

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1771
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020**

COMPENSATION OF REVENUE LOSS DUE TO LOCKDOWN

**1771. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time by which Indian Railways' network is expected to return to normalcy, as lockdown is being lifted across States;**
- (b) the quantum of loss suffered by Railways due to lockdown and stoppage of trains as compared to 2019;**
- (c) the plan formulated by the Government to cover up the loss;**
- (d) the manner in which the Government plans to compensate for the various developmental works of Railways during the current fiscal year; and**
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safe travel of passengers in the special trains?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) Passenger train services on Indian Railways remained suspended between the period 23rd March, 2020 to 30th April, 2020. Passenger services resumed on 1st May 2020 with the operation of Shramik Special trains, to enable movement of Stranded persons/migrant workers in terms of the guidelines and protocol issued by the Government. In its efforts to further normalise passenger train

services, Indian Railways has started operation of special trains, in phases, as detailed below:

(i) 15 pairs of Rajdhani specials w.e.f. 12.05.2020.

(ii) 100 pairs of Special trains w.e.f. 01.06.2020.

(iii) 43 pairs of Special trains w.e.f. 12.09.2020.

(iv) 705 Suburban services (Central Railways-355 & Western Railway-350) w.e.f 15.06.2020.

(v) 20 pairs of Special train services w.e.f. 21.09.2020.

(b) Profit or loss during a financial year is calculated at the close of the year. The nationwide lockdown has adversely impacted railway operations and revenue during the current year. Scheduled passenger services have been discontinued and freight traffic is below normal. Till the end of August 2020, freight loading has been at 86.6% of the corresponding level of last year. Consequently, by the end of August, 2020, Railways' traffic revenue at ₹ 41,844.31 Crore declined by 42.3% over the corresponding period of last year. Freight loading has picked up now. In August, 2020 loading increased by 4% over the corresponding month of last year. In September, 2020 the loading has further increased by 13% compared to last year.

(c) The following measures have been taken to boost freight traffic during COVID-19 pandemic

Long lead concession, short lead concession, reduction in classification of Industrial Salt, concession to fly ash traffic, relaxation in distance for operation of Mini rake, reduction in size of BCNHL rake, 5% discount in haulage charges for loaded containers, exemption from levy of demurrage and wharfage charges non-levy of

haulage charges for movement of empty containers and empty flats, Round Trip Tariff for goods traffic, exemption of Automobile Freight Train Operator takes from stabling charges, etc. Apart from above, General Purpose Wagon Investment Scheme (GPWIS), Special Freight Train Operator (SFTO) policy, Private Freight Terminal (PFT) Policy, Private Siding Policy, etc. have been liberalized. Further to this, a number of measures have also been taken to promote parcel traffic.

Further, with a view to enhance passenger earnings, the resumption of passenger train services has been undertaken by Indian Railways in a phased manner based on the demand pattern subject to COVID-19 situation and Government's directives. Periodical review of occupancy, quota utilization, waiting list of trains is done and adjustments are made, wherever required. Besides, measures to enhance passenger earnings are a continuous and an on-going process.

(d) Current year's Budget Estimates (BE) for Railway's capital expenditure on infrastructure and various development works is ₹ 1,61,042 crore. Despite the lock down, ₹ 56,368.15 crore have already been spent to end of August, 2020 indicating a 35% utilization of the BE.

(e) Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) for movement of passengers by trains including special trains has been laid down are as under:-

- 1. For special express trains, only reserved tickets are issued and confirmed ticket holders are allowed to enter the Railway Stations.**
- 2. No linen, blankets, curtain are being provided on train.**

- 3. All passengers are to reach station at least 90 minutes to two hours in advance.**
- 4. Separate entry and exit gates provided at Railway stations to the extent feasible.**
- 5. Thermal Screening has been arranged at the Station and only asymptomatic passengers are permitted to travel.**
- 6. Passengers are advised to wear Masks/face cover at stations and in the train.**
- 7. Passengers are advised to download and use the Aarogya Setu application.**
- 8. All Passengers are advised to observe social distancing both at stations and on trains.**
- 9. All passengers are advised on arrival at destination stations to follow the health protocol as prescribed by destination station State/Union Territories.**
