

- (b) the number of posts of TTE lying vacant and whether due to shortage of TTEs the checking of tickets is not being done effectively;
- (c) whether these vacancies are adversely affecting the functioning of Railways; and
- (d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Any large organization like the Railways will have certain vacancies at any given point of time and this itself does not put any extra burden on officials.

(b) to (d) As on 01.04.2012 there are about 1500 vacant posts of TTE on the Zonal Railways. Adequate number of TTEs are essential for ensuring ticket checking activities in reserved coaches and for ensuring on board services. Railways have been advised from time to time to place indents for direct recruitment and also to fill up posts through promotion as per extant procedures. Railway Recruitment Boards have received indents from Zonal Railways for recruitment of 2314 ticket checking staff.

Train fire accidents

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the last one year many trains have caught fire;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Railways appointed investigation team for each accident and they have submitted their reports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) During 15th November, 2011 to 15th November, 2012, seven consequential accidents involving fire in train have taken place. The details of these incidents are as under:—

- (i) On 22.11.2011 at 02.35 hrs., while the train No. 13009 Up Howrah-Dehradun Express was on run between Nimiyaghat and Parasnath stations

of Gomoh - Gaya section of Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway, its two Air Conditioned Coaches (3AC) caught fire causing loss of lives of 9 passengers and simple injury to 2 passengers.

- (ii) On 13.01.2012 at 04.40 hrs, while the train No. 12842 Down Coromandal Express was on run on Bhadrak - Duvada section of Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway, there was a small fire in one General coach. The train was stopped by the travelling passengers after pulling alarm chain. Fire extinguishers available in the train engine was used to control fire. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (iii) On 18.05.2012 at 03.49 hrs, while the train No. 16031 Up Chennai - Jammu Tawi Express was on run between Nagpur and Godhani stations of Nagpur Division of Central Railway, Gateman of Level Crossing Gate No. 94 noticed smoke emitting from the Parcel Van and immediately attracted attention of the Loco Pilot who stopped the train. The Parcel Van subsequently caught fire. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (iv) On 30.05.2012 at 15.35 hrs, while the departmental inspection train No. RDSO Special was passing through Misrod station on Bhopal - Itarsi section of Bhopal Division of West Central Railway, smoke emission was observed in Track Recording Car and the train was stopped. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (v) On 30.05.2012 at 04.40 hrs, while the train No. 52976 (Akola - Ratlam) Passenger was on run between Palia and Ajnod stations of Mhow - Ratlam section of Ratlam Division of Western Railway, its one General Coach caught fire. No casualty took place in this incident.
- (vi) On 07.06.2012 at 14.25 hrs, while the Train No. 12943 (Valsad - Kanpur) Express was on run between Lalitpur and Dilwara stations of Bina -Jhansi section of Jhansi Division of North Central Railway, its one General Coach caught fire. Passengers pulled Alarm Chain and the train stopped at Dilwara station. No casualty took place in this accident.
- (vii) On 30.07.2012, at 04.19 hrs, while the train No. 12622 New Delhi - Chennai Tamil Nadu Express was passing Nellore station of Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway, the Gateman of Level Crossing No. 116 noticed fire in one Sleeper Class Coach (S-II) and the train was

stopped. 30 Passengers lost their lives, 6 suffered grievous injuries and 22 passengers sustained simple injuries in this incident.

(c) and (d) Out of the above seven incidents of fire in train, three incidents were inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and four incidents have been inquired into by the Departmental Enquiry Committees. As per the findings of the Enquiries Committees, out of the above seven incidents, five were caused due to failure of other than railway staff, one accident was caused due to failure of electrical maintenance staff and the final inquiry report in one accident is awaited.

In compliance of the recommendations of Commission of Railway Safety and Departmental Enquiry Committees, railways are consistently using fire retardant materials in coaches as per international standards and drives were launched regarding precautions to be taken in booking of contraband explosives and inflammable goods as per Commercial Rules, intensive check on unauthorised carriage of inflammable materials such as gas cylinders, crackers etc., by passengers in passenger carrying trains, surprise check by railway officials in coordination with Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) in trains and at stations to prevent carriage of inflammable materials by passengers. Drive was also launched to check irregularities in loading of parcels in Brake Vans/Parcel Vans and Zonal Railways have been instructed to ensure that the petrol tanks of two wheelers loaded in Brake Vans/Parcel Vans should be empty. Other measures taken to prevent fire, include provision of portable fire extinguishers in Guard-cum-Brake Van, Air Conditioned Coaches and Pantry Cars in all trains, improved materials for electrical fittings and fixtures such as Miniature Circuit Breakers (MCB), light fittings, terminal boards, connectors, etc., detailed instructions to zonal railways for observance of safe practices in handling of pantry cars and for ensuring periodical inspection of electrical and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) fittings in the pantry cars and intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carrying inflammable goods are regularly undertaken.

ID proofs for travelling in reserved train compartments

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are considering to make it mandatory to establish *bonafides* for travelling in any reserved train compartment;