

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Galvanizing is not considered technically appropriate treatment, globally, for prevention of corrosion in case of rails. It is considered that the process of hot dip galvanization involving high temperature treatment may lead to micro structural change in rails and may thus cause reduction in strength of rails.

(c) Corrosion along with wear and tear of rails is a normal phenomenon. Somewhere it is less and somewhere it is more depending upon various factors including climatic conditions. Hence, there is nothing like loss to Railways due to corrosion and lack of maintenance of railway tracks as Maintenance of railway track is undertaken as per guidelines laid down.

Punctuality of trains

1717. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that the punctuality of trains has deteriorated and has come down to just 79 per cent in March, 2015 as compared to 84.4 per cent in March, 2014;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to improve the deteriorating punctuality of trains; and

(c) whether any monitoring system is presently being used to monitor train movement to track and prevent delays and whether any improvement has been proposed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways have initiated various measures aimed at improving punctuality of trains over Indian Railways network by sensitization of staff involved in train operations, controlling asset failures and their down-time, prioritization of preventive maintenance of assets, time tabling improvements, capacity enhancement through creation of new infrastructure etc. For factors affecting punctuality which are beyond railways control such as public agitations, law and order problems in left wing extremism affected areas etc. State Governments are being pursued for more effective resolution of these problems.

(c) Railways, in general, accord a very high priority to the punctual running of trains. The Indian Railways have put in place the IT enabled Integrated Coaching Management System (ICMS) which helps the online monitoring of punctuality of passenger carrying trains. This module consists of Punctuality Analysis and Monitoring (PAM) and Coaching Operation Information System (COIS) which continuously monitors

the running of trains, thus enabling the Zonal Railways and their divisional controls to take prompt decisions in according priorities in train movement, making-up time on run of delayed trains, ramping up resources at terminals to reduce rescheduling of trains arriving late on account of delayed running, training and counseling of supervisors and loco crew, monitoring of alertness of field staff through punctuality drives etc. Improving train operations is a continuous endeavour on Indian Railways.

Railways as an essential service

1718. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers Railways as an essential service for people or as a business concern for profit making;

(b) if former is the case, why Government is not mobilizing long term loans for new lines and production of rakes;

(c) why are workers and employees not assured fair wages and service conditions; and

(d) why private capital is being encouraged into Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Government considers Railways as an essential service which has to run on efficient commercial lines. Long-term loans, *inter-alia*, from multilateral/institutional sources are used for important infrastructure projects like Dedicated Freight Corridor, etc. Procurement of rolling stock is financed through market borrowing by Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC).

(c) Railway employees are provided wages and service conditions as per extant Government rules.

(d) Private investments in specified areas of infrastructure and service provision is encouraged to supplement budgetary and internally generated resources and to take advantage of the competence and efficiency of private sector.

Safety of women passengers

1719. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of safety and security provided to women passengers in Railways;

(b) whether closed circuit televisions are provided in Railways, if so, the details thereof; and