

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6550
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
150 YEARS OF RAILWAYS
CHANDRESH PATEL KORDIA;KAILASHO DEVI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

ANSWER

- (a) whether functions are being organised in Delhi, Mumbai and other parts of the country to celebrate the completion of 150 years of the Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of rail users, general public and press thereto;
- (d) the achievements of the Indian Railways during these 150 years;
- (e) whether the government propose to provide new facilities on this occasion; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL)

(a) to (f) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6550 BY SHI CHANDRESH PATEL & SHRIMATKAILASHO DEVI TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.05.2002 REGARDING 150 YEARS RAILWAYS

(a) : On 16th April, 2002, Railways in India entered its 150th Year of service to the nation. This is an occasion to rejoice and share the pride with all segments of rail users all over the country. Ministry of Railways, therefore decided to take up various activities all over Indian Railways during the year.

(b): On the eve of 150th Year, Hon`ble Prime Minister of India released a Mascot & special Logo designed for the celebrations, besides flagging of a special run of the Fairy Queen in a function held in New Delhi on 15th April 2002. In the functions held in Mumbai on 16th April 2002, first Jan Shatabdi Train was flagged off, a Commemorative Stamp was released and to mark the first run of the Railways in India, a special `Steam Run` of a vintage train (between Mumbai & Thane) was flagged off. Besides these, second Rail Museum was also opened to the public on the same day at Chennai. On 17th April 2002, `Rani Rudhrama` steam heritage run Medchal was flagged off at Bolaram railway station near Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh). Besides the above, several other activities, such as, organising Railway Torch Runs, World Railway Games, Seminar on Railway Vision 2025, an `Exhibition on Wheels Train`, etc. have been planned to be taken up.

(c): So far, the response has been overwhelming.

(d): Starting from a stretch of only 21 miles. in April, 1853 the rail network is now extended upto 63,028 route Km. connecting the nook and corner of the country with 6853 railway stations. The steam era has since given way to faster electric & diesel traction. Railways are, at present running 14322 trains, carrying 13.3 million passengers and 1.38 million tonne of freight every day. With the transfer of technological know-how, Railways have since achieved self-sufficiency in manufacture of various components - right from the rails to coaches and locomotives - within the country. These illustrations are themselves indicative of the achievements of Indian Railways.

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f) : The details of activities planned to be undertaken are - introduction of new 16 inter-city services (Jan Shatabdi Express); Pilot Project for computer based Unreserved Ticketing System; PRS centers to cover all district head quarters; setting up of plants to package drinking water under brand name `Rail Neer`; commissioning of 50 food plazas at various stations; introduction of 25 additional express trains; increase in frequency of 14 pairs of trains; extension of 16 services; etc.