



Railways Shifting to Semi-high and High-speed Networks Only

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Indian Railways is transitioning to operating only high-speed and semi-high speed trains, travelling at 320 kmph or 160 kmph across its entire network, a senior official said. "We have decided to go for only two types of speed on our network," Railway Board chairman VK Yadav said at the International Rail Conference here on Tuesday.

The existing network will be gradually upgraded to 160 kmph as high-speed routes are built for trains at 320 kmph, Yadav said. The high-speed routes include the Mumbai-Ahmedabad rail corridor for the planned bullet train.

"The Mumbai-Ahmedabad work is already going on and we have already identified a few more sections," Yadav said.

The cabinet earlier this year approved a plan to upgrade the speed on the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Ho- wrah routes to 160 kmph, which would require an investment of about Rs 13,000 crore.

Currently, the average maximum speed of trains on various routes is 99 kmph and the recently introduced New Delhi-Varanasi Vande Bharat Express touches an average speed of 104 kmph on the Delhi-Kanpur section. Superfast trains – Rajdhani and Shatabdi – run at an average speed of 130 kmph.

"Accordingly, we are positioning ourselves to manufacture coaches suitable for 160 kmph, suitable for 320 kmph for the future," Yadav said. "Our vision is to produce all these coaches in India, and therefore we are taking necessary steps required for modernisation of all our production units."

Yadav added that the Indian Railways will look at multi-tracking on 34,000 route kilometres of high-density railway network over the next three to four years. Multi-tracking involves laying additional tracks on a route.

"We have decided we will go ahead in a very focussed manner for multi-tracking," Yadav said.



Existing networks to be gradually upgraded to 160 kmph & then to 320 kmph