

Introduction of new trains

4011. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kakodkar Committee has strongly recommended to stop the practice of introduction of new trains without commensurate inputs to the infrastructure; and

(b) if so, whether this recommendation has been followed before introduction of new trains in February, 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Kakodkar Committee are presently under examination in the Ministry of Railways. Railways introduce new trains only after ensuring adequate infrastructural and maintenance facilities for their safe running.

Shortage of covered wagons

4012. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of covered wagons which transport commodities such as foodgrains, fertilizers and cement and till last year majority of wagons procured were open wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to remove the shortage of covered wagons meant for transportation of foodgrains and other essential commodities; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Adequate numbers of wagons are being made available for transportation of essential commodities by rail. During the current year, wagon production has picked up and production up to March, 2012 is 18357 wagons against the target of 18,000 wagons. Contracts for supply of 6385 covered (BCNHL) wagons have been issued on eight firms in the month of January, 2012. Supplies against these contracts are to be made during the financial year.

Installing new escalators at busy stations

4013. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: