

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 429  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2021**

**IMPROVEMENT OF OPERATING RATIO**

**429. SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH alias PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR  
SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:**

**Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the losses incurred by the Railways from non-operation of trains during the period of nationwide lockdown and thereafter due to COVID 19 pandemic and if so, the details thereof, zone-wise along with the present operating ratio of the Railways; and**
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve the operating ratio of the Railways during each of the last three years and the current year along with achievements thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

**(a) & (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.429 BY SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH alias PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR AND SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.02.2021 REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF OPERATING RATIO.**

**(a) & (b) : Overall profit or loss of Indian Railways is calculated at the close of a financial year. However, due to the adverse impact of COVID 19 pandemic, consequential lockdown and partial operation of passenger services, total traffic revenue of Railways in the current year to end of December, 2020 have declined by ₹ 36,993.82 crore compared to corresponding period of last year. The zone-wise decline in total traffic revenue is given below:**

	(₹ in crore)		
Railway	Total Traffic Revenue		
	To end of December 2019	To end of December 2020	Variation of revenue to end of December 2020 over the position to end of December 2019
Central	10773.95	5659.65	-5114.30
Eastern	5052.03	3533.24	-1518.79
East Central	8399.35	7391.47	-1007.88
East Coast	12775.95	12192.90	-583.05
Northern	10374.81	6305.46	-4069.35
North Central	10086.72	6444.15	-3642.57
North Eastern	2545.95	1618.08	-927.87
Northeast Frontier	3937.14	3375.58	-561.56
North Western	5258.61	4088.43	-1170.18
Southern	6309.79	2389.30	-3920.49
South Central	11872.93	6706.59	-5166.34
South Eastern	11617.91	10195.13	-1422.78
South East Central	9963.88	9447.33	-516.55
South Western	3650.57	2404.87	-1245.70
Western	8663.45	4961.48	-3701.97
West Central	8727.58	6460.54	-2267.04
Metro/Kolkata	184.74	27.34	-157.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>130195.36</b>	<b>93201.54</b>	<b>-36993.82</b>

**Operating Ratio of Indian Railways is calculated at the close of each financial year when the revenue receipts and expenditure figures for the whole year is available. The Ministry has been taking measures on a continuing basis to improve the financial position and to bring the Operating Ratio to a reasonable level. The endeavour comprises of a combination of initiatives aimed at maximizing revenue receipts and minimizing controllable revenue expenses. Revenue enhancing measures, inter alia, include targeting progressively higher traffic throughput, expansion of commodity basket, effective and innovative marketing strategies to capture more and more traffic, creation of additional capacity and optimum utilization of the existing rail infrastructure including rolling stock, enhancement in productivity and efficiency, improvement of passenger interface, periodic rationalization of fare and freight rates and focus on increasing the share of non-fare revenue sources in Railways' total revenue. Expenditure control measures include strict economy and austerity measures, improved man-power planning, better asset utilization, inventory management, optimizing fuel consumption etc. As a result of such measures, the Operating Ratio at 98.4% in 2017-18 marginally improved to 97.3% in 2018-19. However, the trend of improvement could not be sustained in 2019-20 due to adverse impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on rail operations and revenue towards the close of the year.**

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