

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.594
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

CANCELLED TRAINS

594 SHRI SANJAY SETH:
SHRI K.C.VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of passenger trains cancelled during second wave of COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) the total loss suffered by Railways during the period and total amount refunded by Railways to passengers due to cancellation of tickets;
- (c) the number of special trains run by Railways during second wave of COVID-19 to repatriate migrant labourers to their native places along with the number of migrant workers who have been repatriated to their native places, State-wise;
- (d) by when the Railways will restore complete passenger rail service in the country; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to boost passenger and freight revenue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

- (a) 4882 number of Mail/Express Special trains had to be cancelled during the period of April – May, 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- (b) Data relating to loss suffered by Indian Railways due cancellation of train is not maintained. However, an amount of approximately Rs. 1600 crore was refunded to the passengers due to cancellation of tickets during April-May, 2021.
- (c) Indian Railways do not operate trains on State –wise basis. However, during April-May, 2021, an average per day of 1200 Special trains were operated which carried passengers including workers.
- (d) To contain COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Railways have discontinued all passenger carrying trains w.e.f 23rd March, 2020. In view of the prevailing situation, only special trains, with limited stoppages, keeping in view the suggestions and concerns of State Governments and health advisories

issued by them, are being operated. Indian Railways is keeping a close watch on the situation and regulating train services accordingly.

(e) The following steps have been undertaken to boost passenger and freight revenue:

- Running of clone trains to cater to the unmet passenger demand based on the patronization of the already running trains.
- Running of special trains on special charges during festivals/holidays.
- Augmentation of on-board capacity by attachment of additional coaches.
- Running of Parcel Special Trains and Kisan Rail Services.
- Liberalization of Private Freight Terminal/Private Siding policy, Freight Train Operator (LSFTO) and Automobile Freight Train Operator (AFTO) policies.
- Making parcel booking more user friendly by opening of all terminals for handling of Parcel Traffic, Permitting Advance booking of Parcels upto 120 days in advance, Permitting to attach LHB parcel van as 23rd coach, Reduction in Security Deposit of Parcel Cargo Express Trains (PCETs) and leased Parcel Vans and Introduction of General Seating (GS) and New Modified Goods (NMG) coaches for carriage of Parcel Traffic.
- Implementation of Liberalised Automatic Freight Rebate scheme for traffic loaded in empty flow direction.
- Rationalization of Station to station rates policy and offering discounts on loading of bagged consignment in open and flat wagon.
- Offering short lead concession to attract short distance traffic (except for Coal & Coke and iron ore traffic).
- Offering distance slab wise discount for long lead traffic of Coal & Coke, Iron ore and Iron & Steel traffic.
- Offering long lead concession to Clinker traffic for lead >1000 km “w.e.f 07.12.2020” subject to certain terms and conditions.
- Distance base graded concession @25% for transportation of limestone for lead of 1500 km & more w.e.f. 01.04.2021.
- Granting 40% discount in freight to fly-ash traffic booked in Open/flat Stock and charging at Lower Rated class (LR1) in covered wagons.
- Charging transportation product for small cargo size such as Mini Rake and Two point/Multi point Rake at Trainload class rate. Increasing distance of operation of Mini Rake.
- Offering 25% discount on haulage charge for movement of empty containers and empty flat wagon and 5% discount on haulage charges of loaded container.
