

**Dismal passenger train service on New Delhi-Ghaziabad route**

929. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether between New Delhi-Ghaziabad, there is no passenger/EMU/MEMU train after 2.30 p.m. till 6.00 p.m., a gap of more than 3 hours, building up crowds on stations in between;

(b) whether Train No. 64032 between Shakurbasti and Ghaziabad, serving home-coming commuters to some extent, has been put out of operations for no ostensible reasons;

(c) whether the suburban train service between New Delhi and Palwal section has been well taken care of because of likelihood of irate commuters turning violent and damaging railway property; and

(d) the reasons for the neglect of New Delhi-Ghaziabad suburban train service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) At present, 3 EMU train services available between New Delhi to Ghaziabad between 02.30 p.m. to 06.00 p.m. are as under:—

1. 64032 New Delhi Departure 03:37 p.m. Ghaziabad Arrival 04:25 p.m.
2. 64419 New Delhi Departure 04:07 p.m. Ghaziabad Arrival 05:10 p.m.
3. 64450 New Delhi Departure 05:50 p.m. Ghaziabad Arrival 06:40 p.m.

(b) Train No. 64032 Shakurbasti-Ghaziabad EMU had been temporarily cancelled w.e.f. 15.12.2017 due to foggy weather conditions and ongoing safety related maintenance works at New Delhi Railway Station.

(c) and (d) At present, New Delhi-Ghaziabad section is being served by 52 EMU/MEMU/Passenger train services while the New Delhi-Palwal section is being served by 22 EMU/MEMU/Passenger train services. These are in addition to the Mail/Express trains serving the aforesaid two sections.

**Upgradation of trains to reduce journey time**

930. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are finally moving to connect the country's most high profile route, Delhi-Mumbai, by upgrading the existing train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have any plans to upgrade the trains of other routes to reduce the journey hours; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Railways has decided to connect the country's most high profile route Delhi-Mumbai by introduction of a new train no. 09004/09003 which covers the distance in 13 hours 55 minutes.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal for speeding up of trains. However, speeding up of trains is a constant endeavour and continuous process on Indian Railways. During 2017, speed of 51 trains has been increased within existing infrastructure to reduce the journey time ranging between 1 hour to 6 hours.

### **Improving safety of rail tracks**

931. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Railways are planning a series of steps to improve the safety of rail tracks, including automated inspections and frequent traffic blocks for maintenance;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that all the railway zones have been asked to procure self propelled cars for track inspection;

(c) whether a large number of rail fractures are occurring on railway tracks that have not even served 25 per cent of their lifespan; and

(d) whether this usually happens due to improper handling or laying of rail tracks and is a major sign of worry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) Steps taken by the Railways to improve safety of railway track are as under:—

- (i) Track renewal works are undertaken as and when stretch of track becomes due for renewal on the basis of criteria laid down in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on age/condition basis.
- (ii) Primary track renewals are now sanctioned with Pre-stressed Concrete (PSC) Sleepers, 60kg-90 kg/sq mm UTS (Ultimate Tensile Strength) rails, fan-shaped layout on PSC sleepers, Steel Channel Sleepers on girder bridges, etc.