

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) Working instructions for level crossing gates are being issued in Hindi and English. Wherever felt necessary, Zonal Railways make them available in vernacular language also.

- (b) No, Sir.

- (c) Does not arise.

Safety standards

1511. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite being one of the largest employers in the world, Railways are several decades behind global standards when it comes to safety;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways are considering to improve safety aspects in trains as well as at railway stations; and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir. Various safety standards of world class have been adopted in different departments of Indian Railways to prevent train accidents keeping in view the practical feasibility in Indian conditions and financial constraints of the railways.

- (b) Does not arise.

- (c) and (d) Safety is accorded the highest priority by Indian Railways and all possible steps are undertaken on a continual basis to prevent accidents and to enhance safety. These include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives, greater emphasis on training of officials and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. Safety devices/systems being introduced to prevent

accidents include provision of Block Proving Axle Counters (BPAC), Auxiliary Warning System (AWS), Vigilance Control Device (VCD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS), Anti Collision Device (ACD)/Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), etc.

As regards security in trains as well as at stations, it is pertinent to mention that Policing on Railways is a State Subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order are the statutory responsibilities of the State Governments concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police. However, Railway Protection Force supplements the efforts of GRP by deploying their staff for escorting of important trains in affected areas and access control duties at important and sensitive stations.

Besides, following measures are being taken by the Railways for security of the passengers:-

- 1275 trains are being escorted by Railway Protection Force daily on an average, in addition to escorting of 2200 trains by Government Railway Police in vulnerable and identified routes/sections.
- An integrated Security System consisting of electronic surveillance of vulnerable stations through Close Circuit Television Camera Network, access control, Anti-sabotage checks has been finalized to strengthen surveillance mechanisms over 202 sensitive and vulnerable Railway Stations.
- Railways maintain regular coordination with State Governments and Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India at various levels to ensure better security of the travelling passengers as well as Railway system.

Single agency to regulate container handling facility

1512. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has urged Railways to become investor-friendly so that the private sector can collaborate with its expanding role;