[21 FEB., 2014]

Unstarred Questions 285

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Written Answers to

90.

Sihor-Palitana (BG)

GRAND TOTAL ALL INDIAN RAILWAYS

TOTAL

Installing bio-toilets in running trains

3097. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

- (a) whether it is proposed to install bio-toilets in running trains in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a beginning has since been made in this direction, if so, the results thereof; and
 - (c) the action plan to cover all major long distance trains under this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the indigenous technology, a total of 7295 bio-toilets have been installed in 2774 coaches till 31.12.2013. These are running in various trains on Indian Railways.

(c) It is Indian Railways' endeavour to install environment friendly toilets/bio-toilets in all its passenger coaches (new as well as existing) at the earliest. The time frame for their full scale deployment depends upon the changes/modifications

necessitated from time to time based on the feedback on its performance, outcome of the fitment trials, usage pattern and other service conditions. However, it is planned to induct all new coaches from Production Units fitted with bio-toilets from 2016-17 onwards. Based upon present situation, the entire fleet of passenger coaches is expected to be equipped with such bio-toilets by 2021-22.

New technology on intercity trains

3098. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways are contemplating to introduce new technology on intercity trains to reduce travel time, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has worked out the detailed project report in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has set any time-frame to introduce new technology on Intercity trains, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Introduction of new technology on intercity trains is an ongoing process. For reducing travel time on intercity trains, new technologies on coaches and locomotives are being introduced to have higher speed potential.

- (b) For semi high speed trains between Mumbai-Delhi and Mumbai-Ahmedabad, Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) had funded a study in 2012-13. The draft report for the same has been submitted in March, 2013.
- (c) Introduction of new technology on intercity trains is an ongoing process. LHB (Link Hofmann Busch) coaches with higher speed potential of 160 kmph have been introduced on Intercity Shatabdi trains. Further, existing identified intercity Shatabdi ICF design coach trains are also being replaced with higher speed potential LHB stock in phased manner, raising its speed potential to reduce travel time. Besides, high horse power WDP4 Diesel Locomotive having higher speed potential of 160 kmph have also been deployed on trains.

Fire incidents in running trains

3099. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a series of fire accidents in running trains have