

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