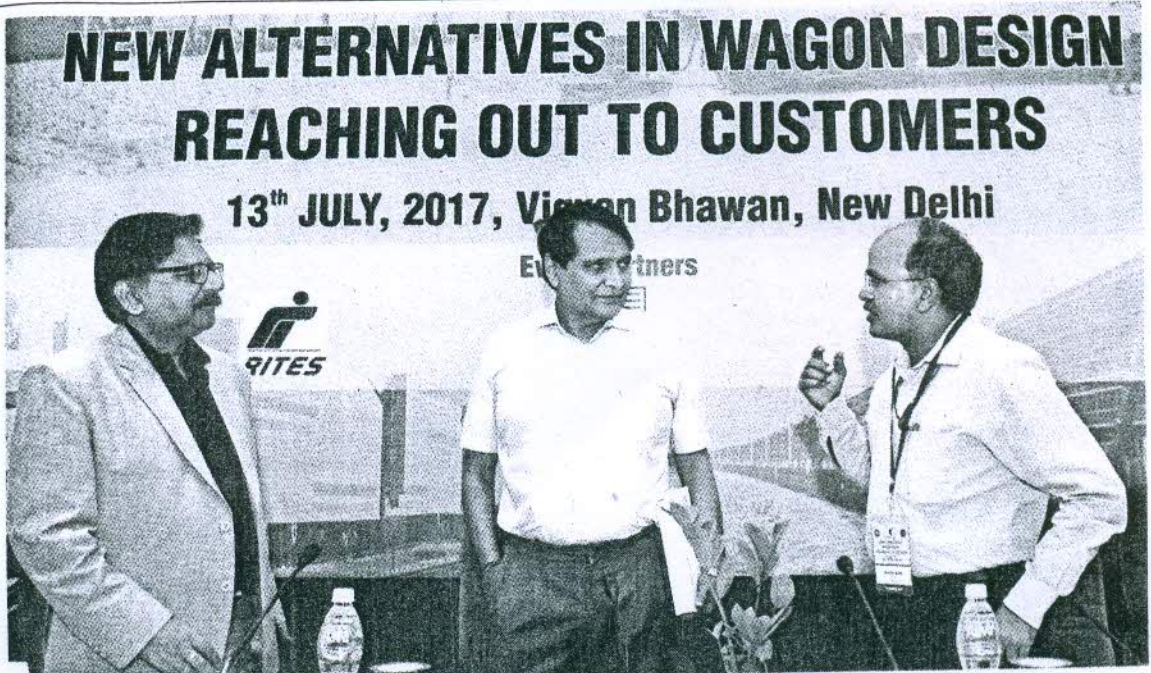
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He said, "We are already creating about 100 private freight terminals with private participation so that more and more traffic can come to the railways."

The Railways plans to save about Rs 41,000 crore in energy bills of which it has already saved about 10 per cent, he said.

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Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu (Centre) with Railway Board Member (Traffic) Mohammad Jamshed (Left) and Member (Rolling Stock) Ravinder Gupta at the Indian Railways Round Table Conference on New Alternatives in Wagon Design: Reaching out to Customers, in New Delhi on Thursday

PTI

industrialisation," he said.

On low consumer price inflation, Prabhu said it is the result of sound fiscal monetary policies in India.

"Our prime minister already said that people at large are suffering because of inflation being very high and the growth rate being low. So, it was double whammy. We actually reversed it, inflation is low and growth is high means the common people don't have to spend too much money on their daily necessities and they will have more savings," he said.

Soon, new design wagons to carry more goods

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI: Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on Thursday reached out to private players for the creation of new design wagons to cater to market demands. Besides conventional goods such as coal, fertiliser and iron ores, the railways is also planning to carry agri products in a big way in customised wagons.

"We are making the railways' freight sector customer friendly and the new alternatives in wagon design are another step towards it," Prabhu said at a conference on new wagon design here.

"I am sure new alternatives in wagon design through partnerships will increase our share in freight. In my first budget speech, I stressed on partnerships. We are working

on partnerships in freight sector also," he said.

Prabhu described it as a win-win proposition and said their customers and the railways would benefit from this. Dwelling on the move to expand the freight basket by including more goods such as farm products, he said, "The railways is trying to make itself ready for agriculture, fisheries and other segments."

Prabhu promises doubling and tripling of 16,500 km rail tracks

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of an event organised by Assocham, reports PTI.

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about Rs 41,000 crore in energy bills of which it has already saved about 10 per cent, he said. "So, all of this will result in creating a good logistic backbone for India which will help it do much better business as logistics is key to success of industrialisation," he said.

On low consumer price inflation, he said it is the result of sound fiscal monetary policies in India. He added, "We actually reversed it, inflation is low and growth is high means the common people don't have to spend too much money on their daily necessities and they will have more savings."

**Prabhu: Plans to
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Luxury public transport buses may be rolled out soon

New Delhi: The government is looking to revamp public transport through introduction of double decker luxury buses run on alternative fuels, with an aim to curb private vehicle use, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday.

Volvo is ready to run buses on methanol, which can easily be manufactured in the country, road transport and highways minister Gadkari said.

The government is also planning to construct a separate lane for running electric trucks and buses on Delhi-Mumbai corridor, which can also run on diesel in city areas, he added.

"Plans are underway to introduce double decker fleet of luxury buses to link cities like Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Ludhiana. The fleet will be air conditioned with services that include hostesses (on board)... and I assure you charges will be much economic, less than present as these will run on alternative fuel," Gadkari said on the sidelines of an *Assocham* event here. The minister said these buses will run on alternative fuel like methanol, ethanol or electricity as it has been the present government's priority and policy to promote clean fuel and cut on the huge Rs 7 lakh crore import bills that India incurs per annum.

"We need to discourage people from buying vehicles and improve the public transport," he said. ■

