

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.150
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2021**

PERFORMANCE OF RAILWAY ZONES

†*150. SHRI AJAY NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the railway zones operating in the country;**
- (b) whether the Railway Board has evaluated components like structure, workload, transportation system, operation and administrative requirements of existing railway zones;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to sanction more railway zones on the basis of requirements and demands of the State Governments;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of all the railway zones to increase profit of the Railways?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COMMUNICATIONS AND
ELECTRONICS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

(SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) To (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.150 BY SHRI AJAY NISHAD TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.12.2021 REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF RAILWAY ZONES

(a): There are 17 Railway Zones in the country. Details are as under:

S.No.	Zonal Railway	Headquarter	Year of Creation	Number of Divisions
1.	Central Railway	Mumbai	1951	5
2.	Eastern Railway	Kolkata	1952	4
3.	East Central Railway	Hajipur	2002	5
4.	East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar	2003	3
5.	Northern Railway	New Delhi	1952	5
6.	North Central Railway	Prayagraj	2003	3
7.	North Eastern Railway	Gorakhpur	1952	3
8.	Northeast Frontier Railway	Guwahati	1958	5
9.	North Western Railway	Jaipur	2002	4
10.	Southern Railway	Chennai	1951	6
11.	South Central Railway	Secunderabad	1966	6
12.	South Eastern Railway	Kolkata	1955	4
13.	South East Central Railway	Bilaspur	2003	3
14.	South Western Railway	Hubli	2003	3
15.	Western Railway	Mumbai	1951	6
16.	West Central Railway	Jabalpur	2003	3
17.	Metro Railway	Kolkata	2010	-
	Total			68

(b) & (c): Assessment of Railway Zones workload, traffic patterns, administrative requirements and other factors affecting operation, is a continuous process. Based on these assessments and keeping in view the operational requirements, change in jurisdictions of existing Zones and Divisions are carried out from time to time.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): To improve overall performance of all Railway zones and profitability of Railways, thrust is on setting targets for all zones in the beginning of the Financial Year for freight loading, passenger traffic, earnings, expenditure, punctuality and infrastructure creation, and reviewing the performance regularly. Further, annual targets are also being set for improving asset utilization and productivity. The performance is evaluated and monitored regularly through monthly review meetings. Furthermore, periodic reviews are conducted for various performance indices and performance monitoring is done through integrated dashboard of Indian Railways. Issues and constraints faced by zones regarding performance are also addressed regularly.

Further, to assign greater accountability to the Zonal Railways and also to ensure that decision making at field level gets expedited, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed between Secretary, Railway Board and General Managers of each Zonal Railway. Under these MOUs, all the Zonal Railways, undertake to achieve the targets for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) given in the MOU. These KPIs inter-alia cover operational and financial performance, infrastructure creation works, capacity utilization, asset maintenance and reliability. To further encourage competition amongst Railway Zones, the best overall performing Zone is awarded every year. Awards are also given to Zones for excellence in performance in specific areas also.
