

Speed of mail and express trains

†1997. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the average speed of mail and express trains running in the country;
- (b) to what extent there has been increase in this speed in last five years;
- (c) whether it is a fact that average speed of trains running in our country is far less than of trains in foreign countries, causing wastage of time and fuel on a large scale; and
- (d) if so, the plans being formulated by Government to increase the speed of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The overall average speed including halts of mail and express trains running in the country for the year 2009-10 is 50.0 and 35.8 kilometers per hour for broad gauge and metre gauge respectively. The increase/decrease in the speed of trains in last five years is as follows:—

Year	Gauge	Speed	%age increase/ decrease
2005-06	BG	47.9	1.91
	MG	36.2	8.06
2006-07	BG	48.2	0.63
	MG	35.2	-2.76
2007-08	BG	49.1	1.87
	MG	35.7	1.42
2008-09	BG	49.9	1.63
	MG	36.0	0.84
2009-10	BG	50.0	0.20
	MG	35.8	-0.56

(c) The maximum speed of trains in India is higher than some of the foreign countries. However data on average speed of trains of other countries is not maintained by Indian Railways.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Speeding up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways and is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches (LHB, air brake, CBC) and better tracks. Railways are also coming up with dedicated freight corridors, which would lead to segregation of freight and passenger traffic and would increase average speed of both freight and passenger trains on relevant corridors.

Construction of tunnel on Udhampur-Qazigund rail line

1998. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for construction of second longest tunnel on Udhampur Qazigund rail line near Sangaldan; and

(b) the expected date of completion of Udhampur-Qazigund rail line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Construction of the second longest tunnel on Udhampur-Qazigund rail line near Sangaldan is expected to be completed by March, 2016.

(b) Udhampur-Katra section is expected to be completed by March, 2012 and Katra-Qazigund section, by December, 2017.

Rail projects in Gujarat

1999. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted proposal to Government for construction of new rail lines namely, Dhangadhara-Santalpur, Palanpur-Ambaji-Abu Road, Dhanera-Goradu, Nadiad-Dholka and Tharad-Vas-Suigam border; and

(b) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) As per available records, no such proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat.

Train services in Gujarat

2000. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations from various sections of people including from the State Government of Gujarat for introduction of new trains,