

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of cases of carelessness are increasing in Railways; and

(d) if so, the steps Government is taking for the safety of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) There was an unusual accident at Allgarh Junction in which six passengers waiting on platform number 2 lost their lives after being hit by a loose hand brake wheel and spindle of a wagon from a passing goods train. The spindle had come out of its socket and was projected on to the platform alongwith its wheel resulting in this unfortunate accident.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise. However, Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on continuing basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. The figure for accident per Million Train Kilometers, an important safety index, has also come down from 0.55 during 2001-2002 to 0.15 in 2010-11 despite quantum increase in the volume of traffic carried by Indian Railways over the years.

Electronic ticket checking machines for TTEs

733. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan for introducing electronic ticket checking and issuing machines for use by TTEs in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Railways would consider the purchase of these machines to help TTEs become more efficient and accountable and also make things easier for passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Electronic devices in the form of Hand Held Terminals (HHT) have been provided to the Ticket Checking Staff in about 11 pairs of trains as a pilot project. These devices are used for marking passengers as turned up/not-turned up, giving information on vacant berths availability to passengers at stations and on the website, facilitating greater transparency in the on-board allocation of berths and system accountal of ticket checking transactions.

(c) Does not arise.

Automatic Signalling System

734. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: