

Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav presented his fifth consecutive Railway Budget and announced yet another surplus Balance Sheet for Year 2007-08.

Lalu announced additional Rs 2000 cr earnings on freight services. The Railway fund balance was up at Rs 20,480 cr. Reduced fares increased volumes and profits.

Following are the highlights:

- **Railway profit in 2007-08 at Rs 25,000 crore.**
- AC first class fare cut by 7%
- AC 2 tier fare down by 4%
- AC 3 tier fare cut by 3%
- 5% cut in petrol, diesel freight
- Special focus to be given on railway projects in the North Eastern Region
- Route of 16 trains to be extended
- 6 lakh bulbs to be replaced by cfl lamps by railways to save energy
- 2500 old signals to be replaced by railways. Special trains to Anandpur Sahib, Patna Sahib and Nanded 155 new lines to be completed.
- 50% concession for AIDS patient
- Foot overbridges at all high-level platforms.
- Northern railway main hospital in Delhi will be fully airconditioned. Divisional railway hospitals in Jaipur and Hubli will be upgraded.
- A new rail coach unit to be set up in Kerala
- A 1,000 megawatt captive power plant to be set up in Nabinagar in Bihar
- Ten new Garib Raths and 53 new trains to be introduced.
- Railway tickets to show 'expected time of arrival'

- Railway profit in 2007-08 at Rs 25,000 crore.
- Thirty per cent discount to senior citizens for rail travel and 50 per cent discount for women in all classes
- Mother Child Health Express to be started.
- Clearance given for western freight corridor from Delhi to JNPT, Nhava Sheva, adjoining Mumbai.
- Close circuit TV and bomb detecting equipment to be installed at major stations.
- Doubling of lines to be given priority.
- Railways planning smart card-based ticketing system.
- CCTVs at all important stations
- Modular toilets to be introduced in trains.
- 'Go Mumbai' card to be sold at bus depots.
- Freight loading estimated to increase from 650 mt to 1100 mt by 2011
- New policy for wagon leasing.
- New line for Ennore Power Station.
- By 2010, all coaches will be made of steel.
- Professional agencies being involved on a pilot basis to ensure cleanliness in running trains.
- Work on automatic signalling to start in new sections.
- Railways to bring in led displays in stations on train arrivals/ departures.
- Stainless steel coaches for mail and express trains.
- Cleanliness drive on rajdhani and shatabdi trains.
- Railways show a surplus of rs 68,778 cr in last four years.
- Railways to provide escalators at 50 per cent of the stations in the country.

- Railway Minister Lalu Yadav announced that Indian Railways will introduce 15,000 ticketing counters in the next 2 years. The Railways plans to offer tickets through mobile phones.
- By 2009 call centre based inquiry services to be unveiled.
- Issuance of wait-listed e-tickets will also allowed
- Operating ratio of the Railways was at 76%.
- Rs 49,250 crore invested into new railway projects.
- Railway plan size increased from Rs 11,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore in the last four years.
- Productivity of Railway assets has been constantly increasing.
- Railways attained 790 tonne payload target in the year 2007-08.
- E-ticket booking is likely to rise to 300,000 from 100,000 in a year.
- Freight traffic target of 785 million tonnes crossed to touch 790 million tones
- Railway plan size increased from Rs 11,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore in the last four years.
- 560 railway station platforms to be lengthened to take long trains.
- Middle-level and low-level platforms to be upgraded to high-level platforms in several stations to help commuters.
- More facilities for women and old passengers.