

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4100
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2016**

RAIL FRACTURES

4100. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the increasing number of rail fractures are posing a threat to safety of train operations as there have been several derailments in the past;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Railways has roped in the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras to develop a new mechanism to detect cracks on tracks and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Railways is considering to put in place an automatic rail fracture detection system and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Railways, in consultation with the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), has introduced broken rail warning system in the Northern Railway as a pilot project; and**
- (e) if so, the extent to which the broken rail warning system is effective to curb the derailments?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4100 BY SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 10.08.2016 REGARDING RAIL FRACTURES

(a) and (b) No, Madam. There is declining trend in rail weld fractures on Indian Railways since the last three years and in current year also which is shown as under:

Year	Rail fractures	Weld fractures	Total fractures	%age reduction
2013-14	2001	3189	5190	17
2014-15	1680	2530	4210	19
2015-16	1373	1791	3164	25
2016-17 (upto June)	173	221	394	9

Besides this, consequential derailments attributed to rail weld fractures are also on declining trend which is shown as under:

Year	Total No. of derailments	Derailment due to rail fracture	Derailment due to weld fractures	Total no. of derailments due to rail weld fractures
2013-14	53	7	6	13
2014-15	63	9	2	11
2015-16	65	8	0	8
2016-17 (upto July)	28	4	0	4

Indian Railways had roped in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras to develop an improved system for ultrasonic testing of rails and welds to detect flaws. This developed system has not been found suitable for present field requirement.

(c) to (e) It has been decided in association with Research Designs & Standard Organisation (RDSO) to undertake trial of Ultrasonic Broken Rail Detection System (UBRD) to detect in service rail/weld failures on Northern Railway and North Central Railway over 25km of track each. Orders for procurement and installation of the system have been placed recently and trials will commence soon.
