PURCHASE AGENCIES

All the items on Railways are not purchased by Zonal Railways only. To get advantage of purchasing in bulk quantity, the items which are used by all Government departments are generally purchased through Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D) which is a purchasing agency of Government of India.

Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals:

For many general items, DGS&D is in a position of clubbing the requirements of all Government departments and therefore, purchase the items at much

economical prices. For many common user items, such as ceiling fans, cables, torch cells, refrigerators, air-conditioners, industrial gases, cleaning items, calculators, vehicles, etc., DGS & D enter into rate contracts. These contracts provide a list of officers who can place further supply orders against these contracts. These officers are known as Direct Demanding Officers (DDOs). All the Controllers of Stores of Railways are DDOs for most of the rate contracts. DGS&D also enter into running contracts for many items such as timber, paper etc. All fixed quantity contracts entered into by DGS&D are known as Acceptance of Tender (AT).

For DGS&D items the requirements are consolidated in the COS's office and the indents are placed on DGS&D duly certifying for funds as per the laid down time table given in the Program - cum - vocabulary book.

Railway Board:

Many items of imports involving large sums of foreign exchanges and some critical items are arranged through Railway Board. Items arranged through Railway Board are enerally critical items for which adequate manufacturing capacities in the country do not exist. Some of those items

are like WTA, Steel, Rolling Stock, TL Items, Oils, lubricants, Textiles etc.

Other Railways/Production Units:

Some of the items are centrally procured by some Railways or production units to meet the requirement of all Indian Railways. For example, many components of diesel locomotives & ICF coaches are procured through DLW and ICF Madras respectively.

Other Agencies:

The other agencies of purchases include Sleeper Pool Committee for purchasing sleepers, Government Medical Store, Central Organization for Modernization of Workshops (COFMOW) for M & P items required for workshops modernization.

Features of IREPS (Indian Railway Electronic Procurement System)

This is the official portal of Indian Railways for procurement of Goods, Works & Services, Sale of Materials and Leasing of Assets through the process of E- Auction or Reverse Auction.

The site is developed and maintained by CRIS using the latest technology and security features.

Salient security features deployed include asymmetric cryptography (also known as public key cryptography) , PKI (Public Key

Infrastructure) enablement, digital signature, 256 bit 'VeriSign' Extended SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), apart from standard security features like name, password, digital authentication, role based access and privileges, audit, trail time, synchronization for all Production servers with IST (Indian Standard Time) (acquired from NPL) [National Physical Laboratory of India] etc. The data centre has been designed to be fully secure using various hardware and software utilities like firewall, Load Balancer, IPS (Instruction Prevention System), Antivirus etc.

The site is compliant to IT Act 2000 and follows the instructions/guidelines issued by Ministry of Railways from time to time for procurement, sale and leasing. Security aspects of IREPS website are regularly tested by third party viz. M/s STQC, under department of IT (DIT), GOI. The site provides a secure platform to users for online transactions for procurement and sale. The site caters to requirements of all Zonal Railways and production Units of IR and is also being used by PSUs like Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) etc.

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

is a technology for authenticating users and devices in the digital world. The basic idea is to have one or more trusted parties digitally sign documents certifying that a particular cryptographic key belongs to a particular user or device.

Asymmetric cryptography, also known as public-key cryptography, is a process that uses a pair of related keys -- one public key and one private key -- to encrypt and decrypt a message and protect it from unauthorized access or use. A public key is a

cryptographic key that can be used by any person to encrypt a message so that it can only be deciphered by the intended recipient with their private key.

**NPL is the custodian of "National Standards" with a responsibility of realization, establishment, up gradation, maintenance and dissemination of standards at par to international level through R and D and latest technology.

****An Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) is a network security/threat prevention technology that examines network traffic flows to detect and prevent vulnerability exploits.

GeM

GeM is a short form of one stop **Government e-Market Place** hosted by DGS&D where common user goods and services can be procured. GeM is dynamic, self sustaining and user friendly portal for making procurement by Government officers. Public procurement forms a very important part of Government activity and reform in Public Procurement is one of the top priorities of the present Government. Government e-Marketplace (GeM - gem.gov.in) is a very bold step of the Government with the aim to transform the way in which procurement of goods and services is done by the Government Ministries and Departments,

Public Sector Undertakings and other apex autonomous bodies of the Central Government.

GeM FACILITIES

- Listing of products for individual, prescribed categories of Goods/ Services of common use
- Look, estimate, compare and buying facility on dynamic pricing basis.
- Market place buying of majority of common User Items.
- Buying Goods and Services online, as and when required.
- Single window system for aggregating demands and ordering

- Transparency and ease of buying
- Useful for low value buying and also for bulk buying at competitive price using Reverse Auction/ e-bidding.
- Continuous vendor rating system.
- User friendly dash board for buying and monitoring supplies and payments
- Return policy

GEM FEATURES

GeM eliminates human interface in vendor registration, order placement and payment processing, to a great extent. Being an open platform, GeM offers no entry barriers to bonafide suppliers who wish to do business with

the Government. At every step, SMS and e-Mail notifications are sent to both buyer, his/her head of organization, paying authorities as well as sellers. Online, cashless and time bound payment on GeM is facilitated through integration with PFMS and State Bank Multi Option System (SBMOPS); web-services integration is being extended to payment systems of Railways, Defence, major PSUs and State Governments. Seamless processes and online time-bound payment, which is also mandated by the Department of Expenditure, has given confidence to the vendors and reduced their 'administrative' cost involved in pursuing officers for timely payment.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE CERTIFICATES

DSC are the digital equivalent (that is electronic format) of physical or paper certificates. Few Examples of physical certificates are drivers' licenses, passports or membership cards. Certificates serve as proof of identity of an individual for a certain purpose; for example, a driver's license identifies someone who can legally drive in a particular country. Likewise, a digital certificate can be presented electronically to prove one's identity, to access information or services on the Internet or to sign certain documents digitally.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE (DSC) REQUIREMENT

Physical documents are signed manually, similarly, electronic documents, for example e-forms are required to be signed digitally using a Digital Signature Certificate.

Class 2 Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) was provided to all Officers/staff of Railway Board for signing of electronic file in e-Office application and for signing of APAR in SPARROW (JAG & above officers). Validity of DSC is for 2 years.

WHO ISSUES THE DIGITAL SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

A licensed Certifying Authority (CA) issues the digital signature. Certifying Authority (CA) means a person who has been granted a license to issue a digital signature certificate