

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:384  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2005  
DISCONTINUATION OF UNECONOMIC RAIL LINES  
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

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

- (a) the number of uneconomic rail/ branch lines in the country, zone-wise;
- (b) the loss being suffered by the Government from these rail lines every year;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to discontinue some of these rail/branch lines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has obtained the views of the concerned State Governments in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 384 BY DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY AND SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 21.4.2005 REGARDING DISCONTINUATION OF UNECONOMIC RAIL LINES.

(a) The number of uneconomic rail/branch lines in the country as on 1.4.2004 is 112. Zone-wise details are given below:

S.No. Name of the Zonal Railway      Number of uneconomic Branch lines

1	Central	7
2	Eastern	11
3	East Central	5
4	East Coast	4
5	Northern	13
6	North Central	5
7	North Eastern	6
8	North East Frontier	15
9	North Western	7
10	Southern	6
11	South Central	5
12	South West	0
13	South Eastern	6
14	South East Central	2
15	Western	20
16	West Central	0

Total      112

(b) The loss being suffered by Government from uneconomic branch lines during the last five years is as under:

Year                      Loss in crore of Rupees

2003-04      409.94

2002-03	460.77
2001-02	434.38
2000-01	449.46
1999-00	347.68

(c) & (d): In view of the losses being suffered and also based on the recommendations of the Railway Reforms Committee, Railways have been making efforts to close down some of these uneconomic branch lines, with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned, but State Governments have neither agreed to the closure of these lines nor to share the losses as proposed.

(e) & (f): Immediately after the Railway Reforms Committee made the recommendations, Railway Ministry approached the State Governments concerned, seeking their concurrence for closure, but none of the States had agreed to the suggestion.