

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 610
ANSWERED ON 29.11.2024

FUNCTIONING OF THE WESTERN DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR (WDFC)

610 SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the achievements of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) in terms of the impacted freight movement, transit times, and logistical costs for industries;
- (b) the details of the steps being taken to ensure safety and security of the corridor and freight movement on the WDFC; and
- (c) the details of the initiatives being proposed to ensure fair and competitive access to the WDFC for both public and private freight operators, particularly to benefit small and medium enterprises in Haryana?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (c): Out of total 1506 Kms. of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor(WDFC) 1404 Kms. is fully commissioned and operational, which carried 31,563 freight trains (April to October) during FY 2024-25. The WDFC has contributed significantly towards reduction of transit time for customers, which has also led to increase in the loading capacity of the newly connected industries through various Private Freight Terminals (PFTs) and Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs). The Truck on Train services(TOT) and Small Cargo Services through NMGHS have also reduced transit times and benefitted the industries in terms of lower inventory cost. This shift has not only streamlined operations but has also resulted in a notable reduction in logistic costs for these industries.

To ensure safety & security of WDFC freight movement, most of Level Crossings have been eliminated with Road over Bridges (ROBs)/Road Under Bridges (RUBs).

Further, provision of automatic signaling, Visual Display Unit (VDU) operation & Electronic Interlocking (EI) with safety gears for safe trains operations, using modern technology for hot axle detection, Wheel Impact Load Detector(WILD) etc. for identification of damaged Rolling Stock/Wheel, day-to-day maintenance work of track & safety gears, Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) have been provided to ensure greater safety and security. Awareness programs and safety drives for the workforce of WDFC are also conducted at regular intervals.

DFCCIL has ensured that Business opportunities are accessible to all customers without any discrimination as per eligibility criteria fixed by Ministry of Railways. Opportunities such as booking of rakes, opening of terminals etc. are available over entire Western Dedicated Freight Corridor(WDFC), including 5 stations which fall in Haryana for developing Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals (GCTs).

Additionally, twenty nine (29) stations have been notified as Goods Shed over WDFC including 3 stations in the state of Haryana for benefit of customers to book and handle goods traffic to any notified Goods' Sheds of DFCCIL or of Indian Railways.
