

Preface

Indian Railways spends large amount of public money on procurement of materials required for Manufacture/ Maintenance of its asset and running of the train. The maintenance work is required to be carried out at various workshops/sheds spread all over the country as well as alongside the track, where availability of the spares parts and materials are required to be ensured. It is ensured through a robust supply chain management being overseen by Stores Department of the organization. With emergence of information and web technology, the e-governance became necessity for efficient delivery of service and Indian Railways too shifted gradually to e-procurement system. At later stage of implementing various applications of e-procurement system, I was posted in Northern Railway as procurement officer where the trial run of software of different application of e-procurement were carried out and thereafter the respective application was deployed first there too. During this period, I encountered various problems such as inadequacy of hardware/network connectivity, policy incoherence, lack of willingness for adopting the changes on the part of various stake holders viz: the employees, other department of the organization, vendors etc. This further generated interest in me to study the present status of e-procurement system of Indian Railways and identify what further improvement can be made to make it more effective.