

Concepts for non-stinking toilets in trains

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

(a) whether the crowdsourcing concepts for a non-stinking toilet in trains that require less water have generated public response with more than 650 entries on workable solutions;

(b) whether the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) has shortlisted the responses and finally chosen a concept submitted by a group of engineers from Coimbatore; and

(c) whether the winning concept involves water usage being next to nil, just about a litre, and arresting the particles that produce odour, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The crowd-source concept for non-stinking toilet has generated 677 entries as received at RDSO.

(b) RDSO has shortlisted the responses, presentations from 10 participants were made at RDSO on 31.05.2016 and the first prize was declared in favour of a group of Engineers from Coimbatore. Railways has not yet implemented the concept.

(c) The first prize winning concept envisages use of 0.75 litres of water per flush.

Opening of new railway reservation centres in Uttarakhand

†693. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways would contemplate opening new reservation centres at Dharchula, Jauljibi, Munsiyari, Thal, Kanalichhina, Berinag and Gangolihat of Pithoragarh district and Pati and Lohaghat of Champawat district, keeping in view the geographical condition of Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, by when these reservation centres would be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) to (c) Computerised Reservation Centre is already functional at Dharchula Post Office since 15.12.2011. As regards other locations, computerised reservation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

centres are provided as per policy at stations where reservations related workload is 75 transactions per day or at District Headquarters, important hill stations/tourist and pilgrimage centres/post offices on the basis of proposals received from public/public representatives and Zonal Railways.

Presentation of separate rail budget

694. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Niti Aayog has recommended for the abolition of presentation of separate Rail Budget, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action Government has taken or proposes to take on the recommendation of Niti Aayog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) The NITI Aayog Committee headed by Shri Bibek Debroy has recommended merger of the Rail Budget with General Budget. The recommendation is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance and a decision in regard to the same is still to be taken.

Revision of TUFs and provision of capital subsidy to textile units

695. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has revised the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs);

(b) if so, the new features of the TUFs; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to provide capital subsidy to new and existing textile units to enable them to bring in modern machinery and increase their output?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An "Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFs)" in place of the existing Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RRTUFs) for technology upgradation of the textiles industry has been introduced which has become effective from 13.01.2016. The salient features of the scheme are given below:-

(i) The scheme is for a period of seven years from 13.01.2016 to 2021-22.

(ii) The scheme will be bank credit linked with emphasis on promotion of exports, import substitution and generation of employment.