

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 204
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2024

MEASURES TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE PRESSURE ON RAILWAYS

*204 SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railways transports about 3.2 crore passengers a day, which is more than entire population of Australia, and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government proposes to start new trains and lay new lines in the country to reduce the excessive pressure on railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof and work done in this regard;

(d) whether dependency on railways for long distance commutation, especially by poor people in search of employment, is increasing day by day and is putting more and more pressure on railways; and

(e) if so, the other measures taken/being taken to reduce excessive pressure on railways?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 204 BY SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 13.12.2024 REGARDING MEASURES TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE PRESSURE ON RAILWAYS

(a) to (e) Indian Railways(IR), being the commonly used mode of public transportation in the country, carried about 690.5 crore passengers i.e. around 1.9 crore passengers every day, during the year 2023-24.

To cater to the travelling needs of the passengers, IR operates various types of regular time-tabled trains e.g. suburban, short distance passenger trains, long distance/Mail Express/Superfast trains with different compositions to serve different segments of passengers. In its consistent effort to augment its carrying capacity, IR introduces new services, extends and increases the frequencies and also augments the loads of existing services.

During 2023-24 and 2024-25 (till October,2024), more than 400 trains have been introduced, more than 350 trains have been extended and frequencies of more than 50 services have been increased. As a part of its constant endeavour to augment the load of trains, both on a permanent and temporary basis, so as to generate additional accommodation for different segments of passengers, 872 coaches have been utilized for augmentation of train services on a permanent basis during the year 2023-24, while during the year 2024-25(till October, 2024), 664 coaches have been utilized for the same.

On Indian Railways, the demand pattern is not uniform throughout the year but varies over lean and peak periods. To cater to the extra needs of passengers during peak periods like festivals, holidays, etc., in addition to the various types of regular trains, Special train services are also operated. Accordingly, during the year 2024, 13523 trips special trains were operated to meet the extra rush of passengers during Holi and summer vacation. Further, to cater to the rush during Durga Pooja/Dipawali/Chhath, 7990 trips of Special trains have also been operated during the period 1st October, 2024 to 30th November, 2024, which served approximately 1.8 crore passengers.

Further, to provide greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches, the extant policy regarding composition of Mail/Express trains, provide for 12 (Twelve) General class & Sleeper class non- AC coaches and 08 (eight) AC-Coaches, in a train of 22 coaches, thereby providing greater accommodation for the passengers using General and non-AC Sleeper Coaches.

Besides, of the total number of Coaches being presently utilized for running of train services, two-third are non-AC, and one-third are AC variants. With a view to augment the capacity for passengers travelling in unreserved coaches, more than 900 General Class coaches have been attached, in the Mail/Express trains operating with LHB coaches during the current financial

year. Keeping in view increased demand, IR has planned to manufacture 10,000 non-AC Coaches including General Class and Sleeper Class Coaches.

Additionally, Indian Railways have introduced Amrit Bharat services, which have modern State-of the Art technology are equipped with advanced features like Semi-Permanent couplers for jerk free travel, horizontal sliding windows, foldable snack table and bottle holders, mobile holders etc. These services, which are fully non-AC trains, presently comprising 12 Sleeper Class Coaches and 8 General Class coaches, are providing high quality services to the passengers.

As a part of strengthening and augmenting the infrastructure, IR undertakes construction of new lines, gauge conversion and doubling/multitracking. Accordingly, sanctioning of Railway projects is a continuous and dynamic process of Indian Railways. Railway projects are sanctioned on the basis of remunerativeness, traffic projections, last mile connectivity, missing links and alternate routes, augmentation of congested/saturated lines, demands raised by State Governments, Central Ministries, Members of Parliament, other public representatives, Railway’s own operational requirement, socio-economic considerations etc. depending upon throwforward of ongoing projects and overall availability of funds.

As on 01.04.2024, across Indian Railways, 488 Railway infrastructure projects (187 New Line, 40 Gauge Conversion and 261 Doubling) of total length 44,488 Km, costing approx. ₹7.44 lakh crore are in planning/approval/construction stage, out of which, 12,045 Km length has been commissioned and an expenditure of approx. ₹2.92 lakh crore has been incurred upto March, 2024. The summary is as under:-

Category	No. of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'24 (Km)	Total Expenditure upto Mar'24 (₹ in Cr)
New Lines(NL)	187	20,199	2,855	1,60,022
Gauge Conversion (GC)	40	4,719	2,972	18,706
Doubling(DL)/Multitracking	261	19,570	6,218	1,13,742
Total	488	44,488	12,045	2,92,470

Zone-wise/year-wise details of all Railway projects including cost, expenditure and outlay are made available in public domain on Indian Railway’s website.

The details of commissioning/laying of new track across Indian Railways is given below:

Period	New Tracks Commissioned	Average Commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	7, 599 km	4.2 Km/day
2014-24	31, 180 km	8.54 Km/day (more than 2 times)

During the last 03 years i.e. FY 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 and in current FY 2024-25, 192 projects (New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling) of total length 7,697 Km costing approx. ₹1,44,039 Crore have been sanctioned across the country.

Various steps taken by the Government for speedy approval and implementation of Railway projects include (i) setting up of Gati Shakti units (ii) prioritisation of projects (iii) substantial increase in allocation of funds on priority projects (iv) delegation of powers at field level (v) close monitoring of progress of project at various levels, and (vi) regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects. This has led to substantial increase in the rate of commissioning since 2014.
