

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:679

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011

COMMITTEE ON MODERNISATION OF RAILWAYS

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have appointed any Committees to suggest ways and means for the all-round modernization of the Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the committees are likely to submit their reports;
- (d) whether any mechanism has been evolved to trace the bad track/track fractures in advance to avert rail accidents; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Railways has constituted an Expert Committee for Modernization of Indian Railways under the Chairmanship of Shri Sam Pitroda to, inter alia, recommend ways and means to modernize Indian Railways to meet the challenges of economic growth, the aspirations of the common man, the needs of changing technology and the expanding market, while at the same time ensuring adequate focus on addressing social and strategic requirements of the country in consonance with Indian Railways' national aspirations.

The Terms of the Reference of the Committee also includes recommendations on strategies for modernization of Railways with a focus on track, signalling, rolling stock, stations and terminals; using ICT for improving efficiency and safety; augmenting existing capacities of Railways through indigenous development and review of projects and PPP issues.

(c): The committee has been given time of two months to submit its interim report and up to 31.03.2012 to submit a final report.

(d) & (e): Yes, Madam. Track recording cars and oscillograph cars are run on the entire Indian Railway System to assess the defects in the track with periodicity depending upon the classification of routes. Ultra Sound Flaw Detection (USFD) equipments are deployed to detect the flaws in the rail over entire Indian Railway network with the periodicity depending upon the traffic carried by the rails. As a long term measure, rails, sleepers and track fittings are renewed on the basis of the stipulated life and condition.