

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;