

smoke detection system is under revision. Extended field trials on a representative population of coaches are planned to be conducted further.

Fire safety measures

909. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the recent fire in Tamil Nadu Express has exposed the lack of adequate fire safety measures in trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Railways have asked all its zones to conduct a survey on the lack of fire safety equipments in trains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. In fact Zonal Railways carry out rigorous checks at scheduled periodicity and from time to time to ensure availability of prescribed fire safety equipments on trains. Also continual efforts are made to upgrade the interiors and furnishing of coaches with fire retardant materials to the extent possible.

Funds earmarked for SCSP and TSP

910. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), during last five financial years as per the guidelines issued by Planning Commission *vide* its letter dated 26 December, 2006;
- (b) if not, such funds were earmarked during the last five years, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether separate Budget Head has been opened for SCSP and TSP for financial year 2011-12 as mandated by the Department of Expenditure; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) Approval of new Railway projects and allotment of funds thereof, are based primarily on considerations of expected traffic arising as well as the need for providing efficient and affordable transport solutions, and to act as a vehicle of inclusive growth. This necessarily includes projects which are sanctioned on socially desirable justification. As such, Ministry of Railways, as a matter of course, do not specifically formulate any Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes. Allocation of outlays in the Railway Budget is made project-wise and Plan head-wise.