

(a) whether Government has initiated a project to minimise late running of trains and improving safety on railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details of this multi-pronged strategy; and

(c) the action plan of Government to intimate passengers with reserved/confirmed tickets about cancellation of such trains during foggy seasons, in advance, to avoid any inconvenience to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Indian Railways constantly endeavors to run trains to time and to this end Indian Railways have started monitoring the punctuality of trains using Integrated Coaching Management System (ICMS) at all the three levels viz. Divisional level, Zonal Head Quarters level and Railway Board level. This system, which is integrated with Control Office Application (COA), ensures on-line monitoring of punctuality, greater transparency as also accurate data-keeping regarding punctuality of trains. In addition to these, Indian Railways also undertakes punctuality drives from time to time and counsels staff to sensitize them regarding punctuality.

Furthermore, with a view to ensure safe operations and the punctuality of passenger carrying trains, constant endeavors for Up-gradation of technology of track, rolling stock and signaling systems as also improvement in standards of maintenance of assets to reduce equipment failures, is undertaken.

Railways also maintain close co-ordination with State Governments to tackle the Law and Order problems and miscreant activities, for smooth and punctual running of trains.

(c) There is no provision to inform passengers with confirmed reserved tickets about the cancellation of trains, at present.

#### **Cordoning of railway tracks with walls**

2145. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to cordon off railway tracks with walls in Delhi area to control train accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a proposal is also under consideration in other metros of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the status of removing jhuggies located around railway tracks to prevent deaths of the children and others, while they squat on such railway tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) Construction of walls/fencing is taken up in specific situations in Delhi area to prevent trespass, encroachments and for safety. Boundary wall/fencing is also provided on these considerations in other parts of the country on Railway land.

(e) Periodical drives are undertaken by Railways for removal of jhuggis located along the railway tracks. New encroachments are removed as soon as these are noticed. For old encroachments, action is initiated under Public Premises Eviction Act and Railway Act.

#### **Procurement of accident-free high-speed superfast trains**

‡2146. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to procure accident-free high-speed superfast trains, keeping in view the growing crowd of passengers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Feasibility of developing High Speed Coaching Stock is being explored by Indian Railways. Modalities of induction of such stock through procurement or through in house development is not yet finalized.

(b) Link Haffman Bush coaches presently fit upto 160 kmph can be upgraded upto 200 kmph speed. For speed beyond 200 kmph, Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) has been advised to develop technical specification.

(c) Does not arise.

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.