

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Fog Safe Device (FSD) is a Global Positioning System (GPS) based device provided on locomotives working on high density, fog prone sections on Indian Railways on trial basis. This device displays the name of approaching signals and other critical landmarks even during poor visibility condition. It is expected to help reduce stress on Loco pilots while running in foggy weather.

(c) and (d) There are issues of reliability and effectiveness to be sorted before this device can be universally adopted for fog safety. The device is under extended trials, during which evaluation and improvement shall be done before it is adopted on a large scale.

Checking squads to check food quality

1378. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any checking squads to check the quality of food provided in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when checking squads would be formed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) Emphasis has been made in new Catering Policy, 2010 for conducting surprise and periodical inspections by Zonal Railways at various levels. Regular and surprise inspections are being carried out by Zonal Railways. More than 27000 inspections have been carried out in the current Financial Year upto Jan., 2013 followed by penalties and corrective action.

Proposal for setting up IRIFM

1379. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Indian Railway Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives; and

- (c) the time by which IRIFM is likely to start functioning?

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

(b) A proposal to set up this Institute has been included in the Railway Budget 2013-14 at a cost of Rs. 19.26 crore at Secunderabad. The aims and objectives of setting up this Centralized Training Institute include imparting necessary structured and professional training to the officers of Indian Railways responsible for professional management of finances and accounts to enable them to face the emerging challenges and tap opportunities for strengthening the finances of Indian Railways.

(c) The construction work would be taken up in 2013-14 after the Railway Budget 2013-14 is passed in the Parliament and the Institute is expected to start operation in 2014-15.

Disabled-friendly railway stations

1380. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by Government towards making railway stations “disabled friendly”;

(b) the number of disabled friendly stations in the country at present;

(c) whether Government seeks to increase the number of disabled-friendly stations; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) Comprehensive instructions exist for providing better accessibility for physically challenged passengers at Railway stations. Short term facilities like standard ramp for barrier free entry, earmarking at least two parking lots, non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building, signages of appropriate visibility, at least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently abled persons, at least one toilet on the ground floor and ‘May I help you’ Booth, have been planned at all ‘A1’, ‘A’ and ‘B’ category stations (581 stations). These facilities have already been provided at 562 A1, A and B category stations. Instructions also exist for provision of wheel chair at stations. This facility is provided free of cost, duly escorted by coolies (on payment) as per present practice. ‘Battery operated