

They have also been advised to set up a mechanism in the High Courts for periodic monitoring of the release of undertrial prisoners.

Development of E-Prisons software has been initiated with the help of National Informatics Centre (NIC) to capture data relating to UTPs. Several States are using this software to generate data on UTPs. All the State Governments have been requested to review and revise Prison Manuals and use software applications to generate data of under-trial prisoners and review their cases periodically.

Disabled-friendly infrastructure

1502. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the problems faced by people with reduced mobility and disability, while travelling in Railways;
- (b) whether Government considers it a priority to equip all the railway stations and trains with disabled-friendly infrastructure and also go in for universal design; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Provision/augmentation of amenities at stations, including those for differently abled passengers is a continuous process. Short term facilities like standard ramp for barrier free entry, earmarking at least two parking lots, non-slippery walk-way from parking lot to building, signages of appropriate visibility, at least one toilet (on the ground floor) and at least one drinking water tap suitable for use by differently-abled persons and 'May I help you' Booth, have been planned at all stations beginning with 'A1', 'A' and 'B' category stations. Long term facilities viz. provision of facility for inter-platform transfer and engraving on edges of platform, are planned after provision of short term facilities. Instructions also exist for provision of wheel chairs at stations. This facility is provided, duly escorted by coolies (on payment) as per present practice. 'Battery Operated Vehicles for Disabled and Old Aged Passengers' have also been provided free of cost at some of the major railway stations.

Provision of escalators at 'A1', 'A' and 'C' category stations and stations of tourist importance is a part of Desirable Amenities and are planned on need basis depending upon techno commercial feasibility and availability of funds. Provision of lifts has also been planned at important stations.

Indian Railways have manufactured SLRD/SRD coaches which have a suitably designed compartment and toilet adapted to the needs of disabled/wheel chair borne passengers. It is endeavored to have at least one such coach in each Mail/Express train.

Fully air conditioned Garib Rath trains have been provided with an Air conditioned disabled friendly compartment and toilets in the power cars.

Improvements in the sanitation/hygiene in Railways

1503. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether significant improvements in the sanitation/hygiene in Railways, both in station premises and trains, have been made possible with outsourcing of services to private operators;

(b) whether long-distance travellers, even in Rajdhani and Sampark Kranti trains, are still subjected to menace by rodents that destroy/damage valuables like clothes and documents apart from eatables in the baggages; and

(c) the steps taken to eliminate the menace of rodents in trains and whether regular fumigation at washing lines are done to eliminate them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Improvement in the standard of sanitation/hygiene is a continuous process.

At major stations, Indian Railways have outsourced cleanliness related activities like mechanized cleaning, rag picking, garbage disposal, one time cleanliness etc. on contract basis to improve the cleanliness standards at railway stations. Public toilets at major railway stations have been brought under the 'Pay and Use' scheme with the participation of the private sector.

(b) No, Sir. Such incidents of damage to luggage by rodents are rare.

(c) Comprehensive pest and rodent control treatment for controlling the menace of bugs, cockroaches, is also being carried out in Base depots. Fumigation of coaches is also being done by Railways as per local requirements. To control the menace, Railways have been advised for complete vacation of pantry cars, which is a major source of infestation, prior to its intensive cleaning in base depot.