

10. Indian Railways has already adopted the technological upgradation in safety aspects of coaches and wagons by way of introducing Modified Centre Buffer couplers, Bogie Mounted Air Brake System (BMBS), improved suspension design and provision of Automatic fire and smoke detection system in coaches.
11. Use of Long Rail panels on track to minimize welded joints.
12. Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) testing of rails to detect flaws and timely removal of defective rails.
13. Procurement of Thick Web Switches and Weldable CMS Crossing for use on track.
14. Mechanization of track maintenance to reduce human errors.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. All the safety equipments are provided based on the trial reports and requirement depending upon the geography of the area.

Enhancing average speed of trains

750. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any step to increase the average speed of trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to upgrade railway tracks to enable running of trains at high speed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details regarding cost implications involved in increasing average speed of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to increasing speed of trains in Indian Railways, 'Mission Raftaar' has been announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17.

The mission envisages a target of doubling of average speed of freight trains and increasing the average speed of all non-suburban passenger trains by 25 kmph in next 5 years.

Action Plan for improving mobility and increasing average speed includes removal of speed restrictions, construction of road over bridges (ROBs) and road

under bridges (RUBs), right powering of trains, introduction of twin-pipe in wagons and replacement of conventional trains by Main Line Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains and Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) trains.

(c) and (d) Running of high speed trains is decided on specific routes of Indian Railways, after conducting necessary trials. Required improvements in the field of track, Signal and Traction are carried out as per trial reports.

(e) Since Mission Raftaar is a 'mission' and not a 'project', precise capital expenditure for development of the railway infrastructure and capacity expansion which would lead to attainment of the goals and objectives of Mission Raftaar has not been quantified.

Establishment of primary health centres at railway stations

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

(a) whether the Railways had proposed to set up Primary Health Centres at about 7000 railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these Primary Health Centres would be established at the railway stations; and

(c) the names of railway stations wherein the said centres have been proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Introduction of new categories of trains

752. DR. L. HANUMANTHALAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has announced four new categories of trains to facilitate rail passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the said categories of trains have started as per the schedule prepared by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and