

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4795  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002  
TRACK MAINTENANCE  
BASUDEB ACHARIA

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

- (a) whether modern track on line Railways using 52 KG/60 KGrails laid on prestressed reinforced concrete sleepers requires maintenance by machines, leading to suspension of train for 3-4 hours each day;
- (b) whether maintenance staff are provided with such time gap for maintenance of the track;
- (c) if so, how the time gap is managed in a number of mail, express & other types of trains;
- (d) whether most railways find it extremely difficult to maintain track; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (c) : The track on Indian Railways is gradually being provided with concrete sleepers and 52/60 kg. rails. The track structure is quite heavy and, therefore, has to be maintained with the track machines. As on date, about 70% of track on Indian Railways has been laid with the concrete sleepers and long welded rails.

The track machines normally operate in traffic block. Such traffic blocks are being made available through in-built maintenance corridors in the time table. Sometimes, these blocks are arranged by regulating the goods trains and/or by passing both direction trains on the other available line. Every effort is made to ensure that the planned maintenance blocks do not affect the punctuality of the trains. Asset maintenance is an integral part of the operation and, therefore, the track machines are deployed at regular frequency for track maintenance activities.

(d) & (e) : Within the overall constraints, all efforts are being made to maintain the track within safe limits.