

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Zonal Railways, Konkan Railway Corporation Limited and Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited have been instructed that to prevent environment pollution, no plastic cups are to be used in railway premises and these should be replaced with *Kulhars*.

(b) to (d) Action against 3 licensees on Central Railway and 33 licensees on Southern Railway has been taken up for using plastic cups.

Gauge conversion and railway station upgradation in Assam

603. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the upto date progress of the gauge conversion of Fakiragram to Dhubri rail line under the NJP-Alipurduar-New Bongaigaon sector; and

(b) the progress of upgradation of Kokrajhar Railway station into Model Station in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Fakiragram-Dhubri section, gauge conversion of Fakiragram-Sapathgram has been taken up where bridge works are in progress. Earthwork and bridge works have also been taken up between Golakganj and Gauripur.

In connection with Kokrajhar model station, the works of retiring room, waiting room, enquiry and computer based announcement and water coolers have been completed. The works of provision of parking/circulating area, public phones, signages and modular catering stalls have also been sanctioned.

Import of coaches

†604. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coaches/bogies are imported to meet the domestic demands in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of coaches manufactured in the country and imported from foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the details of foreign exchange spent on such imports; and

(d) the details of effective steps being taken by Government to manufacture coaches in the country itself in view of domestic demands of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The production of coaches during the last three years in the country is as under:—

2001-02	—	2229
2002-03	—	1888
2003-04	—	2271

(d) Railways have created sufficient capacities to meet their domestic demand through its in-house coach manufacturing units duly supplemented by M/s BEML & Jessops. However, in view of the likely increase in the domestic demand in the future, plans for augmenting the in-house manufacturing capacity with marginal investments are being made.

Mysterious fires in bogies

605. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many bogies of the Railways catch fire mysteriously;

(b) if so, the names of the places where these incidents took place and on which date;

(c) whether the Railways have made detailed enquiries about the causes of burning of these bogies; and