

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1518
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2021**

REVENUE LOSS

1518. SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways continued to lose revenue and freight-rakes could not be operated for carrying vital commodities due to various agitations/strikes including dharnas at platforms and near railway tracks in the country and if so, the details in the last three years and current year till date along with the losses reported in this regard;**
- (b) whether there has been an adverse impact on freight movement resulting in non availability of vital commodities for farm, industrial and infrastructure sector as well as passenger trains which has caused tremendous inconvenience to travellers in pre and post COVID-19 times; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps being taken to avoid such situation in future?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1518 BY SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 10.02.2021 REGARDING REVENUE LOSS

(a): As per the information collected from Zonal Railways, the details of loss of freight loading and freight revenue during last three years and current year due to various agitations/strikes including dharnas at platforms and near railway tracks are as under:

Year	Loss of freight loading in rakes	Loss of freight revenue(Rupees in crores)
2017-18	1536	581.75
2018-19	1868	911.85
2019-20	1318	517.84
2020-21	3529	1462.45

(b) & (c): During the lockdown period following the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, passenger services had to be stopped and freight movement was affected due to the decline in demand and disruption in the road transportation and labour services at loading and unloading terminals. However, Railways managed to keep the movement of essential transportation uninterrupted ensuring that there was no shortage of coal for power plants and other essential commodities like foodgrains, fertilizer, milk, medicine etc. Record foodgrain loading was done to supply foodgrains to States under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Ann Yojna (PMGKAY).

In terms of the guidelines issued by the Government, Indian Railways operated 4621 Shramik Specials trains which were “trains on demand” on mission mode based on the requests of State Governments. The Shramik

Special trains which were operated for the movement of stranded persons and migrants, transported 63.19 lakh passengers to their respective States, during the said period.

After the easing of lockdown by Ministry of Home Affairs, Railways took a number of steps to move more freight traffic and the shortfall of freight traffic of 70 million tonnes during the period April, 2020 upto July, 2020 as compared to the corresponding period of last year has been considerably made good. Indian Railways have loaded 990.31 million tonnes from April, 2020 to January, 2021 as against 1000.77 million tonnes during the corresponding period of last financial year. For the safety of passengers, regular passenger carrying train services have been cancelled w.e.f 23.03.2020 and presently, only special trains are in operation keeping in view the concerns and suggestions of the State Governments. Indian Railways, in consultation with State Governments, is gradually enhancing the number of special trains across the country and have operationalized 2024 Special Mail/Express trains (including Festival Specials) and approximately 5580 Passenger/ Electric Multiple Unit(EMU)/Mainline Electric Multiple Unit(MEMU). Furthermore, Indian Railways is closely monitoring the prevailing situation as also the waitlist position of special trains and is operating clone trains on routes where unsatiated demand exists.

