

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:306

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004

BULLET TRAINS

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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways are going to introduce bullet trains on selected routes and on the other hand conditions of many tracks are very bad, culverts and bridges are in dilapidated conditions;

(b) if so, the reasons the Railways have taken such decision to run high speed trains on some routes spending huge amounts thereon instead of taking upgradation and repair work on existing tracks whose condition worsen day by day resulting frequent mishap; and

(c) the reasons behind the railways are not spending much amount on new projects and the reasons behind the Government propose to spending much amount on or give priority to luxury projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIR. VELU)

(a) to (c): A Techno-economic feasibility study for running High-speed trains between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, on a dedicated new track, has been initiated through RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Services). A proposal for a development study has also been submitted to Government of Japan.

Repair and maintenance of track is a continuous process. Track renewals are also carried out as and when they become due for renewal on age-cum-condition basis subject to availability of funds. Speed restrictions are imposed if the condition so warrants, but safety of traffic is ensured at all levels.