

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 104
ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023

DECLINE IN EARNINGS OF ZONAL RAILWAYS

*104 SHRI BINOY VISWAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for decline in sundry earnings and Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) in Indian Railways from 2017-18 to 2020-21, as per the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to delegate decision making powers to the zonal railway administration for smooth implementation of policies;
- (c) whether Government has taken any measures to fix realistic targets for generating sundry earnings and monitor achievement of zonal railways; and
- (d) in what manner Ministry plans to strengthen monitoring and internal control mechanism at apex level to ensure successful implementation of policies and realisation of outstanding dues?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 104 BY SHRI BINOY VISWAM ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING DECLINE IN EARNINGS OF ZONAL RAILWAYS

(a) to (d) Sundry earnings of Indian Railways were ₹8688 crores in the year 2017-18 and ₹8499 crores in the year 2022-23. These revenues dipped during the COVID years, but revived in 2022-23. The year-wise details of various components of sundry earnings are appended.

Several measures have been undertaken by the railways to augment sundry earnings. A new policy on e-auction has been issued on 13.06.2022. Under this new policy, all revenue earning assets like Brake-vans/Parcel Vans attached to trains, parking lots, pay and use toilets, cloak rooms, AC waiting halls, space for commercial publicity at stations and on trains etc. have been digitized and uploaded on an e-auction portal. This has enabled division-level officers to finalize contracts in an expeditious, transparent and efficient manner, to fetch higher sundry earnings. The e-auction portal has eliminated geographical barriers in participation of vendors in the auction process, increasing the range of competition and improving prospects of obtaining the best rates.

Powers have already been delegated to Zonal Railways to frame their own policy for parking contracts duly taking into account the local constraints/conditions. Full powers for fixation of reserve price, calling and finalization of tenders for advertisement, parking and catering stalls have also been delegated to Zonal Railways.

In the year 2022, powers have been delegated to Divisional Railway Managers for property development in connection with railway working, granting of way-leave permissions, and licensing of infrastructure for public utilities.

In the C&AG Report no. 35 of 2022, Audit has observed that there was a decline in sundry earnings in certain sources across a few Zonal Railways after 2017-18 and up to 2020-21. This decline was primarily on account of COVID. However, sundry earnings have since revived, and reached ₹8499 crores in 2022-23. Revenues of Zonal Railways, including sundry earnings and outstanding dues are regularly monitored by Ministry of Railways through monthly reports and periodical reviews.

APPENDIX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 104 BY SHRI BINOY VISWAM ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 28.07.2023 REGARDING DECLINE IN EARNINGS OF ZONAL RAILWAYS

Year-wise details of various source of Sundry Revenue

(₹ in crore)

Particulars	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (Provisional)
Reimbursement of operating loss on Strategic lines	1733.86	1940.00	2098.10	2215.63	2358.12	2461.91
Property development of land etc.	3339.87	812.50	1476.11	1379.93	1028.77	1630.48
Advertisement & Publicity	204.10	223.53	290.15	62.62	167.93	393.11
Receipts from Catering Department/Contract Catering	712.90	768.50	823.42	116.64	334.03	1171.69
Interest & Maintenance charges of saloon, level crossings etc.	145.11	199.94	217.39	187.63	219.20	281.39
Right of way (OFC & Other purposes)	311.76	398.21	421.67	332.44	638.69	547.98
Car/Scooter Parking at stations	182.24	228.19	206.65	20.87	78.15	201.21
Other Sundry Revenue	2058.35	2425.35	329.26	1622.84	1243.07	1810.83
Total	8688.19	6996.22	5862.75	5938.60	6067.96	8498.60