

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5142
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RAILWAY SERVICES
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned `Railway think-tank suggests ways to improve services` appearing in The Indian Express dated April 2, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government in regard thereto;
- (c) whether the Government propose to implement the suggestions given by the expert committee to improve railway services; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5142 ASKED BY SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.04.2000 REGARDING SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RAILWAY SERVICES

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have a regular machinery for identifying areas requiring improvements in railway functioning and implement new schemes when the feasibility is established. Improvement of overall functioning of the Railway system is a continuous process. Suggestions received from various quarters as in case of Surya Foundation are always considered and necessary changes are effected as and when required. In fact, many of the recommendations now suggested by Surya Foundation have already been independently considered and acted upon. Also, a Railway Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research is focussing many of these issues in depth. The Terms of Reference for the Expert Group are as under:

- (i) To estimate the financing requirements of an expansion and upgrading programme for Indian Railways that would optimise the use of the rail transport mode and support a rate of traffic growth commensurate to the growth rate of the economy;
- (ii) To identify the sources of funding of the estimated investments over a fifteen year period, the fiscal and policy measures needed for accessing the fund sources and priorities in investments;
- (iii) To study models of structure and ownership of rail transport facilities devised and functioning in developed countries and to recommend on their relevance to Indian Railways' requirements so as to facilitate the objectives mentioned above; and
- (iv) To recommend on suitable regulatory arrangements that would facilitate orderly expansion of the system, promote the desired degree of competition and protect the users' right to quality service.