

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 616
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019**

EXPANSION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

616. SHRIMATI RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government is aware about the significant increase in the number of passengers commuting by the railways;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the ways envisioned for expansion of railway infrastructure for catering to the needs of passengers; and**
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for meeting the needs of the freight traffic?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 616 BY SHRIMATI RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.11.2019 REGARDING EXPANSION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): (i) Number of Passengers carried over Indian Railways on originating basis over the last four years are as follows:-

No. of Passengers			
Year	No. of Passengers (in Crore)	Absolute increase (in Crore) over preceding year	%age increase
2015-16	811		
2016-17	812	01	0.12
2017-18	829	17	2.09
2018-19	844	15	1.81

(ii) Over Indian Railways, stations are categorized based on earnings of station and number of passengers handled. Accordingly Railways plans and charts the way forward for augmentation/improvement of minimum essential, desirable and recommended passenger amenities based on priority of works, need subject to availability of funds. This is a continuous and ongoing process.

In order to increase the carrying capacity of passengers and ensure meeting the needs of the freight traffic over Indian Railways Network System, 247 Doubling, 189 New Line, 522 Traffic Facilities and 55 Gauge Conversion works have been sanctioned. All these works are in various stages of execution.

The measures taken by Indian Railways to meet the needs of the freight traffic include schemes such as General Purpose Wagon Investment Scheme (GPWIS), Liberalized Wagon Investment Scheme (LWIS), Special Freight Train Operator (SFTO) and Automobile Freight Train Operator Scheme (AFTO).

In addition, Dedicated Freight Corridors on East and West sides are also sanctioned. Indian Railways has taken up construction of two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) viz. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) from Dankuni to Ludhiana (1318 Kms Ludhiana to Sonnagar + 538 Kms Sonnagar to Dankuni) and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to Dadri (1504 Kms). Both the corridors are targeted for commissioning in phases to be completed by December 2021. These corridors will enable faster and heavier freight train movement as well as segregation of passenger and freight traffic along the routes. Accordingly it will result in released capacity on the existing routes for improvement in passenger services.

Government has also sanctioned 508 km Mumbai Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (MAHSR) being executed with technical and financial assistance of Government of Japan.