

(c) the number of SC/ST persons who were appointed as Sevaks under this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, 975, Jansadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBSs) are functioning over Indian Railways.

(c) 84 JTBSs belong to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe category.

Steps to make Railways disabled friendly

907. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trains and railway stations are adequately equipped for the convenience of persons with disability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is taking steps to make Railways disabled friendly; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways have manufactured around 2800 coaches which have suitably designed earmarked compartments and toilets for the needs of persons with disabilities/wheelchair borne passengers. Similarly all A1 and A category stations and platforms are also provided with requisite facilities such as ramps with railings, earmarked parking space, signages, and toilets. Instructions also exist for provision of free of cost wheelchair facility at stations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Production of disabled friendly coach for attaching in Mail/Express trains is continuing. Moreover, Zonal Railways have also been advised to provide 'Battery-operated Vehicles for Disabled and Old Age Passengers' at railway stations through commercial publicity route.