

action will be taken after receipt of detailed estimate of approaches for ROB at Anjhi Shahbad and consent of State Government in case of ROBs of Sandila Station.

Punctuality of trains

2983. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average percentage of trains running and reaching their destination on scheduled time;

(b) the year-wise percentage of punctuality performance of trains during the last five years; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the punctuality of trains is deteriorating continuously?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Indian Railways accord a very high priority for punctual running of trains. However, trains are delayed sometimes on account of four broad factors *viz.*, carrying out infrastructure and maintenance works, asset failures, external factors (such as fog, law and order issues etc) and congestion. The punctuality performance of Mail/Express train services during the last five years is given below:

Financial year (April-March)	Mail Express (in percent)
2015-16	77.51
2016-17	76.69
2017-18	71.39
2018-19	69.23
2019-20 (upto November)	75.70

(c) No, Sir. During the current year, the punctuality of Mail and Express trains has been 75.70 %, which is 7.51% higher than the previous year.

Ensuring safety of railway bridges

2984. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there are more than 37,000 bridges with the Indian Railways which are more than 100 years old;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to ensure the safety of such bridges across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) As on 01.04.2019, there are 38,850 Railway bridges, on Indian Railways network, which are more than 100 years old. The Zone-wise break-up is as below:

Zonal Railways	Central	Eastern	East Central	East Coast	Northern	North Central	North Eastern	North east Frontier
No. of Bridges	4346	2913	4754	924	8767	2281	509	219
Zonal Railways	North Western	Southern	South Central	South Eastern	South East Central	South Western	Western	West Central
No. of Bridges	985	2493	3040	1797	875	189	2866	1892

There is a well established system of inspection of bridges on Indian Railways. All the bridges are inspected twice a year, one before the onset of monsoon and one detailed inspection after the monsoon by the designated officials. After inspection, every bridge is assigned an Overall Rating Number (ORN) and based on the ORN of bridge, rebuilding / strengthening is undertaken. During last five years (2014-15 to 2018-19), a total nos. of 4032 bridges and during 2019-20 upto November 2019 a total of 861 bridge, have been repaired / strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt on Indian Railways. As on 01.04.2019, a total of 4168 railway bridges are sanctioned for repaired/ strengthened / rehabilitated / rebuilt.

Introduction of superfast trains on Delhi-Mumbai route

2985. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plan to introduce superfast trains like Tejas Express on Delhi-Mumbai route;

(b) if not, reasons therefor;