

17. Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training,
18. Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Measures to improve safety (Fire in trains):

1. Carriage of inflammable/explosive material and lighted sigris in passenger coaches is prohibited and punishable under the Railway Act, 1989.
2. An intensive campaign through public address system has been launched to sensitize the public about the dangers from explosives and need to maintain extreme vigilance regarding unclaimed/ unattended objects.
3. Intensive publicity is carried out through televisions quickies, advertisements in the National and local press to educate the public against the hazards of carrying inflammable material in their luggage.
4. Mail and Express trains have been provided with escorts with directions to conduct random checks on the passengers and luggage in the trains over sensitive areas.
5. Instant Action Groups have been provided in important trains to prevent entry of unauthorized passengers and carrying of inflammable articles etc.

New Railway station near Shoranur in Kerala

755. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received a representation demanding for consuction of a new railway station complex near Shoranur in Kerala; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

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

(b) A representation dated 22.4.2000 from Shri K.E. Ismail, Minister for Revenue, Kerala demanding provision of a new triangular railway station at Shoranur for facilitating stoppage of all trains from all directions was received. Railway considers that the present junction arrangements at Shoranur station are adequate to meet the existing passenger traffic to and from various directions. However, consequent to Shoranur-Calicut doubling project, two additional platforms of 26 coach capacity each are being planned. No need is felt for provision of a new triangular railway station at Shoranur.

Railway Zone at Hubli

756. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a new Railway Zone at Hubli in Karnataka; and

(b) if not, whether, in view of the Karnataka High Court's Judgement quashing Government Order shifting the South West Railway Zone from Bangalore to Hubli, Government would sanction a new Railway Zone to Hubli?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government decided to re-locate the headquarters of the proposed South Western Railway from Bangalore to Hubli considering the various needs of economy and efficiency. This decision has recently been quashed by the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. Necessary action as per legal remedies available is being taken. However, the entire issue of re-organisation is under review.