

(c) The growth rate of Railways during the Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan are given below:-

Item	10th Plan Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) (%)	11th Plan Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) (%)
Freight Traffic Loading (Terminal Year)		
Originating Tonnage (Million Tonnes)	8.14	5.8
NTKM (Billion)	7.35	6.1
Passenger Traffic (Terminal Year)		
Passenger Originating (Million)	4.21	5.5
Passenger Kilometers Originating (Billion)	6.96	8.8

(d) The steps being taken to sustain growth and for efficient handling of freight traffic include proliferation of heavier and longer trains, decongestion measures for routes and terminals and creation of capacity. For passenger traffic, action includes enhancing capacity and speeds of trains, running of double decker trains and terminal improvement works. Measures to improve safety and technological upgradation are also an ongoing activity.

(e) Based on the overall Plan period targets, yearly targets of traffic output, infrastructure creation, asset renewals etc. are set.

Train reservation quota for freedom fighters

†3131. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the freedom fighters have to face hardships in getting railway reservations, despite the facility of free travel in trains given to them;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to provide them special facility or quota for reservation in trains;

(c) whether Government proposes to consider their requests for reservation in trains on priority basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Representations regarding difficulties in getting reserved accommodation on trains are received from various segments of passengers, including freedom fighters, from time to time.

(b) to (d) A separate reservation quota has not been earmarked on trains for Freedom Fighters. However, they can avail the General Quota which is booked on first-come-first-served basis. In addition, while travelling alone, freedom fighters can also avail the senior citizens' quota which is provided on a large number of trains. For emergent travel, freedom fighters may also send their requests for allotment of accommodation under emergency quota which is considered based on the prescribed guidelines. In order to facilitate booking of tickets, separate counters are earmarked at various computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centers for dealing with the reservation requisitions received from physically handicapped persons, senior citizens, former Members of Parliament, MLAs, accredited journalists and freedom fighters, if the average demand per shift is not less than 120 tickets. In case there is no earmarking of an exclusive counter for any of these categories of persons including handicapped persons, one or two counters depending upon the total demand are earmarked for dealing with the reservation requisitions for all these categories of persons.

Privatisation of services at railway stations

3132. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that privatisation of services at railway stations are being planned and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): At major railway stations, Indian Railways have outsourced certain cleanliness related activities like mechanized cleaning, rag picking, garbage disposal, one time cleanliness, operation and maintenance of pay and use toilets, parking, catering etc. to private firms on contract basis.

Accidents on tracks

3133. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accidents on tracks have increased during the last five years, if so, the number of accidents taken place during this period; and