

charged in advance at originating station itself. All parcel traffic is Paid traffic. The question of undervaluation of parcels therefore does not arise.

**Criminal activities in unattended coaches**

3233. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that criminal activities are occurring in unattended coaches stationed at railway yards in Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the number of incidents occurred during last three years; and
- (c) the steps Government would take for preventing such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) The number of incidents of crime occurred in unattended coaches stationed at railway yard in Mumbai during the last three years 2009, 2010 and 2011 are 2, 5 & 4 respectively.

(c) Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through Government Railway Police of the State concerned. As such the cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the Govt. Railway Police.

However, following steps are being taken by Railways to prevent such incidents:-

- Empty rakes are being escorted from station to yard and back randomly as per availability of manpower.
- Pantry car staff and other Railway employees working in the yard are being advised to intimate Railway Protection Force / Government Railway Police about any suspected person found loitering around in the yard.
- Railway Protection Force personnel are being deployed in yards, washing lines and pit lines to prevent entry of unauthorized persons.
- Coordination with Government Railway Police and Local Police is being maintained at various levels to improve security in Railway areas.

**Revamping the catering system**

3234. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is preparing to revamp the catering system in Railways;

- (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.