

Increasing the number of 3rd AC coaches in trains

*74. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have taken a decision to increase the number of 3rd AC coaches in the trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To cater to the increasing demand of AC-3 tier travellers, production programme of AC-3 tier coaches on Indian Railways has been increased from 653, 675 and 724 coaches to 1000 coaches per year for the year 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively.

Further, a new brand of trains named Humsafar Express comprising of only AC-3 tier coaches has already been launched in the financial year 2016-17. Out of 11 Humsafar Express trains planned, 9 have already commenced operations.

Moreover, Indian Railways have utilised 739 AC-3 tier coaches for permanently augmenting the existing trains to clear the rash from the period from 01.04.2014 to 30.06.2017. This accounts for almost 30% of the total coaches used for augmentation during this period.

Abolition of posts in Railways

†*75. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to abolish a large number of posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Zone-wise and post-wise and the reasons for such a decision along with its impact on efficiency of Railways; and

(c) the number of posts lying vacant in Railways at present and the details of steps taken to fill up them?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.