

Eastern Railways is as under :

NTKMs per wagon per day		
Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	1473	1621
North Eastern	2109	1787
Northeast Frontier	1388	1611
Southern	1245	1372
South Central	1516	1737
South Eastern	1384	1877
Wagon Kilometres per wagon per day		
Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	112.0	127.0
North Eastern	146.0	157.0
Northeast Frontier	89.0	93.0
Southern	102.1	107.6
South Central	129.9	172.1
South Eastern	87.6	131.1
Comparative Wagon turn round - 1991-92 & 1995-96		
Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	6.6	5.1
North Eastern	6.1	6.2
Northeast Frontier	6.4	6.4
Southern	6.2	5.4
South Central	6.2	5.6
South Eastern	6.6	5.1

Late Running of South Bound Superfast Trains

1883. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the south bound superfast trains have been found to be habitually running late;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). However, the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm-chain-pulling, miscreant activities and bad weather etc.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched.

National Airports in the Country

1884. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of national airports in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to link new places with air service in the coming years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to make air service more efficient and convenient and to remove the difficulties of the passengers going abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are 120 civil airports in the country, including 5 international airports, 28 civil enclaves in airports controlled by the Ministry of Defence and 87 airports under the control of the Airports Authority of India.

(b) and (c). Airlinking of new places is decided by the airline operators keeping in view the commercial viability.

(d) and (e). In the domestic sector, private airlines have been providing air services, between various cities, in addition to Indian Airlines. Foreign airlines operate schedule services from the international airports to destinations outside India. However, visa, currency, and other restrictions imposed by foreign Governments have to be followed by Indian nationals for visiting foreign countries.

Railway Link with Gangtok

1885. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to connect Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim with Railway net-work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Since Gangtok is located in difficult mountaineous terrain, it would be difficult to construct a Railway line. However, a survey for a new line from Sivok to Gelikola has been taken up.

Rake in Trivandrum Bound Howrah Express

1886. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trivandrum bound Howrah Express has its own rake;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that old bogies are being used in the Trivandrum bound Howrah Express at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for providing new bogies to the said Train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No. Sir. 6323/6324 Trivandrum-Howrah Express is having combined link with 6321/6322 Trivandrum-Guwahati Express.

(c) to (e). Vacuum brake coaches have been deployed on 6323/6324 Trivandrum-Howrah Express. Railways are now manufacturing only air brake coaches which are being deployed on trains in a phased manner.

Conversion of Theatres into Commercial Complexes

1887. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that approx. 500 cinema theatres throughout the country either have been closed or have been converted into commercial complexes creating a threat to film industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) According to information available in the films Division, a total of 466 cinema houses remained closed in the entire country during the last 8 years. Establishment and closure of cinema houses is in the private sector and is governed by market forces. Licensing of theatres fall within the purview of State Government/Union Territory Administrations.

[Translation]

Ban on Advertisements of Cigarette, Tobacco and Liquor

1888. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether some advertisements on cigarette, tobacco and liquor had been telecast/are being telecast on various Doordarshan Kendras during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received representations/suggestions to stop or put a legal ban on these advertisements; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Announcements regarding Arrival and Departure of Trains in Hindi

1889. SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that announcements about arrival and departure of trains made in Northern Railway through the public addressing system are in Hindi only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have instructed the Northern Railway to announce in English also in order to mitigate hardships to non-Hindi speaking passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). As per existing practice announcements over public address system are being made in Hindi followed by English in Hindi speaking States and also in Regional language or languages concerned in other than Hindi speaking States.

Tourism Development Scheme for Konkan Region

1890. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have drawn up a tourism development scheme for the Konkan region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the agreements between Konkan Railway Corporation and tour operators from Hyderabad in this regard; and

(d) the role played by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The State Govt. of Maharashtra has identified Sindhu Durg Distt. in Konkan region as special