

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1477
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2026

CONTRACTION IN RAILWAY TRANSPORT

1477 SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Index of Services Production (ISP), which reported a 0.4 per cent contraction in railway transport in April, 2026;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry has assessed the impact of this contraction on freight and passenger traffic; and
- (d) the corrective measures being taken to improve the growth of railway transport services?

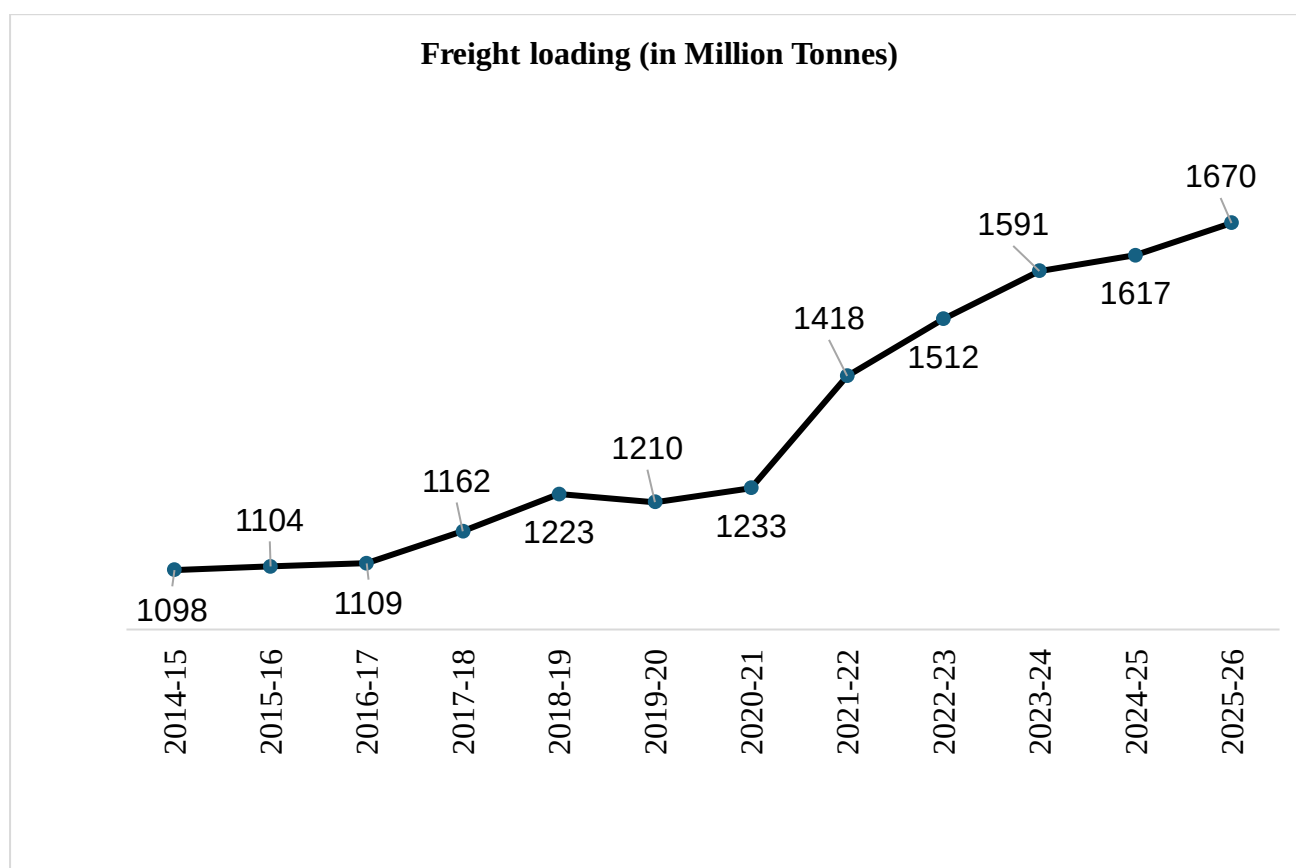
ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

(a) to (d): Indian Railway has taken several measures during the last few years to enhance freight loading and revenue. Freight loading since 2014 is as below:

Year	Freight loading (in Million Tonnes)
2014-15	1098
2015-16	1104
2016-17	1109
2017-18	1162
2018-19	1223
2019-20	1210
2020-21	1233
2021-22	1418
2022-23	1512
2023-24	1591
2024-25	1617
2025-26	1670



The freight loading of Indian Railways has increased to 1,670 MT in 2025-26 thus IR has become the second largest freight carrying Railways in the world.

Similarly, no. of passengers travelled on Indian Railways have increased from 644 cr in 2022-23 to 729 cr in 2024-25 and 760 cr in 2025-26.

Budget allocation and Network Expansion: The Budget allocation has been increased from ₹29,055 Cr in 2013-14 to ₹2,78,030 Cr in 2026-27. Capacity enhancement of railway network has been taken up by Indian Railways in a big way during last 12 years. The details of commissioning/laying of new track across Indian Railways is given below: -

Period	New track Commissioned	Average commissioning of new tracks
2009-14	7,599 Km	4.2 Km/day
2014-26	36,429 Km	8.32 Km/day (nearly 2 times)

As on 01.04.2026, across Indian Railways, 514 Railway infrastructure projects (169 New Line, 29 Gauge Conversion and 316 Doubling) of total length 40,000 Km, costing approx. Rs.8.31 lakh crore are sanctioned. The summary is as under: -

Category	No. of Projects	Total Length NL/GC/DL (km)	Length Commissioned till Mar'26 (km)	Total Exp. upto Mar'26 (Rs. in Crore)
New lines	169	16,634	3,361	1,57,572
Gauge conversion	29	3,987	3,045	24,227
Doubling	316	19,379	6,177	1,23,454
Total	514	40,000	12,583	3,05,253

Dedicated Freight Corridors: Ministry of Railways had taken up construction of two Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFC) viz. Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) from Ludhiana to Sonnagar (1337 Km) and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) from Dadri to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) (1506 Km). Both the DFCs i.e. Eastern DFC (1337 Km) and Western DFC (1506 Km) have been commissioned.

On an average about 443 trains are operated per day on DFCs. The Dedicated Freight Corridors have demonstrated robust operational performance. Freight volumes have steadily increased, with higher average speeds, faster turnarounds, and enhanced reliability. DFC has contributed to creating additional paths on the conventional network by diverting freight traffic to EDFC and WDFC. As a result, Railways have been able to run additional goods and coaching services over its network.

Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project will have positive impact on transportation and logistics sector as it will enable enhanced movement of Double Stack Container (DSC) trains, higher axle load trains, faster access of northern hinterland by Western Ports and development of new terminals/linkages with industries along the DFC.

A new Dedicated Freight Corridor connecting Dankuni in East to Surat in West, has been announced in the Union Budget 2026. The work of preparation/updation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for this corridor has been taken up.

Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals: In order to boost investment from industry in development of additional terminals for handling rail cargos, 'Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT)' policy has been launched. GCTs are being developed by private players, and can be developed on non-Railway land or fully/partially on Railway land. The location of GCTs is being decided on the basis of demand from industry and potential of Cargo traffic. So far, 142 GCTs have been commissioned and further, In-principle approvals (IPAs) for 310 more GCT proposals have been awarded.

The 142 commissioned GCTs have an estimated freight handling capacity of 224 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). The policy has mobilized private investment of approximately ₹10,000 crore through these GCTs. Freight handled at these GCTs during 2025-26 is 146 MT.

Various steps taken by the Government for effective and speedy implementation of rail projects include:

- Substantial increase in allocation of funds.
- Delegation of powers at field level.
- Close monitoring of progress of project at various levels.
- Regular follow up with State Governments and concerned authorities for expeditious land acquisition, forestry and Wildlife clearances and for resolving other issues pertaining to projects.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Index of Service Production (ISP) for railway transport is based on volume-based indicators, as per international norms of OECD, which are 'passenger km travelled' and 'tonnes km transported' for 'passenger services' and 'freight services', respectively.

The monthly index is based on Ministry of Railways data on net tonne km (NTKM) and passenger km (PKM) for a particular month. The details of NTKM and PKM in June 26 vis a vis June 25 are as under. There is positive change in these indicators.

Month	NTKM (in millions)	PKM (in millions)
June 25	76,547	1,00,307
June 26	78,670 (+ 2.77 %)	1,04,813 (+ 4.49 %)
