

(c) The payments to all vendors and contractors are already cashless. The payments are made through National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)/Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) mode only.

**Easy access for persons with disabilities in rail compartments and toilets**

2690. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways, for the benefit of persons with disabilities, under Section 44 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1955, will take special measures to adapt rail compartments in such a way as to permit easy access to such persons and adapt toilets in rail compartments and waiting rooms in such a way as to permit wheel chair users to use them conveniently;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Railways to comply with the provisions of the Act; and

(c) the details of complaints received from disabled persons against Railways in this regard together with action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) and (b) In order to provide additional facilities for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Indian Railways has developed designs of coaches having a compartment for PWDs as well as additional features in the lavatories. Some of these features are given below:—

- Wider entrance door of 920 mm opening for easy movement of wheelchair.
- Wider, bi-fold inward opening lavatory door of 910 mm for easy movement of wheelchair.
- Size and cushioning of PWDs berth as per standard of Air-Conditioned 2-Tier berth with knee space of 900 mm for easy movement of wheelchair.
- Two way alarm communication system between lavatory and compartment.
- PWDs berth number engraved in Braille lipi also.
- Anti-slip flooring in lavatory area.
- Handrails in lavatory as well as in compartment area for wheelchair parking.

As on 31.03.2016, there were more than 3400 disabled friendly coaches in the coach holding of Indian Railways.

Instructions exist for provision of at least one toilet on ground floor at the station suitable for differently-abled persons. Instructions also exist for provision of one urinal and shower suitable for differently-abled persons in waiting room at the station.

Almost all the Mail Express trains (except special type of trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Jan Shatabdi, AC Special, Duronto and Mail Express trains running with LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches), including Garib Rath trains, have been provided with a specially designed disabled friendly cabin in at least one disabled friendly coach for the benefit of differently-abled passengers.

(c) The complaints as received from rail users and general public including those from disabled persons, are addressed promptly. However, data regarding complaints received from disabled persons against Railways is not maintained separately in the Passenger Grievances Directorate of Railway Board.

Regular drives/raids are conducted by the personnel of RPF (Railway Protection Force) in order to tackle the issue of unauthorized passengers travelling in the coaches meant for the disabled passengers and appropriate action is taken against the offenders.

#### **Production of LHB coaches**

2691. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present production capacity of LHB coaches per year;
- (b) whether it is a fact that it will take several decades to replace all ICF coaches at the current rate of LHB coach production; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government to enhance production of LHB coaches in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): (a) The present coach production capacity of the two established Coach Production Units *i.e.* Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai and Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kapurthala is 3200 different type of coaches including LHB coaches. A new Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareilly is in project stage and its planned production capacity is 1000 LHB coaches.

(b) Indian Railways is completely switching over to production of LHB coaches w.e.f 2018-19, and is replacing ICF coaches of only Mail/Express trains in a phased manner.

(c) A new Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareilly has been set up with planned production capacity of 1000 LHB coaches.