

The above steps have been taken to curb the misuse of Tatkal facility.

(c) The operating expenses are estimated to increase by around Rs.560 crores in the current fiscal due to the recent hikes in diesel and petroleum prices. The Railways are making efforts to absorb the increase within the existing budgetary provision.

Development of Kochuveli and Nemam Station

1384. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have initiated any scheme for development of Kochuveli and Nemam stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total estimate for each project and the total expenditure incurred till date; and
- (d) the reasons for delay in completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) and (b) Work on provision of 2nd Coaching Terminal at Kochuveli has already been taken up. Proposal for taking up work on Development of Coaching Terminal at Nemam is under consideration.

(c) Anticipated cost for provision of 2nd Coaching Terminal at Kochuveli is Rs. 34.68 crore and an expenditure of Rs. 21.30 crore has been incurred on this work so far.

Work on Development of Coaching Terminal at Nemam is not yet sanctioned.

(d) Due to limited availability of funds, work on provision of 2nd Coaching Terminal at Kochuveli is still presently underway.

Efforts to make travelling convenient

†1385. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have chalked out any plan for further improvement in maintenance of operational rail coaches, cleanliness of railway stations etc.;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the efforts being made to make travelling more convenient for passengers;
and
- (d) whether Railways propose to add more general boggies in long distance trains keeping in view heavy rush of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):
(a) and (b) Indian Railways always endeavour to improve upon the standards of maintenance of the coaches and cleanliness and hygiene in coaches and stations.

For improving upon the standards of cleanliness in coaches, schemes like Intensive mechanized cleaning, On Board House-Keeping Services (OBHS) and cleaning attention to trains during their stoppage at "Clean Train Stations" etc. have also been launched. Indian Railways have also planned multi-pronged action by synergizing technology, education of users and provision of better mechanized equipments to improve upon the standards of cleanliness at stations.

(c) Indian Railways continuously endeavor to make travelling more convenient for passengers. Action taken in this direction in the recent past are as under :

- Cushioned seats/berths, fluorescent lights, fans and toilet & washbasins facilities etc. in mainline coaches.
- ☛ Mirrors, Snack tables, Magazine bags, water bottle holders, coat hooks, small luggage racks, luggage securing arrangements, mobile/laptop charging sockets etc. in reserved coaches.
- ☛ Curtains for aisles/windows, berth reading lights, dustbins etc. in AC coaches.

(d) Attachment of coaches including general class coaches in trains is an ongoing process on Indian Railways and is done keeping in view the traffic pattern of different class of passengers, operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources. Besides, additional general class coaches are also attached in various trains on regular basis to clear rush of general class passengers.

Gauge conversion between Jaipur and Ganganagar

†1386. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.