

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RAILWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3382  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005  
PASSENGER TRAFFIC  
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

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

- (a) the average number of passengers travelling by the Railways, Zone-wise;
- (b) whether there is an increase in passenger traffic over the year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken/to be taken to take care of the growth in passenger traffic;
- (d) whether the Government has launched Frequent Rail Travellers Scheme to its passengers;
- (e) if so, the details and salient features thereof; and
- (f) the date from which the said scheme become effective?

**Answer**

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

(a): The total number of passengers travelled by Railways (comprising by 16 Zones and Metro Rail) during 2004-05 (latest available) was 5513 million and the average for each zone/metro works out to 324 million. The zone-wise actual number of passengers (2004-05) is given below:

Railway	No. of passengers (in million)	Railway	No. of passengers (in million)
Central	1261	Southern	459
Eastern	761	South Central	205
East Central	163	South Eastern	157
East Coast	41	Southeast	67
Central			
Northern	437	South Western	82
North Central	118	Western	1330
North Eastern	140	West Central	77
Northeast	34	Metro	97
Frontier			
North Western	84	Total	5513

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The number of rail passengers during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 have been 5048, 5203 and 5513 millions respectively. Railways have taken following steps to take care of the growth of passenger traffic:

- (i) To generate additional seating capacity in trains by introducing additional trains and by changing the profile of trains through Passenger Profile Management (PPM) project.
- (ii) To enhance load of patronised trains to the maximum.
- (iii) To attach additional coaches to clear waiting list.

(iv) To improve utilisation of coaching stock so as to ward off the shortage of coaches.

(v) To ease ticket distribution introducing automatic ticket vending machines, computerising ticketing, opening additional windows where required etc.

(d) & (e): A scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT) is being launched which will be applicable to 1st AC, 2AC & A C Chair Car classes. A Frequent Traveller will get a complimentary train trip after certain number of reward points are accumulated.

(f): The SOFT scheme is likely to be started in the current Financial Year 2005-06