

(b) whether Government has ordered an inquiry in the said train accident; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the derailment and whether any action has been taken against the persons responsible for the same and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) On 15.11.2013 at 06.20 hours, while the Train No. 12618 Up Nizamudin-Ernakulum Mangala Lakshadweep Express was on run between Ghoti and Igatpuri stations of Bhusawal division of Central Railway, its train engine and 13 coaches derailed, out of which 3 coaches capsized. In this accident, 3 passengers lost their life, 10 passengers suffered grievous injuries and 13 suffered simple injuries.

(b) and (c) A statutory inquiry into the above accident, being conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS)/Central Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation is underway.

Incidents of fire in Trains

†1063. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that pantry car of Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani Express had caught fire on 15 October, 2013;

(b) the number of incidents of fire in trains in the last one year;

(c) the reasons for each of such incidents; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to check these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During last one year, *i.e.*, from 01.12.2012 to 30.11.2013, there have been 6 consequential train accidents involving fire in trains.

(c) Based on the inquiry reports including *prima-facie* cause analysis of these accidents, two incidents of fire in train occurred due to poor maintenance

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

practices, one due to short circuit, one due to negligence during trouble shooting and inquiries are underway in two cases.

(d) Railways have taken various measures to prevent incidents of fire in trains, which include the following:

- (i) Indian Railways have always endeavoured to enhance fire worthiness of coaches by using more fire retardant furnishing materials such as Compreg Board/PVC for coach flooring, laminated sheets for roof, ceiling wall and partition panelling, Rexene and cushioning material for seats and berths, FRP Windows and UIC Vestibule etc.
- (ii) Railways have also taken measures to prevent fire due to electrical short circuits in coaches, which include (a) three levels of protection in non AC coaches in case of short circuit, (b) separation of positive and negative wires, (c) use of fire retardant material in all electrical items.
- (iii) With a view to improve fire safety in running trains, a pilot project for provision of Comprehensive Fire and Smoke Detection System has been taken up in one rake of Rajdhani Express. Similar automatic fire alarm system in 20 more rakes for extended field trails has also been decided. The system will provide advance warning in case of any fire hazard in running train and thus enable the passengers to protect them from fire,
- (iv) Guard-cum-Brake Van and AC Coaches in all trains are provided with portable fire extinguishers to cater for emergencies due to fire accidents,
- (v) Detailed instructions have been issued to zonal railways for observance of safe practices in handling of pantry cars and for ensuring periodical inspection of electrical and LPG fittings in the pantry cars,
- (vi) Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carrying inflammable goods are regularly undertaken,
- (vii) Two separate Fire Safety Audit Teams have been constituted recently to plan safety audit in selective stations, coaching depots and workshops, etc.