

(a) whether it is a fact that 1st AC, 2nd AC, 3rd AC and general train compartments in trains running through Odisha are old, not clean and below standard in comparison to the train compartments running in northern region; and

(b) the reasons for such discrimination and whether Railways will consider to use new and clean compartments and also implement strict measures to keep clean and safe compartments and platforms at all stations of Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and North-East region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All the coaches (including 1st AC, 2nd AC, 3rd AC and General Class coaches) running in trains through Odisha are within prescribed codal life.

Maintenance and upkeep of coaches is a continual requirement and this is carried out periodically during laid down maintenance schedules. Besides, coaches are also being given mid-life rehabilitation after attaining 12-15 years of life and complete interior furnishing is replaced.

For improving upon the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in coaches (including those of Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and North-East region), schemes like Intensive mechanized cleaning, On Board House-Keeping Services (OBHS) and cleaning attention to trains during their stoppage at "Clean Train Stations" have been launched. Similarly, for stations, Railways have planned multi-pronged action by synergizing technology, education of users and provision of mechanized better equipments.

Appointment in East Coast railway

4780. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that physically handicapped persons who had been selected by Railways in 2009 could not get appointment till date in the name of Vigilance Inquiry in East Coast Railway;

(b) whether there is a time limit for completion of Vigilance Inquiry and by when the inquiry will be completed and the successful physically handicapped candidates will get the employment; and

(c) how many people have got jobs in East Coast Railway without following the usual recruitment procedure, during 2009-2012, the names and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The result of the recruitment process

completed in 2009 has been published on 13.02.2012. All the empanelled candidates have been offered appointment.

(c) All appointments made in East Coast Railway during the period 2009-2012 were carried out as per laid down procedures.

Machines for radiographer of railway tracks

4781. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways had in the recent past procured state of the art machines for radiography of railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these machines are lying idle;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action Government proposes to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. Digital Double Rail Testers (DRT) and Single Rail Testers (SRT) have been procured for Ultrasonic Flaw Detection of railway tracks.

(b) The Analogue Single and Double Rail Testers being used by the Zonal Railways are being phased out by replacing them with digital DRTs and SRTs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Railways propose to phase out the existing analogue DRTs and SRTs and replace them with Digital DRTs and SRTs by 31.03.2014.

Over-burdening of train drivers

4782. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of train drivers are over burdened with work, which one of the causes of train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for train drivers being over burdened with work; and