

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.686
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020**

LOSS OF REVENUE DUE TO LOCKDOWN

**686. SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:
SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI:
SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:
SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of days during lockdown when passenger trains remained suspended, started operation during unlock period and total loss suffered by Railways during the period and the total amount refunded by Railways to passengers due to cancellation of tickets;**
- (b) whether running of less passenger trains has led to huge loss of revenue and if so, the estimated loss projected;**
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to restore complete rail services in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether freight revenue has also fallen sharply as compared to last year;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof and whether Railways is working towards simplifying its freight policy to boost freight revenue; and**
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to boost passenger and freight revenue?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 686 BY SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL, SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI, SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR, SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE, SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR, SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI, SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU, SHRI V.K.SREEKANDAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.09.2020 REGARDING LOSS OF REVENUE DUE TO LOCKDOWN

(a) to (c) With a view to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Railways discontinued the regular passenger train services w.e.f 23.03.2020. Operation of passenger train services after remaining suspended for 39 days, resumed w.e.f 01.05.2020, with the introduction of Shramik special trains, in terms of the guidelines issued by Government.

Keeping in view the suggestions and concerns of the State Governments, Indian Railways have gradually resumed the operation of passenger trains, as special train services, as under:-

- i. 15 pairs of Rajdhani specials with effect from 12.05.2020.**
- ii. 100 pairs of Special trains with effect from 01.06.2020.**
- iii. 43 pairs of special trains with effect from 12.09.2020.**
- iv. 705 Suburban services (Central Railway-355 & Western Railway-350) with effect from 15.06.2020.**

The total amount of refund granted upto 10.09.2020 due to cancellation of tickets booked till 14th April, 2020 for journey period from 22.03.2020 to 12.08.2020 in regular time tabled trains, which were cancelled due to lockdown, was approximately ₹ 3371.50 crore.

Upto the end of August 2020, the number of originating passengers has been 1.27% of the corresponding period last year and freight loading has been 86.6% of the corresponding period last year.

Consequently the traffic revenue of Railway for the period, at ₹ 41,844.31 crore has declined by 42.3% over the corresponding period last year.

(d) The freight revenue to end of August, 2020 and August, 2019 is as under:

	August, 2020	August, 2019
Freight Revenue	₹ 39648.02	₹ 46433.37
	crores	crores

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways has taken a large number of steps to simplify freight policy to boost freight revenue.

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

- i) Exemption from levy of Demurrage, Wharfage and other ancillary charges from 22.03.2020 to 17.05.2020, to facilitate freight customers and to provide logistics support for movement of essential goods.**
- ii) Extension of the facility of e-RD and eT-RR in case of Freight Forwarders, Iron & Steel, Iron Ore and Salt traffic.**
- iii) Non levy of Haulage Charge for movement of empty containers and empty flats from 24.03.2020 till 08.05.2020.**
- iv) Distance restriction for Mini Rake of 600 km was increased for both inter zonal and intra zonal traffic to above 1500 km with certain terms and conditions w.e.f. 28.08.2020.**
- v) Minimum number of wagons in BCNHL rake to be loaded for train load benefit has been reduced from 57 to 42 wagons now, with a view to support loading of essential food items.**
- vi) 5% discounts on Haulage Charge for movement of loaded containers have been issued w.e.f. 04.08.2020 to 30.04.2021.**

- vii) The classification of “Salt for Industrial use” has been reduced from Class-120 to Class-100A w.e.f. 05.08.2020 till further advice.**
- viii) 40% concession on freight rate of Fly Ash has been granted when transported in open & flat wagon w.e.f. 03.08.2020 with certain term and condition.**
- ix) Long lead concession: Grand 15-20% discount on NTR for different distance leads over 1400 km on Coal & Coke, over 1600 Iron & Steel and over 700 km Iron ore.**
- x) Re-introduction of short lead concession: To attract short lead traffic to railways, graded concession has been provided on base freight rate all commodities except Coal & Coke , Iron ore , RMC and Military traffic**

<u>Distance slab</u>	<u>Freight concession</u>
0-50 km	50%
51-75 km	25%
76-90 km	10%
91-100 km	Nil

Round-Trip Traffic (RTT): Round trip traffic offers competitive prices for rakes loaded in both outward and return direction i.e. two way traffic. All commodities except iron ore, POL, container and Low rated are permitted under this scheme.

- xi) Two Point Unloading has been allowed for ‘Special Freight Train Operator (SFTO) under Category-3’ and ‘automobile traffic in railway-owned wagons.’**
- xii) Automobile Freight Train Operator (AFTO) rakes have been exempted from payment of stabling charges till 31.10.2020**

- xiii) The concept of Empty Return Ratio (ERR) for allowing operation of rakes under General Purpose Wagon Investment Scheme (GPWIS) has been done away with. No freight will be charged on movement of empty rake in the circuit. Party has been given the flexibility of choosing freight rebate “with” or “without” Annual cap. JPO formalised to streamline the procedure of granting freight rebate.**
- xiv) A Liberalised Special Freight Train Operator (LSFTO) Policy has been launched by amalgamating the existing SFTO and Liberalised Wagon Investment Schemes for Special purpose and High Capacity Wagons. There will be no registration fee and the maintenance of the wagons will be done by IR at its own cost. No freight will be charged in empty direction.**
- xv) The Private Freight Terminal (PFT) Policy has been revised with a view to make it more customer friendly. Time lines and Nodal Officers for various stages prior to commissioning have been specified. Besides, the staff cost has been rationalised and the application fee has been reduced from ₹ 10 lakh to ₹ 20 thousand only.**
- xvi) The Private Siding Policy has been liberalised by removing the upper limit on number of co-users that may be permitted.**
- xvii) Automobile traffic and Parcel traffic opened for export to Bangladesh.**
- xviii) All Goods sheds, PFTs, Private Sidings opened for handling of Parcel Traffic.**
- xix) Time table of Parcel Special trains with reduced composition have been introduced over different routes. Till 31st August, 5279 Parcel Special trains (including 5126 time-tabled trains) have been run transporting approximately 3.16 lakh Tonnes of consignments.**

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 is a continuous and an on-going process.
