

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:204  
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001  
BIFURCATION OF RAILWAYS  
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'CII suggests division of railways into two separate arms appearing in the Financial Express dated December 18, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to reduce the freight rate during the off season ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the efforts being made for efficient transport services through Railways by increasing the share of freight traffic;
- (f) the reasons for failure of Own Your Wagon Scheme; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the customers satisfaction by making the railways commercially viable?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (g): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOKSABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 204 BY SH SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.2.2001 REGARDING BIFURCATION OF RAILWAYS

(a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. Certain suggestions were made by the Confederation of Indian Industries for Railway Budget 2001-02 in a Seminar held in December 2000. These suggestions are part of the consultation process with Chambers of the Industry to get the Industry's feedback.

(e) & (f) : Railways are making all-out efforts to sustain the existing traffic as well as to attract new traffic, in both bulk and non-bulk segments, by adopting the following strategies:

(i) Simplification of rules/regulations relating to construction and maintenance of sidings to make them more liberal and customer-friendly.

(ii) Classification of Railways premier customers as Platinum, Gold and Silver categories in order to give them focused attention through specially nominated 'Nodal Officers'.

(iii) Providing incentives like Volume Discount Scheme for incremental traffic.

(iv) Setting up of Railway Terminals by private entrepreneurs, freight forwarders etc. to achieve a wider reach of freight booking/handling facilities.

(v) Development of special wagons for steel traffic and automobile loading.

(vi) Marketing measures to attract automobile traffic.

(vii) Recovering non-bulk high value traffic through appropriate marketing efforts.

(viii) Facilitating warehousing at existing railway terminals as also privately operated freight terminals as a marketing tool to attract traffic.

(ix) Extending the new concept of Roll-On-Off (RO-RO), freight movement in trucks rolled on the flat wagons to provide door to door collection and delivery. This has been successfully launched on the Konkan Railway.

(x) Running of fixed schedule freight trains and terminal operations.

(xi) Launching the `Freight Operations Information System (FOIS)` to provide real-time information to customers in regard to the booking, movement and delivery of freight consignments through Customer Service Cells to be set up on all Zonal Railways.

(xii) Revival of parcel business through leasing out front SLR and VP.

(xiii) Containerisation of cargo and providing door-to-door service.

(g): The `Own Your Wagon Scheme` has had a fair response from the Industry. 17755 FW Wagons have been ordered costing Rs. 1109.49 Crores under this Scheme.