

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3640  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2021**

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RAILWAY REVENUE**

**3640. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a shortfall has been reported in the revenue earned vis-à-vis its target by the Railways from passengers and freight during each of the last three years and the current year;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and the reasons therefor along with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on revenue of Railways;**
- (c) whether Railways have incurred huge losses on account of under-utilisation of Railways Cargo Services in the country during the said period;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and the reasons therefor along with contribution of each Zone to the losses incurred/profit earned by the Railways during the said period, Zone-wise; and**
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the profitability of the Railways and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on revenue of Railways?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3640 BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 17.03.2021 REGARDING IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RAILWAY REVENUE.**

**(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The zone-wise revenue receipts under Passenger and Goods segments during the last three years and the current year position upto February, 2021 vis-a-vis the targets (Revised Estimates) is appended. In 2020-21, to end of February, 2021 total traffic revenue have declined by ₹ 38,323.25 crore compared to corresponding period of last year due to the adverse impact of COVID 19 pandemic, consequential lockdown and partial operation of passenger services. The year-wise reasons for shortfall is given hereunder:**

**2017-18**

- **Drop in originating passengers – in non-suburban segment and drop in average sub-urban lead in actuals vis-a-vis RE.**
- **less loading in Actuals vis-a-vis Revised Estimates (RE).**
- **Very low growth in other coaching revenue**
- **Remittance of dividend receipts from Railway PSUs to General Revenues which hitherto used to be part of Railways' sundry revenue and lesser mobilisation under land monetisation.**

**2018-19**

- **Drop in originating passengers and in average passenger lead in actuals vis-a-vis RE**
- **Low growth in other coaching revenue**
- **Non-materialisation of revenue target from land monetisation.**

**2019-20**

- **Adverse impact of Covid 19 pandemic and consequent lockdown on Railway operations**
- **Drop in average passenger lead**

- **Shortfall in loading vis-a-vis RE target**
- **Refund adjustment of over ₹ 2,000 cr in Sundry revenue to RLDA.**

**2020-21**

- **Adverse impact of Covid 19 pandemic and consequent lockdown on Railway operations**
- **Complete shutdown of passenger services during the lock down period and subsequent partial operations of passenger trains**

**(c) & (d) : During the lockdown period following the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, freight movement was affected due to the decline in demand and disruption in the road transportation and labour services at loading and unloading terminals. However, Railways managed to keep the movement of essential transportation uninterrupted ensuring that there was no shortage of coal for power plants and other essential commodities like foodgrains, fertilizer, etc. Record foodgrain loading was done to supply foodgrains to States under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY).**

**After the easing of lockdown by Ministry of Home Affairs, Railways took a number of steps to move more freight traffic and the shortfall of freight traffic of 70 million tonnes during the period April'2020 upto July'2020 as compared to the corresponding period of last year has been considerably made good. Indian Railways have loaded 1102.58 million tonnes from April, 2020 to February, 2021 as against 1107.20 million tonnes during the corresponding period of last financial year.**

**(e): Considering the need to provide adequate budgetary support for incurring inevitable expenditure in the light of adverse impact of Covid 19**

**on Railway receipts, the Government has provided a Special Loan for Covid related resource gap.**

**The Ministry has been taking measures on a continuing basis to improve the financial position. Apart from restoring passenger services on a progressive basis in the current year, the endeavour comprises of a combination of initiatives aimed at maximizing revenue receipts and minimizing controllable revenue expenses. Revenue enhancing measures, inter alia, include targeting progressively higher traffic throughput, expansion of commodity basket, effective and innovative marketing strategies to capture more and more traffic, creation of additional capacity and optimum utilization of the existing rail infrastructure including rolling stock, enhancement in productivity and efficiency, improvement of passenger interface, periodic rationalization of fare and freight rates and focus on increasing the share of non-fare revenue sources in Railways' total revenue. Expenditure control measures include strict economy and austerity measures, improved man-power planning, better asset utilization, inventory management, optimizing fuel consumption etc.**

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**APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3640 BY SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 17.03.2021 REGARDING IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RAILWAY REVENUE**

**Actual Passenger Revenue vis-à-vis targets(Revised Estimates) in last three years and current year**  
(₹ in crore)

Zones	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Revised Estimates	Actuals	Revised Estimates	Actuals	Revised Estimates	Actuals	Revised Estimates	Approx. up to Feb'21
<b>Central</b>	5550	5369	5840	5732	6266	5594	1906	1302
<b>Eastern</b>	2346	2280	2455	2351	2644	2366	625	585
<b>East Central</b>	2457	2413	2500	2534	2692	2499	1068	921
<b>East Cost</b>	1430	1411	1510	1511	1626	1509	507	306
<b>Northern</b>	6671	6357	6650	6512	7055	6429	1628	1330
<b>North Central</b>	4900	4756	5090	4993	5482	4774	1988	1757
<b>North Eastern</b>	1600	1543	1619	1574	1743	1619	802	539
<b>North Frontier</b>	1160	1178	1376	1349	1492	1333	453	373
<b>North Western</b>	2097	2004	2150	2091	2250	2049	418	382
<b>Southern</b>	4380	4247	4521	4482	5110	4587	735	738
<b>South Central</b>	4995	4861	5296	5167	5734	5293	1190	1076
<b>South Eastern</b>	1635	1569	1713	1664	1845	1660	461	383
<b>South East</b>								
<b>Central</b>	1165	1128	1176	1159	1276	1152	242	222
<b>South Western</b>	1530	1488	1565	1556	1736	1583	360	277
<b>Western</b>	4650	4541	4780	4713	5116	4619	1131	976
<b>West Central</b>	3361	3304	3551	3477	3725	3384	1426	1212
<b>Metro/Kolkata</b>	200	194	208	201	208	219	59	31
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50125</b>	<b>48643</b>	<b>52000</b>	<b>51067</b>	<b>56000</b>	<b>50669</b>	<b>15000</b>	<b>12409</b>

**Actual Goods Revenue vis-à-vis targets(Revised Estimates) in last three years and current year**  
(₹ in crore)

Zones	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21	
	Revised Estimates	Actuals	Revised Estimates	Actuals	Revised Estimates	Actuals	Revised Estimates	Approx. up to Feb'21
<b>Central</b>	7500	7330	8488	8623	8714	7268	6951	6219
<b>Eastern</b>	4500	4520	4767	4445	5254	4047	4801	3975
<b>East Central</b>	9140	9975	11307	10046	9180	8784	10341	8369
<b>East Cost</b>	14900	15135	16398	15840	18289	15894	18311	15104
<b>Northern</b>	7000	7075	8044	8166	8956	6768	7683	6595
<b>North Central</b>	10000	10345	11469	10332	11640	8048	7771	6706
<b>North Eastern</b>	1650	1576	1608	1599	1772	1460	1801	1436
<b>North Frontier</b>	1940	2076	2357	2152	2598	1933	2357	1953
<b>North Western</b>	4800	4627	4800	5080	4316	4017	5110	4383
<b>Southern</b>	2850	2694	3179	3125	3176	2755	2891	2327
<b>South Central</b>	10800	10841	12705	12207	12007	9906	9159	7955
<b>South Eastern</b>	12550	12008	12724	13009	14024	13799	15085	12466
<b>South East</b>								
<b>Central</b>	12110	11762	12881	12769	14396	12459	14051	11920
<b>South Western</b>	3160	2979	3086	3010	3461	2892	3296	2800
<b>Western</b>	6800	6692	7142	7979	7291	5437	6060	5242
<b>West Central</b>	7800	7421	8793	9050	9657	8020	8516	7142
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>117500</b>	<b>117055</b>	<b>129750</b>	<b>127433</b>	<b>134733</b>	<b>113488</b>	<b>124184</b>	<b>104594</b>