

Hygiene and cleanliness in railways

141. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a paramount need for hygiene and cleanliness in Railways;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make trains, coaches, stations and platforms more hygienic;

(c) whether there is a proposal to convert the existing toilets in coaches into bio-toilets; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard with estimated cost of undertaking such a project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Indian Railways always endeavour to improve upon the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in coaches and stations.

For improving upon the standards of cleanliness in coaches, schemes like **Intensive mechanized cleaning** in maintenance depots, **On Board House-Keeping Services (OBHS)** for cleaning of coaches on run and cleaning attention to trains during their stoppage at "**Clean Train Stations**" etc. have also been launched. Mechanized cleaning, rag picking and garbage disposal contracts are being awarded for ensuring cleaning of stations including platforms. More and more toilets are being brought under 'pay & use' scheme.

Besides, regular inspections are conducted at various levels to monitor cleanliness in the coaches and at stations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Fitment of bio-toilets in new coaches, during manufacturing at Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala has already begun. Retrofitting these bio-toilets on existing coaches running in service has also been started. However, retrofitment in existing coaches requires very specialized methodology and welding practices. This work can be undertaken only during the major maintenance/ Periodical Over Haul (POH) in a Railway Workshop. Indian Railways is continuously adapting these exercises in view of experience

gained during their field operation, maintenance and usage issues. Tentatively, the cost of retro-fitment is expected to be in the region of Rs.15 lakhs per coach as of today.

Hostels for wards of railway employees

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

- (a) the number of hostels commissioned, so far, for the children of railway employees in the country;
- (b) whether these hostels are sufficient to meet the requirement;
- (c) if not, whether Government proposes to construct more such hostels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Indian Railways run 24 subsidized hostels for wards of railway employees.

(b) to (d) As per policy, hostels are set up for wards of Railway employees at centers of education. Proposals exist for expansion of hostel capacity at Pune and for new hostels at Lucknow, Tiruchchirappali, Coimbatore, Indore, Vadodara and Nagpur.

Setting up shops in trains

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

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up shops in the Shatabdi trains to help passengers make purchases of goods and material;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this is also proposed to be started in other long distance trains; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) to (d) A pilot project for on-board shopping was