

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

taken place in the recent months resulting in the death of passengers and injuries to many;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents happened, during the last six months; and

(c) the action taken by Railways to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) The details of fire incidents in running trains from 1st August, 2013 to 31st January, 2014 are as under:—

Number of fire incidents in trains	Number of passengers killed	Number of passengers grievously injured	Type of trains involved
5	35	5	Passenger Trains

(c) Railways have taken various measures to prevent incident of fire in trains, which include the followings:—

- Indian Railways have endeavoured to enhance fire worthiness of coaches by using fire retardant furnishing materials to mitigate effect of fire such as Compreg Board as wood substitute, PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) for coach flooring, laminated sheets for wall and partition paneling, NFTC (Natural Fibre Thermosetting Composite) for roof ceiling, Rexene and cushioning material for seats and berths, Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Windows and Union of International Conference (UIC) Vestibule, etc.
- Dry Chemical powder type fire extinguishers are being provided in all mainline trains. These are portable fire extinguishers and are easy to use by on board railway staff or passengers in case of emergency. Fire extinguishers are being provided in all Air-conditioned coaches, second class-cum-guard and luggage van, Pantry cars and train locomotives.
- Railways have also taken measures to prevent fire due to electrical short circuits in coaches, which include (1) multilayer (four layer fuse protection) similar to non-AC coaches, (2) use of e-beam fire retardant cable to prevent propagation of fire, (3) Protection against failure of heating system (4) use of A-1 safety category refrigerant in Heating Ventilation and Air conditioning (HVAC) which is non inflammable and non explosive in case it enters into

air duct (5) separation of positive and negative wires, (6) use of fire retardant material in all electrical items, etc.

- 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. Subsequently this system has been provided in one more rake of New Delhi-Jammu Rajdhani train. Similar automatic fire alarm system in 20 more rakes for extended field trials 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.
- Guard-cum-Brake Van and AC Coaches in all trains are provided with portable fire-extinguishers to cater for emergencies due to fire accidents.
- 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 Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) fittings in the pantry cars.
- Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carrying inflammable goods are regularly undertaken.
- Two separate Fire Safety Audit Teams were constituted recently to plan safety audit in selective stations, coaching depots and workshops, etc.

Bullet train between Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Pune

3100. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has requested for introduction of Bullet train between Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Pune;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that study conducted by Railways for connecting Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune with Bullet train has been completed in April, 2010;
- (c) if so, the reasons for not starting the Bullet train, so far; and
- (d) by when Government proposes to take up the said project and the likely time-frame for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.J. SURYA PRAKASH REDDY): (a) and (b) Ahmedabad-Mumbai-Pune is one of the seven