

passenger and freight traffic, adverse weather conditions (fog, rains, breaches), intermittent natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, heavy rains, heavy road traffic at level crossing gates, mid-section run over cases involving cattle and humans etc. also adversely affect the punctuality of trains over Indian Railways.

Increasing the speed of long distance passenger trains

2076. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plan to increase the speed of long distance passenger trains to reduce their present travel time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of trains which would be covered under this proposal; and
- (d) by when the process of increasing the speed of all long distance trains in the country would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) to (d) Reduction of travel time/speeding up of trains is a constant endeavor 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, better tracks, operational feasibility, availability of path, platform availability, infringement of corridor maintenance blocks, type of signalling system, maximum permissible speed of the section on which the train is passing etc. In its endeavour to speed up trains, Indian Railways during 2017-18 have speeded up 769 train services.

Railway committees

2077. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the various issues dealt by various Committees like ZRUCC, DRUCC, NRUCC constituted under the Ministry;
- (b) whether such Committees are performing as desired at the time of their constitution;
- (c) the need to continue with such Committees;