

(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.

(a) whether Government had accorded sanctions to convert metre gauge line into broad gauge from Jaipur to Ganganagar in the year 2008;

(b) if so, whether the work of gauge conversion has started; and

(c) if so, by when this work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gauge conversion of Churu-Sadulpur-Suratpura has been completed & commissioned. Nawalgarh-Loharu and Sriganganagar - Hanumangarh sections are targeted for completion during 2011-12.

Gauge conversion of remaining portion of Jaipur-Sriganganagar railway line will be completed in the coming years subject to availability of resources.

Establishment of Medical college in Trivandrum

1387. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have announced establishment of a medical college in Trivandrum, Kerala;

(b) if so, the status of the project; and

(c) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present Medical Colleges identified under Phase-I are being taken up. Medical College at Trivandrum shall be taken up subsequently.

(c) No time frame can be given at present.

PCO booths at railway stations

1388. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of PCO booths inside railway stations;

(b) the number of PCO booths allotted to disabled persons;