

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:127

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

INCREASE IN RAJDHANI AND DURANTO EXPRESS SPEED

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao; J Helen Davidson; Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to increase speed of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duranto Trains in various parts of the country especially between Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways proposes to run other trains also at faster speed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Railways to check the accidents/casualties by high speed trains in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 127 BY SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE, SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON AND SHRI B. B. PATIL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.12.2013 REGARDING INCREASE IN RAJDHANI AND DURANTO EXPRESS SPEED.

(a) & (b) : No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to increase the speed of Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Express trains. However, speeding up of trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Duronto Express trains is a constant endeavor on Indian Railways which is dependent on constant optimization of the investments made by Railways in modernization of technology, high powered locos, modern coaches and better tracks, etc.

(c) : No, Madam.

(d) : Does not arise.

(e) : As there is no operation of high speed trains over Indian Railways, therefore, no special measures are taken to check accidents/casualties by high speed trains. However, safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives, and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Use of technology is also resorted to prevent accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Train Collision Avoidance System/ Anti Collision Device (ACD), etc.