

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2058

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015

TRAIN SPEED

Biswas Shri Radheshyam;Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the average speed of the superfast trains at present in the country;
- (b) whether the Railways propose to develop designs to run trains at speed of 160 kilometers per hour and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways are aware that some superfast trains are running very late and if so, the details thereof during the last one year, date-wise and zone-wise along with the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Railways to run superfast trains on time to prevent financial loss to the passengers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

- (a) Super fast trains are trains whose end to end average speed is equal to or more than 55 kmph. At present, the average speed of superfast trains on Indian Railways based on end to end journey time ranges from 55 kmph to 73 kmph.
- (b) No, Madam. There are no proposals to develop new designs to run trains at a speed of 160 kmph as existing fleet of Linke Hoffmann Busch (LHB) coaches, WDP-4 Diesel Locos and WAP-5 Electric Locos are capable of running the passenger trains at 160 kmph and Indian Railways had successfully carried out the trial runs for the same.
- (c) Despite best endeavours of Indian Railways to run trains, including superfast trains punctually, they, at times, do run late. While Indian Railways do maintain a list of trains running late utilizing the computer based Integrated Coaching Management System (ICMS), date-wise list of superfast trains running late and thereby forcing them to lose their superfast character, is not maintained as it does not form a part of ICMS reporting. With a view to improve the punctuality of trains, Indian Railways monitors the running of all superfast and non-superfast trains at Divisional, Zonal and Board levels. However, occasions do arise when trains, including superfast trains, get delayed due to factors beyond Railway's control like law and order, natural calamities, heavy road traffic on level crossing gates, miscreant activities such as theft of Railway assets, grid failure, fog, accidents, etc. and certain factors relating to Railway operations like asset failures, rescheduling due to late running, maintenance blocks, infrastructural works in progress, etc.
- (d) Both long term and short term actions are initiated to improve punctuality by sensitizing the staff involved in train operations, so that trains make up time on run, asset failures are corrected in the shortest possible time and preventive maintenance is given priority. Resources are allocated to improve the infrastructure by initiating capacity enhancement works and terminal works especially on saturated routes to surmount the impediments that affect punctuality.