

- (b) if so, whether the Ministry has drawn an alternate plan for that; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) To revamp the catering system on Indian Railways a new catering policy has been introduced on 21.07.2010 which seeks to bring improvement in supervision and monitoring of catering by shifting the task of monitoring quality of service from Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to the Zonal Railways, by leveraging Zonal Railway's vast and elaborate all-India network so as to have strict control over catering activities. Further, this policy acknowledges catering as a passenger service with emphasis on quality, hygiene and availability of food at affordable rate for all classes of passengers.

#### **Fire safety arrangements**

†3235. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after the recent incident of fire in train, the Railways now propose to make arrangement for some "Fire Device" and "Fire Safety" in all the coaches in order to provide safety from fire in train services throughout the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, by when this arrangement would be in place and the details of this arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to improve safety, fire retardant furnishing material used in coaches has been upgraded to international norms. These measures improve fire safety by delaying propagation of fire, reduce toxic gases, improving visibility due to smoke etc. in the event of fire. As a pilot project automatic fire detection system has also been installed in one rake. Based on the trial results, further extended trials will be planned for provision of such device on few more rakes.

#### **Impact of employees' salaries and pension**

3236. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in Railways and the total financial impact in terms of their salary the pension of retired employees; and

(b) what would be the extra financial burden on Railways after filling up all the vacant posts?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) The total number of employees as on 01.04.2011 is 13,28,199. The total financial impact in terms of salary and the pension of retired employees is estimated to be about ₹ 65,000 crores in the Budget Estimates of 2012-13.

(b) In the financial year 2012-13, the extra financial implications would be approximately ₹ 2716.0 crores, for the notified vacancies.

#### Ongoing railway projects

3237. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing railway projects in the country and the total amount of funds required to complete these projects; and

(b) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) As on 01.04.2011, there are 129 ongoing New Line, 45 Gauge Conversion and 166 doubling projects taken up across the country requiring about ₹ 1,25,000 crores for their completion.

(b) State-wise number of ongoing projects falling fully/partly in a particular State (s) is given as under:-

Sl. No.	State	New Line	Gauge Conversion	Doubling
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	18	0	10
2	Assam and Northeast Region	12	4	0
3	Bihar	34	6	5
4	Chhattisgarh	1	-	8
5	Delhi	-	-	3
6	Gujarat	2	7	7
7	Haryana	1	1	7
8	Himachal Pradesh	3	-	-
9	Jammu and Kashmir	1	-	3