

INTRODUCTION

1. Malda Division is one of the 4 Divisions of Eastern Railway which spans over the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar. The territory is spread over 10 districts making it more complex as compared to other divisions from the standpoints of coordination with state authorities. The total Kilometres as on 1st Nov'13 were 464.12 Km, which includes 166.22 Km double line and 297.90 Km single line. The latest section of the division is Dumka-Barapalasi (excl. Dumka) which was inspected by CRS on 10 Dec'13. Barapalasi-Hansdiha is under construction and is expected to be completed by December 2014.
 - 1.1. There are 101 stations including 63 Block stations, 37 Halts and 1 Flag station. Most of the passenger earnings of the division come from Bhagalpur, Malda, New Farakka and Jamalpur. Out of these, Bhagalpur is 'A1' category and the remaining 3 are 'A' category stations.
 - 1.2. The division loads about 450 wagons a day which rises to about 600 wagons during busy season. Main commodities are coal (Pirpainti & Lalmatia on NTPC MGR), cement (Tildanga & Gankar), fly ash (Kahalgaon, Dhulianganga & Manigram) and stone products (Barharwa, Bakudi, Tinpahar, Taljhari, Maharajpur, Sakrigali, Sahibganj & Mirzacheuki). In addition, there is small loading of silica sand at Rajmahal. The division has in its territory, 3 Super Thermal Power stations at NTPC/Farakka, NTPC/Kahalgaon and WBPDC/Manigram.
 - 1.3. The division is doorway to Northeast Frontier state from south & Kolkata and a border division with Bangladesh. A major part of its territory, Malda-New Farakka-Barharwa-Bhagalpur-Jamalpur-Kiul has traditionally high levels of criminal activities which also impacts Railways. Sultanganj-Jamalpur-Kiul section has Naxalite interference. There has been peace for last 2 years except for an incident of attack on GRP patrolling party in 13235 Sahibganj-Danapur Intercity Express recently. The division maintains high

level of alertness in security matters despite inadequacy of security personnel for which demand have been raised constantly. West Bengal territory is looked after by SRP/Siliguri, Jharkhand territory by SRP/Dhanbad and Bihar territory by SRP/Jamalpur who are supervised by ADG/GRP at their respective capital cities. A close liaison is necessary at ADG level to keep the GRP bulwark nimble. DRM/Malda is also concurrently OSD/Bhagalpur Division which has been announced but is yet to be created. DRM/Malda is also Chairman of Kendriya Vidyalaya/Malda.

2. Areas requiring constant attention:

- 2.1. Monitoring and repair of bad banks which are in excess of 40 Km on the division. There is sanctioned work under PH-31 against which tender is under finalisation.
- 2.2. Ganga bank erosion between Maharajpur-Sakrigali– Commendable work has been done by the division last year in rehabilitating Ganga river bank over a critical length of 780m. River water comes 12 to 13m of the track centre. Suspension of Sahibganj loop line was avoided by Malda Division team which completed the task within 4 months and well before river water rose last year. During the current year the river water rose to a new HFL due to unprecedented rains but the course of river was altered by the rehabilitated bank pushing the river away from railway track. After a long time trains plied throughout the monsoon without restriction on the section. However, the balance about 850m bank which were rehabilitated in mid-eighties has been damaged during the season and requires rehabilitation definitely prior to 30 June 2014. This work has been sanctioned under MM to the doubling estimate.
- 2.3. Up gradation of Bhagalpur station facilities– A number of works sanctioned under LAW and DRM's lump-sum powers are in progress which are in various stages of implementation. These, inter-alia, include up gradation of circulating area, construction of new 20' FOB, modification of existing FOB to eliminate infringement on PF 2-3 with provision of stairs at this new set of PF, construction of drain between PF 3 & 4 and PF

1 & 2, provision of washable apron to Malda apron design on line No. 2, construction of water tank, new tube well and pipeline, development of south end under Adarsh station facility, provision of connection to Ulta pul from south end etc. The following points need immediate attention:

- Permission from RO/Patna to connect the newly constructed trains to main drain across the NH in existing circulating area.
- Construction of train between PF 1 & 2.
- Commissioning of water tank with tube well prior to March'14.
- Opening of 3rd FOB on PF 2-3 and provision of stairs on existing FOB on PF 2-3 before summer rush i.e. by 31 March 2014.
- Completion of Malda circulating area improvement– This work started on 2 Dec'13 and is accepted to be completed within a month.
- Removal of existing encroachment along entry road needs to be completed for this work to complete. It is also necessary to advertise for parking according to new schemes and functionalise private taxi parking near Ambedkar's statue.
- Completion of PF 6 & 7 and line No. 12– Additional funds have been promised by HQ to provide minimum CC surface on newly constructed PF 6 & 7 with water and electricity connection. A fresh sanction will be necessary for provision of PF shed and upgrading surface and other passenger amenities.
- Newly sanctioned FOB also needs to be constructed on priority to provide connection to PF 6 & 7. Tender for this work is under finalisation.
- Goods shed road and wharf requires upgradation at Gour Malda and Sahibganj. At Malda, the road for trucks needs to be constructed from west end of the wharf to the Rathbari Flyover. The bridge over the nala needs to be completed on priority to facilitate this.

- Construction of LHS at Rathbari and Malanchpalli gates. It is essential to replace this 2 LCs with LHS to facilitate free movement and also remove restriction on reception of trains.

3. Priority task for improving cleanliness:

- Mechanised PF cleaning at Bhagalpur.
- CTS facilities at Malda station– Board’s approval already received for declaring Malda as CTS station.
- Mechanised linen washing at Malda and strengthening mechanised linen washing through outsourcing at Bhagalpur.
- Creation of posts of TEs– proposal pending at HQs.
- Posting of one company of RPSF on Malda Division in view of higher threat in this section.

4. Popular demands from Public:

- Running of Rajdhani Express via Malda.
- Basing Gour Exp. At Malda for running as an independent train.
- Increase in number of coaches in Malda-Howrah Intercity and Malda-Howrah Passenger.
- Demands for stoppages of various trains at Tinpahar, Pirpanti, Mirzacheuki & Sabour– Details available with Sr.DCM.
- Commissioning of Food Plaza at Bhagalpur & Sultanganj.
- Commissioning of Railway Refreshment Room at Bhagalpur & Jamalpur– Contracts is being proposed at HQ level.

5. Miscellaneous Earning related issues:

- Electronic advertising at Malda and Bhagalpur.
- Innovative LED illuminated boards in Malda and Bhagalpur circulating area.

- Removing/awarding fresh contracts for advertising on the division, particularly, at Malda and Bhagalpur.
- Establishing vendor stalls at 43 locations already awarded and 163 more already assessed and to be advertised quickly.
- Increase in stoppage of passenger at identified stations for parcel loading.
- Creation of coal loading facilities at Barahat in Phase-I and Hansdiha in Phase-II- Awaiting permission from Railway Board for construction of Railway siding using non-railway finance.
- Completion of Gankar yard facility to bring Gankar cement plant to full capacity and exploit full loading potential of about 20 rakes a month.
- Improvement of wharf at Mirzacheuki.

6. Pending inauguration of new facilities:

- Jangipur Road-Katwa DEMU service to be inaugurated by Shri Abhijit Mukherjee, MP/Jangipur Road. Hon'ble MP advised that a date may be fixed in consultation with him after 26th Dec'13.
- PRS facility at Bhagaiya in Godda District. Dialogue with DM is in advance stage.

I am enclosing a gist of assistance asked for from MCDOs written during the current year.

Shri Rajesh Argal, DRM/Malda