

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:412
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
USE OF STEAM ENGINES TO ENCOURAGE TOURISM
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) total number of steam engines in the country at present;
- (b) whether the Government plan to increase the use of steam engines to encourage tourism in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL)

- (a): At present 33 steam locomotives are working on Indian Railways.
- (b) & (c): Yes, Sir. Considering the heritage value and tourist potential of steam locomotives, Indian Railways have earmarked Nilgiri Mountain Railways and Darjeeling Himalayan Railways for running metre gauge and narrow gauge services respectively on steam traction. In addition, during 150th year of Indian Railways, steam loco hauled trains were run on Mumbai-Thane, Shimla-Kathleeghat, Bolaram-Monoharabad & Howrah-Bandel sections by reviving old steam locos.