

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1105**  
**ANSWERED ON 28.07.2023**

**STATUS OF MISSION RAFTAAR**

1105 # SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is fact that Government had fixed a target of increasing the average speed of passenger trains from 50 km/h to 75 km/h and that of Goods trains from 25 km/h to 50 km/h under Mission Raftaar in the year 2016;
- (b) if so, the number of passenger trains and goods trains that have matched their average speed in comparison to the target set for the year 2022-23, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the percentage increase in the average speed of passenger trains and goods trains during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND  
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c) With a view to increasing the speed of trains in Indian Railways (IR), 'Mission Raftaar' was announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17. IR has rationalized the time table with the assistance of IIT Bombay with one of the objectives to increase the speed of trains by converting passenger trains to Express services and Express services to Super fast services. Conversion of trains operating with conventional coaches with MEMUs is also aimed at providing faster services to the passengers. To this end, since 2015-16, 492 train services have been converted into MEMUs, which includes 78 trains converted during the year 2022-23. Further, Indian Railways are introducing Vande Bharat trains, which have higher speed potential. Till 24th July, 2023, 50 Vande Bharat services have been introduced on the IR network.

To increase the average speed of goods trains further, Indian Railways has been taken following steps:

1. Introduction of time tabled container and auto trains.
2. Increasing the maximum permissible speed of freight wagons to 75 Kmph for loaded and 100Kmph for empty wagons.
3. Targeted completion of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC).

4. Targeted completion of super critical and critical works of doubling, Multi tracking and traffic facility works.

5. Creation of dedicated freight paths.

Further, steps such as removal of speed restrictions, construction of road over bridges (ROBs) and road under bridges (RUBs), right powering of trains, introduction of twin pipe in wagons etc. have increased the speed of all categories of trains.

During 2018-2022, average speed of freight train has increased by nearly 62.2 percent and average speed of ordinary passenger, Electric Multiple Unit(EMU) and mail/express train has increased by nearly 12.5, 4.2 and 1.5 percent respectively.

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