

Production of LHB coaches

3087. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total annual production of fire resistant Linke Holfmann Busch (LHB) coaches *vis-à-vis* its total annual requirement for Railways;
- (b) whether Railways have failed to step up production of LHB coaches in accordance with their demand, if so, the main reasons therefor; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to enhance production of LHB coaches and also to run all the trains with fire resistant LHB coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) The total annual production of Linke Holfmann Busch (LHB) coaches during 2013-14 (till January, 2014) is 390 against the annual requirement of 595 LHB coaches.

(b) No, Sir. The production of LHB coaches is decided as per the Railways requirement, assessed on annual basis.

(c) To enhance the production of LHB coaches:—

- (i) facilities at Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala and Integral Coach Factory, Chennai are being augmented;
- (ii) a new Rail Coach Factory is being set up at Rae Bareilly with an annual production capacity of 1000 LHB Coaches;
- (iii) a new Coach Factory with annual production capacity of 400 coaches has been sanctioned at Palghat; and
- (iv) another new Coach Factory at Kolar has also been announced in Rail Budget presented in February, 2013 with a production capacity of 500 coaches.

Quality of food served in trains

3088. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in spite of recent hike in rates of foods served in Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto trains, there have been cases of poor quality and reduced quantity of meals in these trains;
- (b) if so, the number of such complaints and action taken thereon, including fine against vendors, cancellation of vendor's licences etc.;
- (c) whether complaints redressal and monitoring mechanism needs to be strengthened with web-based system, helpline number, third party audit etc.; and