

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1884

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011

MODERNISATION OF RAILWAYS

Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B. ;Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have drawn up any plan to modernise the Railway systems to improve safety measures;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated in this regard;
- (c) whether any mechanism has been evolved through which bad track/track fractures could be known in advance to the running staff to avert rail accidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the said mechanism?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1884 BY SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED AND SHRI P. VISWANATHAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.08.2011 REGARDING MODERNISATION OF RAILWAYS.

(a) & (b): All possible steps are undertaken on a continuing basis to modernize railway safety systems. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, etc. Modernization of the railway assets is a continuous process.

Expenditure on safety related activities forms part of both Plan and non-Plan outlays. While the non-Plan expenditure on safety related activities was Rs. 23,140 crore in 2009-10 and Rs. 22,375 crore in 2010-11, the Plan expenditure has increased from Rs. 7,516 crore in 2009-10 to 8,327 crore in 2010-11. However, with the implementation of VI Central Pay Commission recommendations, the resource availability with Railways has come under strain, thus limiting the ability of the Railways to further enhance allocations. Safety related works have however, been suitably prioritised to make optimum utilization of available resources.

(c) & (d): In addition to Keyman's daily patrol, Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) technology is being extensively used in Indian Railways to detect flaws in rails and weld failures in advance so as to take remedial steps to avert train accidents. Global expression of interest has also been invited for another technology named Loco-mounted Broken Rail and Track Occupation Detection System and the same are under examination for development at Research Designs and Standards Organization of Indian Railways based at Lucknow.