

Requirement of air conditioned and other coaches

1623. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the annual requirement of air conditioned and other coaches;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the public sector factories are able to fulfil the requirement of the Railways;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, how the Railways plan to meet the requirement of coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per report of the Working Group on Railway Programmes, annual requirement of air conditioned coaches and other coaches has been assessed as 660 and 3878 respectively during the Eleventh Five Year plan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Setting up of two new rail coach factories, one at Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) and other at Palakkad (Kerala) is under process. In addition, setting up of another factory at Kanchrapara (West Bengal) has been announced in Budget 2009-10.

Dilapidated rail bridges in West Bengal

1624. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of railway bridges, including underpasses and foot-over-bridges, in the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether her Ministry is aware that majority of the above bridges are in dilapidated condition;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of her Ministry that Cossipore foot-over-bridge has cracked vertically along the spine and is on the verge of collapse; and
- (d) if so, what action the Eastern Railway has taken or proposed to take to repair it or construct a new bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Information on Railway Bridges is maintained Zone-wise and not State-wise. However, details of Railway Bridges including underpasses, and Foot Over Bridges (FOB), failing on Eastern Railway, Northeast Frontier Railway & South Eastern Railway in State of West Bengal are given as under:

Railway Zone	No. of Railway Bridges excluding FOBs falling in West Bengal	No. of Foot Over (FOB) in West Bengal	Bridges
Eastern Railway	3440	263	
Northeast Frontier Railway	1852	36	
South Eastern Railway	2826	70	
TOTAL :	8118	369	

(b) There is no dilapidated Railway Bridge on Indian Railway System. However, there are certain Railway Bridges on Railway system which show signs of deterioration of physical condition indicating need for their rehabilitation etc. These Railway Bridges are classified as Distressed Bridges. These, however, are neither unsafe nor dilapidated Bridges. Priority is given to early rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of these distressed Bridges.

(c) and (d) A news item regarding problem of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Cossipore Yard was published in 'The Telegraph' on 24.03.09. The report was factually incorrect Routine maintenance work has been carried out by Railway in this FOB. Work for construction of a new FOB at Cossipore has also been sanctioned in connection with the Railway Electrification work of Cossipore Yard. After the construction of new FOB, the existing FOB would be dismantled.

WI-FY internet service in trains

†1625. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether internet service on trial basis by using wi-fy system has been recently provided in the Shatabdi train running between Mumbai and Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, since when and the result thereof;

(c) whether on the success of this experiment the Ministry intends to provide this facility to other train passengers also; and

(d) whether the wi-fy internet service is secure from the security point of view and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) The facility was demonstrated on trial basis in Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express train from 11.01.2009 to 24.01.2009 and this was found successful.

(c) The proposal is under consideration to provide this facility in selected trains.

(d) Since Internet access to the passengers will be password protected and payment will be made through credit card of the user, therefore no security risk is apprehended in implementing this system.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.