

Light Emitting Diode (LED) Signals to improve visibility, Dual Fuse Alarm Systems to arrest the signalling failures due to fuse blowing off, Metallurgical analysis of broken components of pantograph/Overhead equipment and deployment of the thermo vision camera for detection of hot spot in overhead equipment.

Intensive maintenance activities are being carried out during night and mega blocks to improve the reliability and smooth operation of suburban services in Mumbai area.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Separate coach for ladies, handicaps and senior citizen

†2134. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that half portion of each coach is provided in many trains for ladies and handicaps, respectively;

(b) whether Government would make a provision to attach separate coaches for ladies, handicaps and senior citizens in all the trains; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (c) For the convenience of female passengers, handicapped persons & senior citizens, Railways have provided the following reservation related facilities in trains

(i) In all trains having reserved accommodation, a combined quota of two lower berths per coach has been earmarked in Sleeper, AC-3 tier and AC-2 tier classes for following category of passengers when traveling alone:

(a) Senior Citizens;

(b) Female passenger 45 years of age and above; and

(c) Pregnant women

(ii) A reservation quota of two sleeper class berths has been earmarked in all trains running on non-suburban sections for handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket. The person accompanying the handicapped person as escort is also allotted the berth out of this quota.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) Specially designed coaches known as SLRD coaches with wider entrance doors to allow a wheel chair to enter, wider aisles and modified toilet with 4 berths, the lower two for physically challenged persons and upper berths for attendants have been attached in almost all Mail/Express trains except Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Jan Shatabdi Express Trains and Durgam Express Trains. These coaches are treated as unreserved except in case of Garib Rath Trains.
- (iv) In Sleeper Class, a reservation quota of 6 berths is earmarked in Mail/Express trains for ladies irrespective of age travelling alone or in a group of female passengers. Ladies special trains are also run wherever required and feasible.
- (v) Rear passenger portion of guard brake van (SLR) is also earmarked for ladies in certain Mail/Express trains for ladies passengers going without reservation.
- (vi) Accommodation is also earmarked for ladies and handicapped persons in Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU)/Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU)/passenger trains.
- (vii) Accommodation is also earmarked for senior citizens during specified hours on suburban sections by Central and Western Railways.

Expansion and development of railway stations

2135. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from the local Member of Parliament and the State Government regarding expansion and development of Sidhpur, Palanpur and Mehsana railway stations under Ahmedabad Division in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon, so far;
- (c) whether funds have been earmarked for the said proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?