

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 450
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2019**

MODERNISATION OF RAILWAYS

***450. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to modernise the Railways and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the manner in which the process of modernisation is going to be taken up along with the sectors/areas decided for the purpose;**
- (c) the total budget earmarked for modernisation and funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year; and**
- (d) the time by which the modernisation of Railways is likely to be completed?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 450 BY SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 24.07.2019 REGARDING MODERNISATION OF RAILWAYS

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It is the continual endeavour of Indian Railways(IR) to take measures for modernization of its assets and services in both passenger and freight segments with an objective to improve throughput, safety, reliability, availability and efficiency of services. Some of the major initiatives of modernization on Indian Railways, under various categories are detailed as under:

Modern Infrastructure Projects: Two Dedicated Freight Corridors- Eastern Corridor(1856 Kms) and Western Corridor(1504 Kms) and one High Speed Rail Project of 500 Kms of length between Mumbai to Ahmedabad are under construction. Both these Projects leverage on state of art modern technology in rail transport.

Track: Modern track structure of 60kg rail on Pre-Stressed Concrete Sleepers (PSC) with improved track fittings; Laying of longer rails; Use of thick web switches and weldable Cast Manganese Steel (CMS) crossings; Mechanized maintenance of track; Ultrasonic flaw detection testing of rails; Adoption of modern Diagnostic Techniques for health monitoring of Bridges and Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings; Upgradation of Speeds.

Signaling: Electronic Interlocking System; Track Circuiting; Axle Counter for Automatic clearance of Block Section (BPAC); Interlocking of Level Crossing Gates; Automatic Train protection System - Railways are implementing Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system in selected

sections. Four works of total length of 640 RKMs at total cost of ₹1609 crores have been sanctioned in supplementary Works Program 2018-19 for extensive trials of Modern Train Control System.

Electrification: 100% electrification of entire Indian Railways' routes is planned; All WAP7 – (Wide/BroadGauge AC Electric Passenger locomotives – Class7) - locomotives turned out by Chittaranjan Locomotive Works(CLW) are fitted with Hotel Load Converters which eliminated use of diesel alternators thereby reducing noise pollution and carbon emission; Induction of High Horse Power locomotives; Simulator Based Training for crew.

Rolling Stock – Locomotives : Operation of twin WAP7 loco in push-pull modes with significant reduction in journey time; Development of locomotives with speed potential of 200 Kmph and aerodynamic cab.

Coaches: Modern coaches, namely Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches are being rapidly inducted into the system. From Financial Year 2018-19, only LHB coaches are being produced on Indian Railway; India's first semi-high speed inter-city train set – Vande Bharat Express also known as Train 18 – designed and built by Integrated Coach Factory(ICF), Chennai has commenced operation in February, 2019; For the assistance of visually impaired travelers, Integrated Braille Signages, i.e. signages superimposed with Braille scripts, are being provided in the newly manufactured coaches of IR. Retrofitment of the same in existing coaches has also been taken up in a phased manner. Continual improvement in passenger amenities viz. better interiors(Project Swarn/Utkrisht), ambience, etc.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT): Real Time Information System(RTIS) to provide real time information of trains at stations and on running trains is being implemented on Indian Railways. Various Apps and online facilities have been developed and improved upon for passengers to book tickets, order food and details of amenities at various stations. Also, extensive use of online monitoring of status of various projects, performance metrics of the Railways is implemented for enhancing digital governance on the Railway.

Others: Redevelopment of Railway stations is planned by leveraging commercial development of land and air space in and around the station; Proliferation of Mobile chargers at stations and in coaches; Proliferation of toilets at stations; Expansion of e-catering; Provision of environmentally friendly Bio-Toilets on passenger trains; Online real time tracking of freight/parcel consignments; Wifi has been provided at 1615 stations. Provision of Free-Wifi at all balance 4206 stations is targeted; CCTVs have been installed in 1300 coaches of main line passenger trains and at 473 stations; Provision of CCTV at 6168 stations and 7020 coaches; Public Address System and GPS Clock in Balance 2004 stations; Integrated Passenger Information System – balance 182 stations; Provision of escalators and lifts at select stations – as on date 669 escalators at 240 stations and 493 lifts at 214 stations are provided; All electrified railway stations other than

those in gauge conversion have been provided with 100% LED lights. Also illumination levels at 673 stations have been improved to Airport standards; Use of green energy in the form of Solar Power Plants and Wind Power Plants are planned and are under phased implementation.

(c) There is no specific head meant for modernization works under Capital segment of Demand No. 82-Ministry of Railways. Modernisation is taken care of under various works in different Minor Heads (Plan Heads) involving new provision, renewal, replacement and upgradation etc. Capital Outlay and utilization of funds during the last three years and the Budget Estimate(BE) for 2019-20 is given below :-

(₹ in cr)

	Gross Budgetary Support	Internal Resources	Extra Budgetary Resources	Total
BE 2019-20	66105*	10500	83571	160176

*includes ₹ 267.64 cr from 'Nirbhaya Fund'

(d) Modernisation of Railway is a continuous process and the initiatives are planned and implemented in a time bound manner.
